COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
October 17, 2019

ADVANCING NATURE-BASED ADAPTATION SOLUTIONS IN MARIN COUNTY

Project No. 16-024-98
Project Manager: Marilyn Latta

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse up to $900,000 in funds provided to the Conservancy by the Marin Community Foundation to nonprofit organizations and public agencies for five projects that address the impacts of climate change and sea level rise, particularly on underserved communities, in Marin County.

LOCATION: San Francisco Bay shoreline and the Pacific coast shoreline, Marin County

PROGRAM CATEGORY: San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: Regional map of locations of the proposed projects

Exhibit 2: February 15, 2019 Advancing Nature-Based Adaptation Solutions in Marin County: Year Three Grant Announcement & Application

Exhibit 3: Project Support Letters

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 31113 and 31160-31165 of the Public Resources Code:

"The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed nine hundred thousand dollars ($900,000), provided to the Conservancy under a grant from the Marin Community Foundation, to the following nonprofit organizations and public agencies for the projects described below that address the impacts of climate change and sea level rise in Marin County:

1. **Audubon California working with Shore Up Marin City: Transforming Marin City's Urban Wetland.** One hundred fifty thousand dollars ($150,000) to develop a community-supported conceptual plan for the restoration of an urban wetland from its existing state as a flood- and hypoxia-prone retention pond in northern Marin City,

adjacent to Highway 101. With grassroots non-profit Shore Up Marin City as a partner, the project will provide co-benefits including community engagement and youth education in climate resiliency land management.

2. **MarinLink – fiscal sponsor of Marin City People's Plan: Community Resilience Pilot Project.** One hundred fifty thousand dollars ($150,000) to support preparation of nature-based flood control designs and a stewardship project to educate and empower 20-25 underserved youth and adults in vulnerable Marin City. The project includes eco-literacy training to raise community awareness about watershed flooding that is compounded by sea level rise. The project will engage local residents in conceptual nature-based design planning, as well as hands-on experience designing and building nature-based adaptation strategies.

3. **Estuary & Ocean Science Center, San Francisco State University: Reef Design Innovations for Living Shorelines.** Two hundred thousand dollars ($200,000) to design, prototype, and experimentally deploy new native Olympia oyster reef designs that streamline the fabrication and installation of living shoreline reefs, potentially allowing community members to participate in climate change adaptation with lighter weight and more easily installed shoreline elements. Conservation Corps North Bay will participate in design planning and field work.

4. **Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed: Lower Corte Madera Creek Channel Concrete Removal.** Two hundred thousand dollars ($200,000) to finalize site analysis, conduct stakeholder meetings, prepare CEQA review and documentation, and develop 60% construction designs and permit applications to replace the downstream section of the Corte Madera Creek concrete channel with tidal wetlands and transition zone. This partial concrete channel removal will reduce flood risk and improve steelhead and fisheries habitat at a lower cost than full channel remediation

5. **Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy: Bothin Marsh Sea Level Rise Adaptation.** Two hundred thousand dollars ($200,000) to conduct site analysis, continue community engagement, and develop several conceptual designs for nature-based sea level rise adaptation approaches to preserve habitat, recreation, and public access at Bothin Marsh in Mill Valley.

The authorization is subject to the condition that prior to the disbursement of funds, 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 outreach and for acknowledging Conservancy funding, and any 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 3 and 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding addressing the impacts and potential impacts of climate change on resources within its jurisdiction (Ch. 3), and the resource and recreational goals in the San Francisco Bay Area (Ch. 4.5).
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. Audubon California, Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, and MarinLink are nonprofit organizations organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code."

