

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation  
August 22, 2019

**EXPLORE THE COAST GRANT PROGRAM – 2019-2020**

Project No. 19-018-01  
Project Manager: Trish Chapman/Fanny Yang

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorization to disburse up to \$805,000 to nonprofit organizations and public agencies for 29 projects that facilitate and enhance the public’s opportunities to explore the California coast throughout the State.

**LOCATION:** Various locations along the California coast (Exhibit 1)

**PROGRAM CATEGORY:** Coastal Education and Public Accessways

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EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [Project Location Map](#)

Exhibit 2: [Advisory Board Members](#)

Exhibit 3: [Project Letters](#)

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**RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:**

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 31160-31165 and 31400-31410 of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of up to eight hundred five thousand dollars (\$805,000) to the following nonprofit organizations and public agencies for 29 projects that facilitate and enhance the public’s opportunities to explore the California coast (presented in alphabetical order):

- Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation: Twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000) to provide two one-week Explore the Coast summer camps for local low-income children, San Diego County.
  - Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program: Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to provide a series of accessible outdoor coastal trips, bike rides, and activities on the California Coastal Trail and San Francisco Bay Trail for people with physical disabilities and vision impairments.
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- City Heights Community Development Corporation: Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to provide community bike rides, community transit rides, and overnight bike camping experiences to Silver Strand State Beach and Ocean Beach for approximately 200 diverse low-income students and families from the City Heights neighborhood of San Diego.
- Coalinga Huron Unified School District: Nine thousand eight hundred dollars (\$9,800) for a 3-day, 2-night outdoor classroom trip to Channel Islands State Park for biology students from Coalinga High School in Fresno County.
- Earth Team: Twenty-nine thousand dollars (\$29,000) for a coastal hiking, kayaking and environmental education project for high school students from Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.
- Environmental Traveling Companions: Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) for a sea kayaking, coastal recreation, and environmental education project for people with disabilities and disadvantaged youth from throughout the Bay Area.
- GirlVentures: Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to provide coastal adventures such as camping, sea kayaking, and backpacking, as well leadership development to girls from underserved communities from throughout the Bay Area.
- Golden Gate Audubon Society: Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for field-trip based environmental education about the coast and creeks and wetlands for elementary school students from Title 1 schools in Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco Counties.
- Greater Farallones Association: Twenty-two thousand dollars (\$22,000) to provide coastal field trips and environmental education to Title 1 middle and high schools in the Bay Area.
- Heal the Bay: Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for the annual Nick Gabaldón Day and the Ocean Readiness program, swim lessons and ocean 101, for low-income residents, including students who attend Title 1 schools, in the Greater Los Angeles region.
- Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association: Forty-three thousand three hundred twenty-five dollars (\$43,325) for development and implementation of educational projects for small rural schools in Northern Mendocino County and Southern Humboldt County with limited resources.
- Life Sail Inc.: Seventeen thousand one hundred eighty dollars (\$17,180) for a coastal adaptive sailing trip on Santa Monica Bay and beach recreation time for diverse youth with special needs and their family or caregiver.
- Los Angeles Maritime Institute: Thirty-one thousand eight hundred dollars (\$31,800) for bilingual (Spanish & English) coastal education and tall ship excursions for low-income communities in Los Angeles, Orange, and Riverside Counties.
- Lost Coast Camp: Twenty-nine thousand eighty-four dollars (\$29,084) for its Coastal Exploration Program, involving beach exploration days and hikes as well as beach overnight backpacking trips for underserved Humboldt County youth.

- MeWater Foundation: Twenty-five thousand five hundred dollars (\$25,500) for surfing and ocean camps that include ecosystem education, surfing instruction, mental health exercises and a beach clean-up for at risk and underserved Bay Area youth.
- O’Neill Sea Odyssey: Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for bus transportation and an ocean-based environmental education project for underserved and disabled elementary school students from Fresno, Modesto, Monterey, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties.
- One World Bridge (fiscal sponsor for InterTribal Youth): Thirty-one thousand dollars (\$31,000) to provide coastal experiences for indigenous youth from the Kumeyaay and Luiseno Nations and educate them about Native maritime history, practices, and knowledge in southern California.
- Outdoor Outreach: Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for its Coastal Adventure Club Program involving coastal kayaking, surfing, biking, and other trips for disadvantaged youth in San Diego County.
- Reef Check Foundation: Forty-six thousand four hundred seventy-five dollars (\$46,475) to provide experiential, on-the-ocean stewardship training and marine science education to members of the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians Tribe from Imperial and Riverside Counties.
- Sierra Club Foundation (fiscal sponsor for Sacramento Inspiring Connections Outdoors): Six thousand five hundred dollars (\$6,500) for recreational and educational field trips to Marin County serving youth and young adults from Sacramento.
- Social Good Fund (fiscal sponsor of Brown Girl Surf): Forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) for a surfing and ocean education project for underserved women and girls, primarily from Alameda and other Bay Area Counties.
- Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation: Forty-nine thousand one hundred sixty-five dollars (\$49,165) for an integrated recreation, education and leadership coastal experience for Sonoma County youth.
- Sonoma Land Trust: Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for a bilingual English-Spanish summer camp centered within the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge at Sears Point in Sonoma County.
- The Ocean Foundation: Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to provide free coastal excursions and marine science education for underserved 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade students from National City in San Diego County.
- University Corporation at Monterey Bay: Twenty-nine thousand eight hundred thirty-one dollars (\$29,831) for a 3-day, 2-night overnight ocean experience, including kayaking, field studies, watershed and marine debris activities, and beach stewardship, for students from Title 1 schools in Salinas and the Salinas Valley.
- Urban Surf 4 Kids: Forty thousand three hundred forty dollars (\$40,340) to provide 14 one-day surf therapy camps for foster and at-risk youth from throughout San Diego County.

- Ventana Wilderness Alliance: Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for a wilderness immersion experience for youth through overnight backpacking trips in the Ventana and Silver Peak Wildernesses in Monterey County.
- Wildcoast: Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for a field-trip based Marine Protected Area education and stewardship project in San Diego County.
- YES Nature to Neighborhoods: Forty five thousand dollars (\$45,000) to engage Richmond youth in outdoor activities and leadership development.

This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to execution of a grant agreement with a nonprofit organization grantee, each nonprofit organization grantee shall submit evidence that it meets Division 21 requirements for permissible grantees.
2. Prior to commencement of the project, each grantee shall submit for the review and approval of the Conservancy's Executive Officer a final work program, schedule, budget, names of any project contractors, a plan for acknowledging Conservancy funding, and any other applicable agreements determined necessary for the project by the Conservancy's Executive Officer."

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

"Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapters 4.5 and 9 of Division 21 (Sections 31000 *et seq.*) of the Public Resources Code, regarding the resource and recreational goals in the San Francisco Bay Area (Chapter 4.5) and the establishment of a system of public accessways to and along the California coast (Chapter 9).
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The proposed nonprofit organization grantees are nonprofit organizations organized under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and comply with Division 21 requirements regarding permissible nonprofit grantees.

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#### **PROJECT SUMMARY:**

The proposed authorization is to provide up to \$805,000 to nonprofit organizations and public agencies for 29 projects that facilitate and enhance the public's opportunities to explore the coast of California under the Conservancy's Explore the Coast (ETC) grant program. The purpose of the ETC grant program is to support activities that allow more people to visit California's spectacular coast and/or enhance visitors' experiences. The ETC grant program includes

projects that enhance visitors' ability to learn about natural, recreational, cultural, and historic resources of the California and San Francisco Bay shorelines. A wide range of activities are eligible for ETC grants including transportation for underserved communities to the coast for a variety of experiences, and educational events and programming. The ETC grants program solicitation was released in February 2019 and was widely distributed.

Each year, the Coastal Conservancy allocates hundreds of thousands of dollars through the Explore the Coast grant program to connect underserved communities to the coast. In recommending projects to the Conservancy, staff aim to equitably distribute this funding and maximize the impact of every dollar spent. This past year, to better achieve these aims, Conservancy staff created an Explore the Coast Advisory Board. 39 people submitted applications to serve on the inaugural Advisory Board and staff selected 7 members (Exhibit 2). Advisory Board members—who have extensive experience working on equity for underserved communities—advise staff on the application process, application review, and ongoing management of the grant program. The Conservancy can continue to improve the impact of the ETC grant program by harnessing the insights and experience of the diverse stakeholders on the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board's participation with staff in the review and selection of projects advances equity by giving the communities served by the program an opportunity to provide direct input on their needs and the types of projects that will best serve their needs.

By the April 8, 2019 submission deadline, the Conservancy received 109 project proposals, requesting over \$4 million in Conservancy funding. Each application was reviewed by both staff and two Advisory Board members. On June 8, the Advisory Board met for an all-day meeting to discuss the applications and provide recommendations to staff. Following this meeting staff finalized the list of recommended projects.

Of the 109 proposed projects submitted, 29 are recommended for funding under this grant round. In making its funding recommendation, staff considered each project's needs, its overall benefits, the extent of competing demands for funds, and the input from the Advisory Board. Projects recommended for funding meet one or more of the following priorities:

- Provides a coastal experience for people that may face challenges getting to or enjoying the coast (such as lower-income people, people of color, people with disabilities, English as a Second Language (ESL) communities, and students from Title 1 schools).
- Creates opportunities for people to visit the coast for the first time.
- Provides a valuable recreational, environmental, cultural, or historic learning experience.
- Increases stewardship of coastal resources.

Staff estimates that the proposed 2019-2020 ETC grant program will engage over 12,000 people through the proposed fieldtrip projects. Of these 12,000, project partners estimate that the program will serve over 10,000 low-income Californians, 8,000 people of color, and approximately 5,600 people for whom English is not their first language. An estimated 13% of ETC participants will be people with disabilities.

Staff recommends funding the following 29 projects for the 2019-2020 ETC grants program. The projects are arranged alphabetically by grantee. Each individual project summary includes the grantee; project name; recommended funding amount; geographic region; a brief project description; and information on the consistency of the proposed project with the Conservancy's proposed funding source, its enabling legislation, and its Strategic Plan. In addition, each project summary provides relevant information for project compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**AGUA HEDIONDA LAGOON FOUNDATION**

**\$24,000**

**AHLF Explore the Coast Summer Camp**

**South Coast**

The Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation will collaborate with A Step Beyond to provide two one-week Explore the Coast summer camps for local low-income children. Campers will participate in several activities including hiking, kayaking, and learning how to operate an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) to see underwater. The camp will provide a unique opportunity to explore terrestrial ecosystems on the coast and view underwater communities in a fun way. Campers will use footage collected during the trip to make scientific progress and direct their learning, focusing on watershed and hydrology, coastal ecology, and flora and fauna species along the coast.

The program will equip campers with first-hand knowledge of cutting-edge survey techniques and expose participants to the challenges and rewards of a careers in marine biology.

**Funding:** The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Tamarack State Beach, Terramar Tide Pools, and Bayshore Beach.

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by bringing children to the coast to kayak, hike, and conduct research surveys of the habitat.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing environmental education about the coast to children.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians, by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**BAY AREA OUTREACH & RECREATION PROGRAM**

**\$35,000**

**Disability Outdoor Coastal Access Project**

**San Francisco Bay Area**

The Disability Outdoor Coastal Access Project will make it possible for people with physical disabilities and vision impairments to experience coastal resources and recreation. Bay Area Outreach and Recreation (BORP) will provide a series of accessible outdoor coastal trips, bike rides, and activities on the California Coastal Trail (CCT) and San Francisco Bay Trail. The project will have four primary components: outreach to the community of people with disabilities; group coastal trips (up to 12 outings); year-round adaptive cycling events on the Coastal Trail and Bay Trail; and new accessibility information for the BORP/Access Northern California website. While the project is fundamentally about recreation, BORP will partner with several agencies, including Junior Blind of Northern California, Golden Gate Recreation Area, East Bay Regional Parks District, Oakland Unified School District’s Visually Impaired Program, and Access Adventures, to create educational opportunities around the coast’s past and its future, and the need for responsible environmental stewardship of California’s coastal resources.

**Funding:** The proposed project is consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Funds because it involves environmental education as described above.

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by making it possible for people with physical disabilities and vision impairments to participate in coastal bike rides and outdoor trips. The proposed project is also consistent with Chapter 4.5: San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Sections 31162(a) and (d) because it improves public access to the bay and coast by leading excursions for people with disabilities and because it provides transportation that enables urban residents to visit natural areas.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 1, Objective A:** The proposed project promotes awareness and use of the CCT by providing accessible bike rides on the trail.
- **Goal 2, Objective A:** The proposed project expands opportunities for barrier-free access to and along the coast by providing accessible coastal trips and bike rides for people with physical disabilities and vision impairments.
- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by partnering with local agencies to increase environmental stewardship values in program participants.
- **Goal 13, Objective L:** The project expands opportunities for barrier-free access to natural areas in the San Francisco Bay Area.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians, by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of trails and coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**CITY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**\$20,000**

**BLVD to Beach: Community Bike and Transit Rides & Overnight Bike Camping Experiences**

**South Coast**

The BLVD to Beach program will offer Community Bike Rides, Community Transit Rides, and Overnight Bike Camping Experiences to Silver Strand State Beach and Ocean Beach for approximately 150 diverse low-income students and families in City Heights. Over the course of two years, this project will offer the community approximately six BLVD to Beach events: two community transit rides, two community bike rides, and two overnight bike camping events. For the biking experiences, participants will participate in a 15-mile one-way group bicycle ride from City Heights to the beach. Once on the beach, recreational gear, water safety gear, and food will be provided to facilitate a fun afternoon on the beach and in the ocean. These experiences will teach the community to navigate their own coastal excursion to access the coast. Additionally, the community will have an opportunity to experience coastal camping. For many for these individuals it will be their first time camping.

**Funding:** The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Silver Strand State Beach and Ocean Beach.

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by facilitating recreation beach trips to diverse low-income families in San Diego.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing outings to Silver Strand State Beach and Ocean Beach for City Heights residents.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians, by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the camp and other coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**COALINGA HURON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**\$9,800**

**Experience-> Love-> Care: Saving the California Coast, One Student at a Time** Central Valley

The Coalinga High School biology department will provide a three-day, two-night camping trip for approximately 30 Honors biology and AP biology students to Channel Islands National Park on Santa Cruz Island, in Santa Barbara County. The high school, located near Fresno, is a Title 1



school with a student body that is 100% low-income students, the majority of whom are ESL learners. The project aims to inspire awe, love, and stewardship of the coast through exciting and personal recreational activities that allow participants to interact with and develop a bond with the coast and its wildlife. Students will have the opportunity to kayak, snorkel, hike, and learn about coastal ecosystems and both the positive and negative effects humans have on the environment. For most of the students, this will be their first time experiencing coastal activities as well as their first time camping.

**Funding:** The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Channel Islands National Park.

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing a 3-day, 2-night trip to Channel Islands State Park for high school students to experience coastal activities such as kayaking, camping, hiking, and snorkeling.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing an immersive coastal experience.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The proposed project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to low-income youth from a Title 1 school, and for the majority of whom this will be their first time interacting with the coast.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of Channel Islands National Park with no expansion of use.

## **EARTH TEAM**

**\$29,000**

### **LEAF'20 Hiking Series**

**San Francisco Bay Area**

In the LEAF'20 program led by Earth Team staff, approximately 120 youth will participate in a series of field trips to different locations along the California Coast to engage in coastal exploration and stewardship. 85% of participants will be youth of color from eight Title 1 public high schools in Contra Costa County and Alameda County. Participants will learn about California's coastal resources, develop wilderness and backpacking skills, train for hiking and sea kayaking, and experience undeveloped coastal ecosystems. Activities during the field trips will include trail mapping and GPS positioning, GLOBE.gov data collection, night hikes, intertidal rocky habitats curriculum, tide exploration, and litter mapping and removal. In addition, the youth will learn self-reliance and leadership and team building skills, so they are equipped to continue visiting the California coast in the future. The field trip destinations will include Point Reyes National Seashore, Muir Beach, Pinnacles National Park, and more.

**Funding:** The proposed project is consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Funds because it involves environmental education as described above.

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 4.5: San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Sections 31162(a), 31162(d), and 31165 because it provides transportation that enables urban youth to visit natural areas and because it improves public access to the Bay for recreational and educational purposes by bringing Title 1 high school youth on skill- and knowledge-building outdoor adventures.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal field trips and stewardship opportunities to high school youth.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians, by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the camp and other coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

## ENVIRONMENTAL TRAVELING COMPANIONS

**\$35,000**

### AccessAbility – ETC Bay Adventures and Stewardship Program

**San Francisco Bay Area**

Through their AccessAbility program, ETC Bay Adventures and Stewardship Program will expand access to the Northern California coast through kayaking adventures on San Francisco Bay and Tomales Bay. The project will engage people with disabilities of all ages and under-resourced youth in 1- to 3-day bay kayaking adventures that break down barriers and build connections to the coast. For many participants, their ETC adventure will be their first on-water exploration of the Bay. Specific program locations include Schoonmaker Point Marina in Sausalito, Angel Island State Park, Tomales Bay State Park, and Point Reyes National Seashore. AccessAbility will provide up to 1000 Bay Area residents the opportunity to learn about estuarine ecosystems and issues impacting the coast, develop kayaking and navigation skills, and foster a stewardship ethos for Bay Area beaches and bays.

**Funding:** The proposed project is consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Funds because it involves environmental education as described above.

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 4.5: San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Sections 31162(a) and (d) because it improves public access to the bay and coast by engaging people with disabilities and under-resourced youth in kayaking adventures.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 2, Objective A:** The proposed project expands opportunities for barrier-free access to and along the coast by providing on-water exploration of the Bay for people with disabilities and under-resourced youth.
- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by bringing program participants on kayaking adventures and teaching about issues impacting California’s coast and the importance of stewardship.
- **Goal 13, Objective L:** The project expands opportunities for barrier-free access to natural areas in the San Francisco Bay Area.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians, by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**GIRLVENTURES**

**\$35,000**

**Increasing Coastal Access and Building Environmental Stewardship for Underserved Girls**

**San Francisco Bay Area**

GirlVentures will introduce a new generation of girls from underserved communities to California’s coastal areas through outdoor adventures such as camping, sea kayaking, and backpacking. GirlVentures’ outdoor leadership programs provide the opportunity for girls and gender non-conforming youth to develop leadership and social-emotional skills, and to connect with nature along the coast. GirlVentures’ four coast-based programs follow a Leadership Progression Model, starting in 6th grade and culminating with instructor training and career development in 11th and 12th grades. The project will reach up to 80 girls from the San Francisco Bay Area and deliver up to 300 program hours per participant.

**Funding:** The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Half Moon Bay State Park, Point Reyes National Seashore, Butano State Park, Samuel P. Taylor State Park, and Castle Rock State Park.