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Staff recommends that the Conservancy authorize disbursement of up to $900,000 of funding, provided by a grant to the Conservancy from the Marin Community Foundation's (MCF) Buck Family Fund, to nonprofit organizations and public agencies for five projects that address the local impacts of climate change (notably sea level rise and watershed flooding that compounds flooding issues), particularly on underserved communities, in Marin County. The purpose of this grant program is to develop and test new approaches to nature-based adaptation on the Marin County shoreline and in closely adjacent shoreline communities, increase knowledge and capacity-building for nature-based adaptation design and implementation in Marin County, and complement the county level planning that is already underway for sea level rise in Marin County.

<u>Grant Program with funds from Marin Community Foundation</u>

This funding initiative between the Conservancy and MCF, the "Advancing Nature-Based Solutions in Marin County" program, originated in 2016 following a strategic planning process MCF undertook to develop new focal areas for their environmental programs, which identified climate change and shoreline resilience as two of their top priorities.

Conservancy staff then worked with MCF to identify areas of interest where MCF funding could make a significant difference in Marin County and would help implement several regional recommendations developed by the Conservancy and local, state, and federal agencies.

The objectives of the Advancing Nature-Based Solutions in Marin County grant program are to develop, highlight and test new strategies in climate adaptation, as well as promote research, education and outreach necessary to developing communities' capacity to adapt to sea level rise and adjacent watershed flooding in Marin County. An additional objective is to engage and involve underserved communities in this process.

The Conservancy approved four projects totaling $750,000 in round one (SCC Board authorization April 25, 2017), and four more projects totaling $750,000 in round two (SCC Board authorization May 24, 2018). Building on the successful implementation of the first two

years of funding, MCF and the Conservancy are continuing their partnership for this third and final round.

MCF and the Conservancy solicited proposals for Year Three following the processes established through the first two grant rounds (Exhibit 2). In April 2019, the Conservancy received 11 proposals requesting a total of $1,982,648 in funding. Conservancy staff and MCF reviewed applications with respect to the grant program focal areas and the Conservancy's enabling legislation and project selection criteria, and selected five round three projects to recommend to the Conservancy for funding totaling an additional $900,000.

For the **Transforming Marin City's Urban Wetland** Project, Audubon California, the grantee, will work with Shore Up Marin City, an association, to develop a conceptual restoration design that incorporates nature-based solutions for adapting to sea level rise in Marin City, where many disadvantaged residents are concerned about near-term flooding and related water contamination, emergency preparedness, and sea level rise. The project will develop a community-supported conceptual design plan for the restoration of an urban wetland in Marin City to improve the functionality and resilience of native habitat that will support birds and other wildlife, serve as shoreline protection from flooding, and provide much-needed opportunities for local, underserved residents to engage with nature. The project will engage the community in the design process through three public meetings, development of a diverse eight-member steering committee, and recruitment of 12 high school students to participate in hands-on stewardship education. Shore Up Marin, a multi-racial environmental coalition advocates for equitable inclusion of low-income communities in planning and community preparedness. Shore Up Marin has earned the trust of the community; their main focus is demystifying scientific tools and methods, educating and mobilizing residents and stakeholders from low-lying, under-served areas such as Marin City and the Canal Neighborhood of San Rafael in sea level rise problems and helping build the space to co-create solutions.

The **Community Resilience Pilot Project** will be undertaken by the Marin City People's Plan, a program of MarinLink, a nonprofit organization. demonstrated in the Bay Area Resilient by Design Challenge. With the aim of modeling community resilience and self-sufficiency, the first phase of this project will enroll and involve 20-25 community members of all ages in ecological design and eco-literacy training through a Watershed Steward Program (WSP). Participants will work alongside general contracting firm, Dig Cooperative, to design and build model retrofits (rainwater harvesting cisterns, bioswales, rain gardens, lawn replacement, and edible landscaping) for a pilot project at First Missionary Baptist Church. This pilot project will demonstrate the potential of nature-based solutions to address flooding problems related to climate change, while equipping WSP members with the skills to implement similar projects in the future. Participants will conduct door-to-door outreach to their neighbors to share information, assess flood risks, and propose nature-based solutions. The "Marin City People's Plan" was developed through the Bay Area Resilient By Design Sea Level Rise Competition, and this grant will help fund the first implementation activities of the group.