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by introducing girls to the coast through camping, kayaking, and other outdoor adventures.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing participants the chance to experience the beauty of the coast while building their knowledge of the history and ecology of the coast.

- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY**

**\$25,000**

**Eco-Education for Title 1 Schools**

**San Francisco Bay Area**

Golden Gate Audubon’s Eco-Education Program for Title 1 Schools (Eco-Ed) will provide environmental learning opportunities to approximately 200 lower-income youth (3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> graders) and 300 family members from Alameda, Contra Costa and San Francisco Counties. By providing free hands-on environmental education and transportation to the Bay shoreline and coastal beaches, students and their family members will be empowered to explore nature and become ecological stewards. Initially, students learn about habitat in their own schoolyards and how storm drains connect their community to natural systems. Students visit local creek and wetland sites while learning about watersheds and pollution reduction strategies in the classroom. They also get to participate in habitat restoration activities at riparian and wetland sites. Field trip sites include Alvarado Park; Point Pinole; Glen Canyon; Pier 94, Port of San Francisco; MLK Jr. Shoreline Park; Arroyo Viejo Park; and Alcatraz Island. The project culminates in a family field trip to Muir Beach where participants learn strategies to prevent storm water run-off and help remove marine debris.

**Funding:** The proposed project is consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Funds because it involves environmental education as described above.

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing hands-on environmental learning opportunities at the coast to lower-income youth and family members. The proposed project is also consistent with Chapter 4.5: San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Section 31162(a), 31162(d), and 31165 because it provides transportation that enables urban residents to visit natural areas, and because it improves public access to the bay and coast by providing students and families with field trips to watershed sites, the Bay shoreline, and the outer coast.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by bringing students and their families to the Bay shoreline and coastal beaches and providing hands-on environmental education.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians, by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use. Native species planting activities are also categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15304 (Minor Alterations of Land) because they are landscaping activities that do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

**GREATER FARALLONES ASSOCIATION**

**\$22,000**

**Addressing Environmental Inequality with Meaningful Coastal Learning Experiences**

**San Francisco Bay Area**

The Greater Farallones Association will connect 800 youth from 12 lower-income and ethnically diverse middle and high schools to environmental learning experiences and coastal field trips through participation in the LiMPETS (Long-Term Monitoring Program & Experiential Training for Students) program. This project will give students the opportunity to conduct citizen science and observe marine species in their habitats. Students will study sand crabs, visit rocky intertidal pools, and experience working with tools and scientific methods used by marine scientists.

**Funding:** The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Ocean Beach, Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, Pillar Point, Dunes Beach, Pescadero State Beach, and Pidgeon Point.

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by bringing students to coastal beaches and tidepools to conduct citizen marine science.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by introducing students to hands-on experience studying marine species and habitats on the California coast.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians, by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**HEAL THE BAY**

**\$20,000**

**Nick Gabaldón Day - Celebrating Diversity, Environmentalism, and Ocean Readiness**

**South Coast**

In partnership with the Black Surfers Collective (BSC), Surf Bus Foundation, Santa Monica Conservancy, Concerned Black Men International, and association of YMCA Aquatics, Heal the Bay will coordinate the annual Nick Gabaldón Day at “Inkwell” beach in Santa Monica. Nick Gabaldón Day is designed to honor the legacy of the pioneering African-American surfer, celebrate diversity in the greater surfing community, and promote stewardship of the Santa Monica Bay coastline. Activities offered include round-trip bus transportation to the beach sites, educational presentations by naturalists and historic preservationists, beach cleanups, and swimming/surfing lessons. The proposed project will also support the Ocean Readiness program for low-income residents, including students who attend Title 1 schools, in the Greater Los Angeles region. This includes hosting a day of activities for 700 underserved K-5 students at Santa Monica Beach. Through a partnership with Los Angeles Metropolitan YMCA, Heal the Bay has secured free swimming lessons and ocean readiness for youth at three centers in 2020 to ensure Nick Gabaldón Day participants are prepared for surf lessons and future life experiences around water. Heal the Bay’s goal is to ensure a future where all kids are confident, safe and welcome ocean users.

**Funding:** The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Santa Monica State Beach.

**Enabling Legislation:** The project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it increases access to the coast for underserved students and low-income residents.

**Strategic Plan** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing a recreational and educational coastal experience.
- **Goal 9, Objective A:** The project will improve public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by supporting education, recreation and stewardship activities at Santa Monica State Beach.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians, by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15323 (Normal Operations of Facilities for Public Gatherings) because it involves the normal operation of Santa Monica State Beach for public gatherings for which the beach’s facilities were designed. These events have been held over the past 8 years, and other festivals and educational programs have also been offered at Santa Monica State Beach. Therefore, there is a past history of the beach being used for the same or similar kind of purpose.

**HUMBOLDT REDWOODS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION**

**\$43,325**

**Usal Beach Restoration Environmental Education Program**

**North Coast**

The Usal Beach Restoration Environmental Education Program provides support to underserved, small rural schools with limited resources in Northern Mendocino County and Southern Humboldt County. This project builds upon work completed under the Association's 2017-2018 Usal Beach Explore the Coast grant project. The Association will work closely with the Laytonville Unified School District Office of Superintendent to develop a long-term Environmental Restoration Education Program at Usal Beach by building teacher capacity, conducting at least 4 field trips to Usal Beach with partner schools, and delivering post-trip classroom activities.

**Funding:** The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Usal Beach and Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. The proposed project is also consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Funds because it involves environmental education as described above.

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing a coastal environmental education experience for students in the Round Valley, Laytonville, and Leggett Valley Unified School Districts.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing educational opportunities to youth, including visits to Usal Beach and building teacher capacity for place-based environmental curriculum work.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians, by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**LIFE SAIL INC.**

**\$17,180**

**Come Sail Away with LifeSail: An Introduction to Adaptive Sailing**

**South Coast**

LifeSail Community Sailing Center will take approximately 72 diverse youth with special needs including their family or caregivers sailing in Santa Monica Bay and for recreational activities on Mother's Beach. LifeSail will partner with organizations, agencies and schools serving diverse special needs youth, age 7-18, with physical, developmental, emotional/behavioral challenges, and those who are sensory impaired. U.S. Sailing certified instructors will introduce participants

to the basics of sailing and empower them to take the helm and “captain” the boat, serve as crew and trim the sails, or relax and enjoy the water. Instructors will also encourage conversations about everything participants may experience on their sailing trip, from oil tankers anchored off El Segundo, to dolphin and whale sightings, to hearing the wind and waves slapping against the hull. The program will fuel the discovery of the ocean and provide participants with an experience that helps them focus on possibilities outside their immediate context.

**Funding:** The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Marina del Rey Harbor and Mother’s Beach.

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it provides coastal access opportunities for youth with special needs in the Los Angeles area.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 2, Objective A:** The proposed project expands opportunities for barrier-free access to and along the coast by immersive coastal experience and full inclusion of youth with disabilities.
- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding of coastal resources by providing a coastal sailing and beach recreation experience for youth with disabilities.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians, by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**LOS ANGELES MARITIME INSTITUTE**

**\$31,800**

**Explora la Costa y Puerto/Explore the Coast and Port**

**South Coast**

Los Angeles Maritime Institute (LAMI) will implement the Explora la Costa y El Puerto that will provide bilingual (Spanish/English) coastal education and rigged tall ship excursions to low-income communities and students from Title 1 schools in Los Angeles, Orange, and Riverside Counties. The participants will learn about the effects of urban trash and plastic pollution, as well as ocean acidification. Participants will also receive a hands-on learning experience by sampling seawater, determine temperature, pH, and using hydrometers. These tools will help them understand the relationship between temperature, salt and oxygen content and related impacts on marine plants and animals. In addition to marine education, Explora la Costa y El Puerto program will provide approximately 8 bilingual excursions on rigged tall ships to



approximately 1000 low-income students and families to explore the San Pedro and Palos Verdes coastline. First-time sailors will familiarize themselves with marine navigational charts and the physics of sailing. The Los Angeles Maritime Institute will also recruit scientifically trained bilingual docents (high school youth) as staff, thereby providing paid job opportunities for the community.

**Funding:** The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the Los Angeles and San Pedro waterfronts, the Los Angeles Harbor, and the Port of Los Angeles.

**Enabling Legislation:** The project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by bringing approximately 1000 people to the coast for recreation, sailing, and bilingual education.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding of coastal resources by providing an educational sailing experience for low-income communities and student from title 1 schools in Los Angeles, Orange, and Riverside county.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians, by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

## LOST COAST CAMP

**\$29,084**

### Lost Coast Camp Teen Coastal Leadership Camp

**North Coast**

Lost Coast Camps (LCC) will expand the programs offered under its existing Coastal Exploration Program to provide coastal experiences for approximately 220 Humboldt County underserved youth over two summers. A major part of the LCC curriculum involves fostering stewardship through building on a series of beach exploration days, beach hikes, and beach overnight backpack trips. The project will provide transportation for students ages 4 to 17, and fund LCC camp counselors to guide and oversee educational activities. Children ages 4 to 7 will participate in 4-hour “Beach Days” to explore coastal dunes, build sandcastles and examine found coastal objects. Youth ages 8 to 13 will participate in the newly developed 24-hour “Beach Overnight Hikes” to experience carrying a backpack, explore tide pools, learn the principles of Leave No Trace, sleep under the stars, conduct a beach cleanup, hike 5 miles over two days, and enjoy educational games and activities. Teens between 13 and 17 years old will undertake an expanded, 10-day “Beach Backpacking” trip in the Lost Coast of the King Range National Conservation Area; each will carry their own gear and food, learn basic coastal ecology and wilderness backpacking skills, positive communication and conflict resolution, and will practice Leave No Trace principles.

For many of the program participants, this is their only visit to the beach during the year. By providing a positive experience, the LCC program builds a foundation for local youth to develop a lifelong connection to California’s coastal public lands.

**Funding:** The project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the California Coastal Trail and the King Range National Conservation Area.

**Enabling Legislation:** The project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by bringing underserved youth to the coast for recreation and education.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 1, Objective A:** The proposed project promotes awareness and use of the CCT by organizing youth backpacking trips on the Lost Coast segment of the CCT.
- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing immersive educational opportunities to youth, including camping, hiking and recreational learning.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians, by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the California Coastal Trail and the coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**MEWATER FOUNDATION**

**\$25,500**

**Surf and Ocean Education and Safety Camps**

**San Francisco Bay Area**

MeWater Foundation (MeWater) provides surf and ocean education and safety camps for Bay Area youth and families with the primary goal to educate, inspire, and empower through exposure to the ocean and mother nature. The Surf and Ocean Education and Safety Camps project will continue the existing programs MeWater has established and expand the curriculum to include coastal and marine ecosystem education for at risk and underserved youth in the San Francisco Bay Area. The project will result in an additional 30 camps to be conducted in 2020–2021. Each camp includes coastal and marine ecosystem education, surfing instruction, mindfulness and emotional health exercises, and a beach cleanup. MeWater’s purpose is to create a fun, therapeutic environment that promotes social skills, well-being, outdoor skills, and environmental stewardship. Using a youth development-based programming, MeWater focuses on building personal and social responsibility and encourages stewardship for coastal resources through the provision of sport and educational programming in a therapeutic outdoor setting. Through therapeutic outdoor recreation and education,

MeWater expands on youth’s understanding of their own potential and provides them with a joyous and unforgettable respite opportunity.

**Funding:** The project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Agate Beach and Muir Beach in Marin County, Ocean Beach in San Francisco, and Pacifica State Beach, Miramar Beach, and Fitzgerald Marine Reserve in San Mateo County.

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal camp experiences, surfing lessons, and mindfulness exercises at the coast.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promote stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal and marine ecosystem education and coastal recreational activities, such as surfing.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The proposed project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The proposed project increases coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to at risk and underserved youth.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**O’NEILL SEA ODYSSEY**

**\$20,000**

**Transportation for Ocean Stewards**

**Central Coast**

O’Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO) engages 4th - 6th grade youth with a hands-on science and environmental education field trip on a 65-foot catamaran on Monterey Bay and in a shore-side education center. In addition, OSO provides standards-aligned, ocean-based curriculum for use in the classroom. The ETC grant will provide transportation to enable over 1,000 students to participate in the field trip. The catamaran includes three onboard learning stations: navigation, including compasses and triangulation; marine ecology, including the kelp forest, marine mammals, and human impacts on Monterey Bay; and marine biology, specifically examining and learning about plankton. These stations are complemented by three stations at an education center on land: navigation, including reading and plotting navigational charts; marine ecology, covering the water cycle, watersheds, and ocean pollution from land-based activities; and marine biology, where the plankton samples collected on the boat are examined further using microscopes. Teachers are provided with additional lessons they can implement at school before and after the trip. Participation is free of charge, but participating classes earn their trip by first completing an approved community service project such as the incubation of steelhead eggs, cleaning and restoring wetlands, or restoring sand dunes. Approximately 25%

of the schools served are located in the Central Valley, the rest come from Santa Cruz and neighboring counties.

**Funding:** The project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves the operation of the Santa Cruz Harbor, and OSO’s education center and catamaran.

**Enabling Legislation:** The project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by enabling over 1,000 students to participate in an ocean-based educational field trip.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing environmental education and a hands-on experience of the coast onboard a catamaran.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The proposed project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The proposed project increases coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to youth from low-income households or Title 1 schools.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of Santa Cruz Harbor and OSO’s education center and catamaran.

**ONE WORLD BRIDGE (Fiscal Sponsor for InterTribal Youth)**

**\$31,000**

**Native Like Water**

**South Coast**

Native Like Water will provide approximately 100 indigenous youth primarily from the Kumeyaay and Luiseno Nations the opportunity to engage with the history of Native peoples’ relationship to the coast and related maritime knowledge and practices. The project aims to instill a sense of connection to and ownership of the coast and ocean in the Native youth participants. With the aid of college-age mentors, native youth travel to a minimum of two nations in the Southern California region, such as the Chumash of Malibu, Oxnard, or Santa Barbara. Elders will provide the youth with opportunities to learn about other Native people’s coastal histories and traditions, and to develop a richer sense of the world that Native peoples constructed and lived within. The youth will also participate in at least three on-the-water experiences, including paddle boarding lessons and cave exploration at La Jolla Shores. The program includes a building workshop where youth will make their own paddles and help to build a Tule boat, such as those that were used by the Kumeyaay and other coastal peoples. Finally, in partnership with the Maritime Museum of San Diego, youth will participate in a challenge activity designed to test the efficacy of transportation – overland versus the Tule boat they built.

**Funding:** The project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves the operation of the La Jolla Shores, La Jolla Cove, and the Maritime Museum of San Diego. The proposed project is also consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Funds because it involves environmental education, including Native traditional ecological knowledge.

**Enabling Legislation:** The project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by connecting approximately 100 indigenous youth to the coast and Native maritime history, practices, knowledge.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by supporting indigenous youth in re-engaging, in both a historical and immediate sense, of coastal waters that have been an essential element of Native peoples' experience
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The proposed project increases coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to indigenous youth from the Kumeyaay and Luiseno Nations.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

## **OUTDOOR OUTREACH**

**\$20,000**

### **Coastal Adventure Club Program**

**South Coast**

Outdoor Outreach will provide about 80 coastal recreation and stewardship programs for approximately 400 vulnerable and disadvantaged youth in San Diego who face barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast. The programs will introduce young people to the coast through kayaking, surfing, biking, and hiking. ETC funds will allow Outdoor Outreach to reduce barriers for young people to access and enjoy the coast, including providing transportation, equipment, and guided exploration by instructors who represent the diversity of the participants. Outdoor Outreach provides at-risk youth with a chance to explore their world, challenge themselves, and discover their strengths, and the opportunity to connect with positive peers and mentors who believe in their potential. Outdoor outreach also provides a pathway to job and leadership opportunities including becoming instructors and peer mentors for other youth in the program.

**Funding:** The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of multiple State and local beaches in San Diego County, Silver Strand State Beach, Batiquitos Lagoon, the Bayshore Bikeway, Coronado Central Beach, Crown Cove Aquatic Center, Chula Vista Bayfront Park, Tijuana River Valley Regional Park, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve, and the City of San Diego's Waterfront Park.

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal kayaking, surfing, biking, and other trips for disadvantaged youth.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences for disadvantaged youth.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The proposed project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians, by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The proposed project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the beaches and waterfronts that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**REEF CHECK FOUNDATION**

**\$46,475**

**Tribal Ocean Ambassadors Initiative**

**South Coast**

In collaboration with Outward Bound Adventures Inc. (OBA), Reef Check will provide experiential, on-the-ocean stewardship training and marine science educational opportunities to members of the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians Tribe. Reef Check will train and certify 12 tribal young adults from OBA’s Diverse Outdoor Leadership Institute (DOLI) in SCUBA and in Reef Check’s rocky reef/kelp forest citizen scientist diver monitoring program. Once certified, these 12 young adults will lead 60 youth (ages 13-18) from the Torres Martinez Reservation through four EMBARC (Educational Marine Biology Adventures with Reef Check) trips into Santa Monica Bay. EMBARC is a hands-on STEM-enrichment program that takes underserved students out on the ocean to be Marine Biologists for the Day. The overarching goal of the Tribal Ocean Ambassadors Initiative is to challenge tribal youth and young adults to make connections between the ocean, science, and their own lives.

**Funding:** The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Dock 52 in Marina del Rey, Dockweiler State Beach, and Leo Carrillo State Park.

**Enabling Legislation:** This proposed is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by teaching youth on-board a boat about ocean conservation and science through studying the nearshore rocky reef/kelp forest ecosystems.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by teaching participants about rocky reef/kelp forest ecosystems.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians, by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The proposed project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**SIERRA CLUB FOUNDATION (Fiscal Sponsor for Sacramento Inspiring Connections Outdoors)**

**\$6,500**

**Sacramento Inspiring Connections Outdoors (Sacramento ICO)**

**Central Valley**

Sacramento Inspiring Connections Outdoors (Sacramento ICO) will take up to 20 youth and/or young adults (ages 6-22) on five trips to Point Reyes National Seashore for a day of fun, recreation, and environmental education at the beach. The field trips will be offered at no cost to participants. Sacramento ICO will also organize and lead two overnight trips that will take up to 15 participants each (30 total) to Point Reyes for two days of hiking, wildlife observation, and beach play, with an overnight stay at the Point Reyes Hostel.

Outings will be done in partnership with local social service agencies and schools, and all participants will be from low-income families in urban and suburban Sacramento, most of whom have never been to the coast and are unaware of opportunities for visiting coastal areas. Most of the participants will be people of color and the majority will be from homes where English is not the primary language.

**Funding:** The project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves the operation of Point Reyes National Seashore and Stinson Beach in Marin County.

**Enabling Legislation:** The project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing day trips and overnight trips for young people from Sacramento.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources through recreational activities that promote love for the coast.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The proposed project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by bringing youth and young adults from Sacramento to the coast. This program will serve youth and young adults that face a number of coastal access barriers such as lack of a vehicle and lack of knowledge of opportunities, as well as cultural

challenges such as language barriers and even apprehension of how they would be treated in recreational areas.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves the regular operation of the beaches that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**SOCIAL GOOD FUND (Fiscal Sponsor for Brown Girl Surf) \$40,000**

**Surf Sister Program Central Coast**

The Surf Sister Program is Brown Girl Surf’s flagship program for physically connecting girls and women of color to the ocean and the California Coast. This program builds a welcoming community of “surf sisters” who support each other to surf and safely enjoy the ocean, both within and outside the program. Approximately 120 girls and women of color will be introduced to the ocean and surfing through at least 17 Community Surf Sister days. In addition, Volunteer Leadership Crews (Surf Instructors and Rising Leaders) will host 5 beach-based leadership building program days that further develop skills in surfing, surf instruction, ocean safety, and leadership, ending potentially with an overnight surf trip in Santa Cruz. The program will improve outreach efforts via Spanish promotional and registration materials.

**Funding:** The project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves the operation of Miramar Beach and Princeton Jetty Surf Spot in Half Moon Bay, and Muir Beach in Marin.

**Enabling Legislation:** The project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing a surfing experience for low-income and underserved girls and women in the San Francisco while also increasing the number of people visiting the coast.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources through surfing and educational activities to create sense of shared ownership of the ocean.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The proposed project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by bringing low-income and underserved girls and women from communities of color to the coast to experience the coast through surfing.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves the regular operation of the beaches that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**SONOMA COUNTY REGIONAL PARKS FOUNDATION \$49,165**

**Youth Exploring the Sonoma Coast (YES-Coast) North Coast**



The YES-Coast project will connect about 120 underserved youth from inland Sonoma County to their coastline by providing a series of outings interweaving themes of local history and ecology. The year-long series will include six one-day trips, including hiking the Coastal Trail, visiting the Bodega Marine Lab, kayaking in Jenner, and a living history experience at Fort Ross. The project also includes a 3-day/2-night camping trip for a subset of participants as well as hands-on coastal habitat stewardship activities. Post-trip connections will be fostered through a gallery exhibit of student photographs from these coastal trips and a wintertime Marine Movie Night. The program focuses on youth ages 13-18 from under-resourced neighborhoods, predominantly in Santa Rosa.

**Funding:** The project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of multiple coastal locations in Sonoma including Doran Regional Park, Sonoma Coast State Beaches (Bodega Dunes to Goat Rock), Fort Ross Historic State Park, Stillwater Cove Regional Park, Gualala Point Regional Park, and the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by enabling lower-income students, including those from inland communities, to participate in coastal and environmental education programs.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing an integrated recreation, education and leadership coastal experience for Sonoma County youth that never or rarely see the Pacific Ocean.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians, by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the coastal beaches and parks in Sonoma County that will be visited with no expansion of use. Invasive species removal and trail maintenance activities to be completed under the project are also categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15304 (Minor Alterations of Land) because they are landscaping activities that do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

**SONOMA LAND TRUST**

**\$20,000**

**Bay Camp/Campamento de la Bahía**

**San Francisco Bay Area**

Sonoma Land Trust will conduct two years of its bilingual (Spanish and English) Bay Summer Camp/Campamento de la Bahía providing about 135 7- to 12-year-old children the opportunity to kayak, bicycle, and hike and experience bilingual environmental education at the Sears Point

area of the San Pablo Bay. Camp activities include bicycle riding and hiking on the San Francisco Bay Trail, conservation stewardship activities such as planting and restoring tidal wetlands, kayaking in the recently restored marshes, and science-based environmental education and citizen science curriculum. Both the tidal marsh restoration project and the start-up of Bay Camp were funded in part by the Coastal Conservancy.

**Funding:** The proposed project is consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Funds because it involves environmental education as described above.

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 4.5: San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Sections 31162(a), 31162(d), and 31165 because it improves access to and around the Bay for recreational and educational purposes.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by teaching students about coastal wetlands and restoration work.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the coastal beaches and parks in Sonoma County that will be visited with no expansion of use. Removing invasive weeds and planting marsh native plants are also categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15304 (Minor Alterations of Land) because they are landscaping activities that do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

**THE OCEAN FOUNDATION**

**\$35,000**

**Ocean Connectors: Connecting Youth for Conservation**

**South Coast**

The Ocean Connectors: Connecting Youth for Conservation program provides underserved students from third through seventh grade living in National City free marine science education. The Ocean Connectors program consists of coastal excursions, peer-to-peer learning, and hands-on lessons to engage youth in exploring the coast. Activities include sea turtle, seabird and shark observation, whale watching, and coastal restoration work. The program includes knowledge exchange between students in San Diego and their peers in Nayarit, Mexico about migratory marine life in the Pacific. Students use a different method each year to communicate about conservation including artwork, letters, and short video messages.

**Funding:** The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the San Diego Harbor. The proposed project is also consistent

with the use of California Environmental License Plate Funds because it involves environmental education as described above.

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment through coastal excursions where participants can observe different wildlife.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by teaching students about wildlife and restoration work.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The proposed project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use. Invasive species removal and native species planting are also categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15304 (Minor Alterations of Land) because they are landscaping activities that do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

**UNIVERSITY CORPORATION AT MONTEREY BAY**

**\$29,831**

**Salinas Kids Explore the Coast with Camp SEA Lab!**

**Central Coast**

The University Corporation at Monterey Bay’s Camp SEA Lab program will bring approximately 100 kids by bus from Title 1 schools in East Salinas and the Salinas Valley to the ocean for a 3-day, 2-night overnight ocean experience, including kayaking on Elkhorn Slough, field studies on the beach, squid dissections and indoor plankton labs, a beach clean-up, and a beach campfire. Camp SEA Lab program staff will prepare both families and their kids for the overnight trip by offering pre- and post-camp classroom visits and parent nights. The intent of the program is to provide students with a safe and warm camp experience where they not only experience the ocean for the first time, but also enjoy recreational activities such as kayaking and beach campfires, and are exposed to career aspirations in the marine sciences.

**Funding:** The project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves the operation of Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Reserve, and Seascape Park Beach.

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing immersive, coastal, overnight experiences and outdoor recreational activities to youth.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal camping experiences focused on fostering stewardship and exposure to marine science concepts.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The proposed project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The proposed project increases coastal access for all Californians by providing students from Title 1 schools and their families coastal overnight experiences and recreational activities.

**CEQA:** The proposed project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of the coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

#### **URBAN SURF 4 KIDS**

**\$40,340**

#### **Unlocking the Ocean: Urban Surf 4 Kids' Transformative Surf Therapy Program**      **South Coast**

Urban Surf 4 Kids (US4K) will host 14 one-day surf therapy camps, each serving 70-80 youth, totaling approximately 1,000 youth. In these camps, US4K will bring foster and at-risk youth to La Jolla Shores Beach to learn how to surf from US4K certified in-water instructors. Because California State Law states that foster youth cannot legally enter the ocean without outside supervision, and to maximize safety, US4K will maintain a strict 1:1 ratio between participants and volunteers. After an hour of surfing and lunch, participants will participate in different activities, including a beach clean-up, teambuilding with San Diego law enforcement officers, and lessons about mental health and wellness from experts in the subject. Participants will then have an opportunity to get in the ocean again to surf or to enjoy themselves on the sand.

**Funding:** The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of La Jolla Shores Beach, La Jolla Shores Park, and La Jolla Cove.

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing youth with surfing camps.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing surf-therapy camps for foster and at-risk youth.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians, by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**VENTANA WILDERNESS ALLIANCE**

**\$5,000**

**Youth in Wilderness Program – Wilderness Watersheds Project**

**Central Coast**

Ventana Wilderness Alliance’s Youth in Wilderness (YiW) Program provides a unique, no-cost, introductory wilderness immersion experience through overnight backpacking trips in the Ventana and Silver Peak Wildernesses. For YiW’s Wilderness Watersheds Project (WW), youth participants, mostly from communities of color in Monterey County, are introduced to local public lands and the iconic Big Sur coast, often for the first time. WW trips will involve stewardship work to educate participants about responsible outdoor recreation practices and the connectivity of waterways that flow between their homes and the coast. Participants will conduct campsite rehabilitation and habitat maintenance and restoration along watersheds and then journey to the coast to see the long ranging effects that their efforts have.

**Funding:** The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves the operation of Los Padres National Forest and Limekiln State Park.

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing immersive backpacking trips to the Big Sur coastal zone for youth of color, who have historically been excluded from outdoor spaces.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing overnight backpacking experiences focused on coastal stewardship.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operations of the coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**WILDCOAST**

**\$15,000**

**Explore My Marine Protected Area**

**South Coast**

WILDCOAST will provide educational, recreational, and stewardship activities at six of San Diego’s Marine Protected Areas (MPA) for approximately 100 at-risk high school students from San Diego County underserved communities. WILDCOAST will lead the youth participants in a series of MPA-related activities including coastal ecology trainings and clean-ups in conjunction

with recreational kayaking activities. Students will participate in hands-on learning activities focused on local ecology and climate change, MPA monitoring with citizen science, and outdoor recreation. WILDCOAST will work directly with schools and youth programs in park poor areas and Native American communities to recruit students for the project.

**Funding:** The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of San Diego-Scripps Coastal State Marine Conservation Area, Matlahuayl State Marine Reserve, South La Jolla State Marine Reserve, Cabrillo State Marine Reserve, Batiquitos Lagoon State Marine Conservation Area, and Tijuana River Mouth State Marine Conservation Area.

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing experiential marine-based recreation and education activities for inner-city youth.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources through its environmental education and conservation stewardship programming for students.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians, by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The proposed project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use. The proposed project is also categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15306 (Information Collection) because it involves data collection activities that do not result in a serious disturbance to an environmental resource.

**YES NATURE TO NEIGHBORHOODS**

**\$45,000**

**Coastal Conservation Science & Education for Richmond Youth**

**San Francisco Bay Area**

YES Nature to Neighborhoods engages Richmond youth in outdoor and leadership development programming through a Youth Leadership Pathway: a ten-year pipeline from childhood through young adulthood that leads youth from a week of nature-based Summer Camp to year-round participation in YES's Camp-to-Community teen program. This project will provide about 200 youth ages 8-18 with outdoor and environmental education programming via the Youth Leadership Pathway programs. One hundred percent of participants are low-income youth of color. This grant will also implement a new "Coastal Conservation Cohort" focused on coastal conservation and experiential education. The new Coastal Conservation Cohort will be led by YES staff and by Grecia Solis, a YES alumna with a Masters in Environmental Education who developed an Environmental Justice Curriculum designed specifically to engage

underrepresented youth of color in environmental fields. The program will convene YES teens twice per month to learn about coastal conservation issues, provide four new experiential education and conservation science trips to coastal locations, and prepare teens to serve as educators for hundreds of Richmond youth and families.

**Funding:** The proposed project is consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Funds because it involves environmental education as described above.

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing for educational and recreational trips to the coast for youth. The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 4.5: San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Sections 31162(a), 31162(d), and 31165 because it improves public access to the Bay and coast for educational and recreational purposes.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing a valuable recreational and environmental learning experiences to youth through various connected programs that make up the Youth Leadership Pathway.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians, by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The proposed project is categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**Site Description:** All of the projects will take place along the coast of the State and San Francisco Bay. See Exhibit 1 for regional maps depicting the location of the projects.

**Project History:** In 2013, the Conservancy launched the Explore the Coast Grant Program with the two main goals of supporting activities that allow more people to explore California’s spectacular coast and/or enhancing visitors’ experiences. The latter includes projects that enhanced visitors’ ability to learn about natural, recreational, cultural and historic resources of the California and San Francisco Bay shorelines. ETC grants were envisioned to support a wide range of activities including funding transportation for coastal experience for communities less familiar with the coast, communication and outreach, economic development related to coastal tourism, and development of interpretive information and/or education materials. The program was designed as a “small grants” program with a maximum award of \$50,000.

To date, the Conservancy has provided over \$5.6 million to fund 189 projects. The project has been hugely successful in meeting the ETC goals. The current staff recommendation is for the sixth ETC grant round.

**PROJECT FINANCING**

<b>Coastal Conservancy</b>	\$805,000
Other funds (matching funds excluding in-kind)	\$1,600,000
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$2,406,249</b>

Two sources of Conservancy funding are expected to be used for the ETC grants program. The first funding source is an appropriation from the Conservancy’s Coastal Access Account, which derives from coastal development permit application fees required by the California Coastal Commission. (Public Resources Code Sections 30620.1(b) & 30620.2) Coastal Access Account funds may be used for grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for the development, maintenance, and operation of new or existing facilities that provide public access to the coast, excluding San Francisco Bay. Use of the Coastal Access Account funds is appropriate for all of the proposed projects listed below because each will develop, maintain, or operate an existing facility that provides access to the coast. Please refer to the “Project Summary” section, above, for more information on the specific facility(ies) associated with each proposed project.

- Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation (AHLF Explore the Coast Summer Camp)
- City Heights Community Development Corporation (BLVD to Beach: Community Bike and Transit Rides & Overnight Bike Camping Experiences)
- Coalinga Huron Unified School District (Experience-> Love-> Care: Saving the California Coast, One Student at a Time)
- Environmental Traveling Companions (AccessAbility – ETC Bay Adventures and Stewardship Program)
- GirlVentures (Increasing Coastal Access and Building Environmental Stewardship for Underserved Girls)
- Greater Farallones Association (Addressing Environmental Inequality with Meaningful Coastal Learning Experiences )
- Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association (Usal Beach Restoration Environmental Education Program)
- Life Sail Inc. (Come Sail Away with LifeSail: An Introduction to Adaptive Sailing )
- Los Angeles Maritime Institute (Explora la Costa y Puerto/Explore the Coast and Port)
- Lost Coast Camp (Lost Coast Camp Teen Coastal Leadership Camp)
- MeWater Foundation (Surf and Ocean Education and Safety Camps)
- O’Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Ocean Stewards)
- One World Bridge (fiscal sponsor for InterTribal Youth) (Native Like Water)
- Outdoor Outreach (Coastal Adventure Club Program)
- Reef Check Foundation (Tribal Ocean Ambassadors Initiative )
- Sierra Club Foundation (fiscal sponsor for Sacramento Inspiring Connections Outdoors) (Sacramento Inspiring Connections Outdoors)



- Social Good Fund (fiscal sponsor of Brown Girl Surf) (Surf Sister Program)
- Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation (Youth Exploring the Sonoma Coast (YES-Coast))
- The Ocean Foundation (Ocean Connectors: Connecting Youth for Conservation)
- University Corporation at Monterey Bay (Salinas Kids Explore the Coast with Camp SEA Lab!)
- Urban Surf 4 Kids (Unlocking the Ocean: Urban Surf 4 Kids’ Transformative Surf Therapy Program)
- Ventana Wilderness Alliance (Youth in Wilderness Program – Wilderness Watersheds Project)
- Wildcoast (Explore My Marine Protected Area)

The other expected source of funds for the ETC grants program proposed projects is an appropriation from the California Environmental License Plate Fund, derived from sales and renewal of personalized license plates. Funds in the California Environmental License Plate Fund are available upon appropriation for purposes outlined in Public Resources Code Section 21190. These purposes include funding environmental education projects. Please refer to the “Project Summary” section, above, for more information on how each proposed project provides environmental education.

- Environmental Traveling Companions (AccessAbility – ETC Bay Adventures and Stewardship Program)
- Golden Gate Audubon Society (Eco-Education for Title 1 Schools)
- Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association (Usal Beach Restoration Environmental Education Program)
- One World Bridge (fiscal sponsor for InterTribal Youth) (Native Like Water)
- Sonoma Land Trust (Bay Camp/Campamento de la Bahía)
- The Ocean Foundation (Ocean Connectors: Connecting Youth for Conservation)
- YES Nature to Neighborhoods (Coastal Conservation Science & Education for Richmond Youth)

Project partners will provide approximately \$1.6 million in matching funds for the 2019-2020 ETC grants. In addition, they will provide over \$700,000 in-kind services. Much of this is a result of the hundreds of hours of volunteer time that will support ETC projects and is a reflection of how important these projects are to the communities they serve.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S ENABLING LEGISLATION:**

Staff recommends the Conservancy find that the 29 proposed projects are consistent with the Conservancy’s enabling legislation, Division 21 of the PRC (Sections 31160-31165 and 31000-31414) as described in the “Project Summary” section, above. Below is a list of the proposed projects that staff recommends the Conservancy find consistent with the relevant section of the Conservancy’s enabling legislation.

Chapter 4.5 San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program

The proposed projects listed below will be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the PRC, Sections 31160-31165, regarding recreational and resource goals in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Pursuant to Section 31162(a), the Conservancy is authorized to award grants to projects located in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area that will help improve public access to, within, and around the bay, coast, ridgetops and urban open spaces through completion and operation of regional bay, coast, water and ridge trail systems, and local trails connecting to population centers and public facilities. Pursuant to Section 31162(d), the Conservancy is authorized to award grants that promote, assist and enhance projects that provide open space and natural areas that are accessible to urban populations for recreational and educational purposes. The projects listed below are consistent with these sections as they all help to achieve at least one of these goals, as more particularly described in the “Project Summary” section, above.

- Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program (Disability Outdoor Coastal Access Project)
- Earth Team (LEAF’20 Hiking Series)
- Environmental Traveling Companions (AccessAbility – ETC Bay Adventures and Stewardship Program)
- Golden Gate Audubon Society (Eco-Education for Title 1 Schools)
- Sonoma Land Trust (Bay Camp/Campamento de la Bahía)
- YES Nature to Neighborhoods (Coastal Conservation Science & Education for Richmond Youth)

Pursuant to Section 31165, the Conservancy is authorized to award grants for activities that are compatible with the preservation, restoration, or enhancement of ocean, coastal, bay, or watershed resources, or that facilitate environmental education related to these resources. The proposed projects listed below are consistent with this section as the proposed projects are for compatible activities, as more particularly described in the “Project Summary” section, above.

- Earth Team (LEAF’20 Hiking Series)
- Golden Gate Audubon Society (Eco-Education for Title 1 Schools)
- Sonoma Land Trust (Bay Camp/Campamento de la Bahía)
- YES Nature to Neighborhoods (Coastal Conservation Science & Education for Richmond Youth)

In addition, all of the proposed projects listed above meet the criteria established in Section 31163(c) as the proposed projects serve a regional constituency, can be implemented in a timely way, provide opportunities for education, access, and restoration that would be lost if not quickly implemented, and include matching funds.

#### Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways

The proposed projects listed below will be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the PRC, Sections 31400 *et seq*, regarding public access to and enjoyment of coastal resources.

Section 31400 states the Legislature’s intent that the Conservancy play a principal role in the implementation of a system of public accessways to and along the state’s coastline, including

San Francisco Bay. All of the proposed projects listed below will be funded by the Conservancy to implement public access objectives, as more specifically described in the paragraphs below.

Section 31400.3 authorizes the Conservancy to provide such assistance as is required to aid public agencies and nonprofit organizations in establishing a system of public coastal accessways, and related functions necessary to meet the objectives of this division. All of the proposed projects listed below are consistent with these sections, as more specifically described in the “Project Summary” section, above.

- Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation (AHLF Explore the Coast Summer Camp)
- Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program (Disability Outdoor Coastal Access Project)
- Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria (A Coastal Kayak Experience)
- City Heights Community Development Corporation (BLVD to Beach: Community Bike and Transit Rides & Overnight Bike Camping Experiences)
- Coalinga Huron Unified School District (Experience-> Love-> Care: Saving the California Coast, One Student at a Time)
- GirlVentures (Increasing Coastal Access and Building Environmental Stewardship for Underserved Girls)
- Golden Gate Audubon Society (Eco-Education for Title 1 Schools)
- Greater Farallones Association (Addressing Environmental Inequality with Meaningful Coastal Learning Experiences )
- Groundwork San Diego-Chollas Creek (Conserving and Connecting to San Diego’s Coastal Resources)
- Heal the Bay (Nick Gabaldón Day - Celebrating Diversity, Environmentalism, and Ocean Readiness)
- Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association (Usal Beach Restoration Environmental Education Program)
- Life Sail Inc. (Come Sail Away with LifeSail: An Introduction to Adaptive Sailing )
- Los Angeles Maritime Institute (Explora la Costa y Puerto/Explore the Coast and Port)
- Lost Coast Camp (Lost Coast Camp Teen Coastal Leadership Camp)
- MeWater Foundation (Surf and Ocean Education and Safety Camps)
- O’Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Ocean Stewards)
- One World Bridge (fiscal sponsor for InterTribal Youth) (Native Like Water)
- Outdoor Outreach (Coastal Adventure Club Program)
- Reef Check Foundation (Tribal Ocean Ambassadors Initiative )
- Sierra Club Foundation (fiscal sponsor for Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors) (Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors)
- Sierra Club Foundation (fiscal sponsor for Sacramento Inspiring Connections Outdoors) (Sacramento Inspiring Connections Outdoors)
- Social Good Fund (fiscal sponsor of Brown Girl Surf) (Surf Sister Program)
- Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation (Youth Exploring the Sonoma Coast (YES-Coast))

- The Ocean Foundation (Ocean Connectors: Connecting Youth for Conservation)
- University Corporation at Monterey Bay (Salinas Kids Explore the Coast with Camp SEA Lab!)
- Urban Surf 4 Kids (Unlocking the Ocean: Urban Surf 4 Kids’ Transformative Surf Therapy Program)
- Ventana Wilderness Alliance (Youth in Wilderness Program – Wilderness Watersheds Project)
- Wildcoast (Explore My Marine Protected Area)
- YES Nature to Neighborhoods (Coastal Conservation Science & Education for Richmond Youth)

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S 2018-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S):**

The 29 projects proposed for funding assist the Conservancy in meeting a number of its Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives. Relevant Goals and Objectives are listed below, along with the names of the proposed projects that meet each goal. Please see the “Project Summary” section, above, for how each proposed project meets the relevant goal(s) and objective(s).

Consistent with **Goal 1, Objective A** which seeks to implement and support projects to promote awareness and use of the California Coastal Trail, the following proposed projects will contribute to this goal:

- Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program (Disability Outdoor Coastal Access Project)
- Lost Coast Camp (Lost Coast Camp Teen Coastal Leadership Camp)

Consistent with **Goal 2, Objective A**, which seeks to develop projects that expand opportunities for barrier-free access to and along the coast and coastal trails, the following proposed projects will contribute to this goal:

- Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program (Disability Outdoor Coastal Access Project)
- Environmental Traveling Companions (AccessAbility – ETC Bay Adventures and Stewardship Program)
- Life Sail Inc. (Come Sail Away with LifeSail: An Introduction to Adaptive Sailing )
- MeWater Foundation (Surf and Ocean Education and Safety Camps)

Consistent with **Goal 4, Objective A**, which seeks to support educational programs and interpretive events that improve public understanding and promote stewardship of coastal resources, all the proposed 2019-2020 ETC projects will contribute to this goal.

Consistent with **Goal 13, Objective L**, which seeks to implement projects that expand opportunities for barrier-free access to natural areas in the San Francisco Bay region, the following proposed project will contribute to this goal:

- Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program (Disability Outdoor Coastal Access Project)
- Environmental Traveling Companions (AccessAbility – ETC Bay Adventures and Stewardship Program)

Consistent with **Goal 16, Objective A**, which seeks to prioritize projects for funding that are located in disadvantaged communities or directly benefit disadvantaged communities, the following proposed projects will contribute to this goal:

- Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation (AHLF Explore the Coast Summer Camp)
- Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria (A Coastal Kayak Experience)
- City Heights Community Development Corporation (BLVD to Beach: Community Bike and Transit Rides & Overnight Bike Camping Experiences)
- Coalinga Huron Unified School District (Experience-> Love-> Care: Saving the California Coast, One Student at a Time)
- Earth Team (LEAF'20 Hiking Series)
- Golden Gate Audubon Society (Eco-Education for Title 1 Schools)
- Greater Farallones Association (Addressing Environmental Inequality with Meaningful Coastal Learning Experiences )
- Groundwork San Diego-Chollas Creek (Conserving and Connecting to San Diego's Coastal Resources)
- Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association (Usal Beach Restoration Environmental Education Program)
- Life Sail Inc. (Come Sail Away with LifeSail: An Introduction to Adaptive Sailing )
- Lost Coast Camp (Lost Coast Camp Teen Coastal Leadership Camp)
- MeWater Foundation (Surf and Ocean Education and Safety Camps)
- O'Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Ocean Stewards)
- Outdoor Outreach (Coastal Adventure Club Program)
- Reef Check Foundation (Tribal Ocean Ambassadors Initiative )
- Sierra Club Foundation (fiscal sponsor for Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors) (Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors)
- Sierra Club Foundation (fiscal sponsor for Sacramento Inspiring Connections Outdoors) (Sacramento Inspiring Connections Outdoors)
- Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation (Youth Exploring the Sonoma Coast (YES-Coast))
- Sonoma Land Trust (Bay Camp/Campamento de la Bahía)
- The Ocean Foundation (Ocean Connectors: Connecting Youth for Conservation)
- University Corporation at Monterey Bay (Salinas Kids Explore the Coast with Camp SEA Lab!)
- Urban Surf 4 Kids (Unlocking the Ocean: Urban Surf 4 Kids' Transformative Surf Therapy Program)
- Wildcoast (Explore My Marine Protected Area)
- YES Nature to Neighborhoods (Coastal Conservation Science & Education for Richmond Youth)

Consistent with **Goal 16, Objective C**, which seeks to Increase coastal access for all Californians, by supporting organizations that provide coastal experiences to underserved populations, all the proposed 2019-2020 ETC projects will contribute to this goal.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:**

The proposed projects are consistent with the Conservancy’s Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, last updated on October 2, 2014, in the following respects:

**Required Criteria**

1. **Promotion of the Conservancy’s statutory programs and purposes:** See “Consistency with Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation”, above.
2. **Consistency with purposes of the funding source:** See “Project Financing”, above.
3. **Promotion and implementation of state plans and policies:** The ETC grants program is consistent with the San Francisco Bay Plan (see “Consistency with Bay Plan”, below) as well as the California Coastal Act (Public Resources Code Sections 30000 *et seq*) (“Coastal Act”).

The Coastal Act indicates in Section 30001.5(c) that it is the state’s goal to “maximize public access to and along the coast.” Section 30210 requires that “maximum access, which shall be conspicuously posted, and recreational opportunities shall be provided for all the people.” Section 30530 expresses the intent of the Legislature that a program to maximize public access to and along the coastline be prepared and implemented “consistent with the provisions of Chapter 9 of Division 21.” (See “Consistency with Enabling Legislation,” above).

Similarly, the Coastal Act includes several references to the need to increase public knowledge of access opportunities and to involve community organizations in such efforts. Section 30214(c) directs the Coastal Commission and other public agencies to “... encourage the utilization of innovative access management techniques including, but not limited to, agreements with private organizations which would minimize management costs and encourage the use of volunteer programs.” Section 30012 includes the Legislative finding that “an educated and informed citizenry ... is necessary to protect California’s finite natural resources [and] ... through education, individuals can be made aware of and encouraged to accept their share of responsibility for protecting and improving the natural environment.”

The ETC grants program is consistent with and promotes the priorities of the Coastal Act. The projects proposed for funding are consistent with the Coastal Act because all of the proposed projects involve maximizing access to the coast for coastal resource education and recreation. Please see “Project Summary,” above, and “Consistency with Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation”, above, for how the individual proposed projects are consistent with the Coastal Act’s priorities of maximizing coastal access.

4. **Support of the public:** The broad level of support for environmental education, resource protection and enhancement, and public access projects is indicated by the large numbers of people that will participate in the 2019-2020 ETC program. It is estimated that over

18,000 people will be served by the 29 ETC projects. In addition, this suite of proposed ETC projects is supported by elected officials, numerous community and nonprofit organizations, and local agencies (See Exhibit 3).

5. **Location:** All of the proposed ETC projects bring people to the coast or to the San Francisco Bay shoreline. Some of the proposed projects also involve transportation from an area outside of the coastal zone to a location within the coastal zone, which is consistent with the intent of the ETC grants program to support activities that facilitate bringing more people to explore California’s coast. Similarly, some of the proposed projects involve classroom education at inland locations, which is also consistent with the intent of supporting activities that enhance a coastal experience.
6. **Need:** Without Conservancy funding, the proposed projects will either not proceed or will need to be scaled back.
7. **Greater-than-local interest:** The proposed projects recommended for funding under this authorization will enhance the coastal experience of over 12,000 people throughout coastal regions of the state and the San Francisco Bay Area. The proposed projects will serve more than local needs through transportation from inland and underserved communities to the coast or provision of coastal education and citizen science programs for underserved and inland youth.
8. **Sea level rise vulnerability:** Most of the proposed ETC projects do not entail physical improvements that could be vulnerable to sea level rise impacts, except for small restoration activities, which are primarily for public education objectives. Of the proposed ETC projects that include coastal restoration components that may be susceptible to flooding and storm water surge, especially under future sea level rise projections, restoration of these project areas will enhance native biodiversity and abundance, resulting in larger and likely more genetically diverse populations of native species that have greater potential to adapt to future changes in habitat due to sea level rise. These proposed restoration projects are:
  - Golden Gate Audubon Society (Eco-Education for Title 1 Schools)
  - Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation (Youth Exploring the Sonoma Coast (YES-Coast))
  - Sonoma Land Trust (Bay Camp/Campamento de la Bahía)
  - The Ocean Foundation (Ocean Connectors: Connecting Youth for Conservation)

**Additional Criteria**

9. **Leverage:** See the “Project Financing” section, above.
10. **Readiness:** All of the proposed projects described in the “Project Summary” section, above, are ready to implement and will be completed within 1 to 2 years.
11. **Realization of prior Conservancy goals:** See “Project History,” above.

**CONSISTENCY WITH SAN FRANCISCO BAY PLAN:**

The six proposed ETC projects that are authorized pursuant to Chapter 4.5 of the Conservancy's enabling legislation, regarding the San Francisco Bay Conservancy Program, are consistent with the San Francisco Bay Plan, as described below. (See "Consistency with Conservancy Enabling Legislation, San Francisco Bay Program," above, for a list of the projects. See also "Project Summary," above, for more information about each of the proposed projects listed below).

Consistent with Public Access, Policy 9, access to and along the waterfront should be provided by walkways, trails, or other appropriate means and connect to the nearest public thoroughfare where convenient parking or public transportation may be available. Diverse and interesting public access experiences should be provided that encourage users to remain in the designated access areas to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects on wildlife and their habitat. The following proposed projects will facilitate appropriate enjoyment and use of the San Francisco Bay shoreline in a manner consistent with this policy:

- Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program (Disability Outdoor Coastal Access Project)
- Earth Team (LEAF'20 Hiking Series)
- Environmental Traveling Companions (AccessAbility – ETC Bay Adventures and Stewardship Program)
- Sonoma Land Trust (Bay Camp/Campamento de la Bahía)

Consistent with Part IV, Public Access, the following proposed ETC projects will provide for nature study to orient people to the various parts of the San Francisco Bay and will provide access to the Bay to allow the public to discover, experience, and appreciate the Bay's natural resources. The proposed projects are supported by Public Access, Policy 3, that states "public access to some natural areas should be provided to permit study and enjoyment of these areas." These proposed projects will provide environmental education and encourage stewardship of Bay and marine resources by providing hands-on, onsite experiences at the Bay:

- Golden Gate Audubon Society (Eco-Education for Title 1 Schools)
- Sonoma Land Trust (Bay Camp/Campamento de la Bahía)
- YES Nature to Neighborhoods (Coastal Conservation Science & Education for Richmond Youth)

Consistent with Part IV, Recreation, the following proposed projects will increase access to natural areas in and near the shoreline of San Francisco Bay. The Recreation section finds that "the Bay is the most important open space in the Bay region. The Bay and its shoreline provide unique recreational opportunities. Participating in recreation activities on the Bay and along its shoreline can inspire an appreciation of the Bay and can motivate people to participate in the responsible management and protection of the Bay."

- Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program (Disability Outdoor Coastal Access Project)
- Earth Team (LEAF'20 Hiking Series)
- Environmental Traveling Companions (AccessAbility – ETC Bay Adventures and Stewardship Program)
- Golden Gate Audubon Society (Eco-Education for Title 1 Schools)
- Sonoma Land Trust (Bay Camp/Campamento de la Bahía)



- YES Nature to Neighborhoods (Coastal Conservation Science & Education for Richmond Youth)

**COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:**

Conservancy staff reviewed the 29 proposed projects for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (14 California Code of Regulations, Sections 15000 *et seq*). All of the proposed projects are categorically exempt under CEQA. Please see the “Project Summary” section above, for more information on each proposed project and its compliance with CEQA. Applicable CEQA exemptions are listed below.

14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities): The following proposed ETC projects are categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301, which exempts operation, maintenance, and minor alterations of existing facilities or topographic features including pedestrian trails (Section 15301(c)) and wildlife areas and stream channels to protect fish and wildlife resources (Section 15301(i)):

- Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation (AHLF Explore the Coast Summer Camp)
- Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program (Disability Outdoor Coastal Access Project)
- Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria (A Coastal Kayak Experience)
- City Heights Community Development Corporation (BLVD to Beach: Community Bike and Transit Rides & Overnight Bike Camping Experiences)
- Coalinga Huron Unified School District (Experience-> Love-> Care: Saving the California Coast, One Student at a Time)
- Earth Team (LEAF’20 Hiking Series)
- Environmental Traveling Companions (AccessAbility – ETC Bay Adventures and Stewardship Program)
- GirlVentures (Increasing Coastal Access and Building Environmental Stewardship for Underserved Girls)
- Golden Gate Audubon Society (Eco-Education for Title 1 Schools)
- Greater Farallones Association (Addressing Environmental Inequality with Meaningful Coastal Learning Experiences )
- Groundwork San Diego-Chollas Creek (Conserving and Connecting to San Diego’s Coastal Resources)
- Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association (Usal Beach Restoration Environmental Education Program)
- Life Sail Inc. (Come Sail Away with LifeSail: An Introduction to Adaptive Sailing )
- Los Angeles Maritime Institute (Explora la Costa y Puerto/Explore the Coast and Port)
- Lost Coast Camp (Lost Coast Camp Teen Coastal Leadership Camp)
- MeWater Foundation (Surf and Ocean Education and Safety Camps)
- O’Neill Sea Odyssey (Transportation for Ocean Stewards)
- One World Bridge (fiscal sponsor for InterTribal Youth) (Native Like Water)

- Outdoor Outreach (Coastal Adventure Club Program)
- Reef Check Foundation (Tribal Ocean Ambassadors Initiative )
- Sierra Club Foundation (fiscal sponsor for Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors) (Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors)
- Sierra Club Foundation (fiscal sponsor for Sacramento Inspiring Connections Outdoors) (Sacramento Inspiring Connections Outdoors)
- Social Good Fund (fiscal sponsor of Brown Girl Surf) (Surf Sister Program)
- Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation (Youth Exploring the Sonoma Coast (YES-Coast))
- Sonoma Land Trust (Bay Camp/Campamento de la Bahía)
- The Ocean Foundation (Ocean Connectors: Connecting Youth for Conservation)
- University Corporation at Monterey Bay (Salinas Kids Explore the Coast with Camp SEA Lab!)
- Urban Surf 4 Kids (Unlocking the Ocean: Urban Surf 4 Kids' Transformative Surf Therapy Program)
- Ventana Wilderness Alliance (Youth in Wilderness Program – Wilderness Watersheds Project)
- Wildcoast (Explore My Marine Protected Area)
- YES Nature to Neighborhoods (Coastal Conservation Science & Education for Richmond Youth)

14 CCR Section 15304 (Minor Alterations of Land): The following proposed ETC projects include removal of non-native species. These activities are categorically exempt under Section 15304, which exempts minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

- Golden Gate Audubon Society (Eco-Education for Title 1 Schools)
- Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation (Youth Exploring the Sonoma Coast (YES-Coast))
- Sonoma Land Trust (Bay Camp/Campamento de la Bahía)
- The Ocean Foundation (Ocean Connectors: Connecting Youth for Conservation)

14 CCR Section 15306 (Information Collection): The following proposed ETC project includes science and monitoring activities that are categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15306, which exempts basic data collection and resource evaluation activities that do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The proposed science and monitoring activities will not result in serious or major disturbances.

- Wildcoast (Explore My Marine Protected Area)

14 CCR Section 15323 (Normal Operations of Facilities for Public Gatherings): The following project is categorically exempt under Section 15323, which applies to the normal operations of existing facilities for public gatherings for which the facilities were designed, where there is a past history of the facility being used for the same or similar kind of purpose.

- Heal the Bay (Nick Gabaldón Day - Celebrating Diversity, Environmentalism, and Ocean Readiness)

Upon approval, staff will file a Notice of Exemption for each proposed project.