For the **Reef Design Innovations for Living Shorelines** project, San Francisco State University has assembled an interdisciplinary team of partners to develop modular oyster reef designs, with modifications for seawall applications, with a goal to simplify the construction and

installation process relative to current designs. Prototypes will feature lightweight and easily portable materials that reduce the need for and expense of heavy equipment and increase the opportunity for community involvement in the installation process. Pilot designs will be fabricated and experimentally deployed at three sites in San Rafael, Tiburon, and Sausalito. The project team will incorporate input from a technical advisory committee, monitor suitability and durability, share findings, and train underserved local youth through the Conservation Corps North Bay.

In the **Lower Corte Madera Creek (CMC) Channel Concrete Removal project**, the Friends of Corte Madera Creek will conduct planning for partial removal of a downstream portion of a concrete channel placed in the 1960s to restore tidal wetlands and transition zone habitats that enhance fish habitat and are resilient to rising sea levels. This project includes land and geotechnical surveys, development of 30% designs, consultations with regulatory agencies, CEQA review, and finally, preparation of 60% designs and permit applications, as well as a monitoring plan and educational strategy. Currently, the channel no longer provides its intended flood protection benefit and damages estuarine function, water quality, and natural habitats, while blocking fish passage. Lacking available resources to remove most of the concrete channel, Friends of CMC will demonstrate the feasibility of partial channel removal, which involves removal of one side wall in a 450 feet section and both walls in the downstream 150 feet. The designs developed through the project will also include retrofits to protect an adjacent sewer line and an improved multi-use path along the creek benefitting students commuting to several neighboring schools. With the project located at the College of Marin, an environmental curriculum and monitoring program will be implemented to engage students, many of which come from underserved communities.

The **Bothin Marsh Sea Level Rise Adaptation** project is led by the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and involves site analysis and conceptual design development for sea level rise adaptation at Bothin Marsh Open Space Preserve. This site lies along the shoreline of biologically rich upper Richardson Bay, and includes an important segment of the San Francisco Bay Trail that connects Sausalito and Marin City in the south to Tam Valley and Mill Valley in the north. This area and trail already see the impacts of sea level rise, and stakeholder workshops and community visioning in 2018 resulted in shared goals for preserving habitat, recreation, connectivity and sustainability at the marsh. The conceptual design process will be guided by a Technical Advisory Committee and Scientific Advisory Team, and will include community-based planning to refine and develop several conceptual design alternatives. Design alternatives will consider nature-based strategies to restore ecological processes and habitat function, and may include construction of ecotone levees, coarse-grained “beach” edge treatment at eroding shoreline edges, artificial tidal channels, elevated marsh mounds, removal of barriers to tidal influence and transgression, and reuse of sediment in thin-lift placement. This project will also redesign the Preserve’s trail system to ensure year-round active transportation and recreational access along the shoreline.

Site Description: All the proposed projects serve the San Francisco Bay shoreline region within Marin County, one of the nine counties under the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program. See Exhibit 1 for a regional map depicting the locations of the projects.

Project History: In 2007, the Conservancy incorporated specific measures to address climate change in its strategic planning process. In 2009, the Conservancy adopted a comprehensive Climate Change Policy that informs all aspects of its work, and amended its Project Selection Criteria to ensure that all Conservancy projects are designed with climate change in mind. Then, in 2012, the legislature and governor empowered the Conservancy with new authority (SB 1066, Lieu) to prepare for and adapt to the effects of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, by adding Public Resources Code section 31113 to its enabling legislation. Following the adoption of SB 1066 and the addition of section 31113, the Conservancy quickly responded with the launch of its Climate Ready Program, and Climate Ready Grants, through which the Conservancy has held several grant rounds. This partnership with MCF was established in 2016 to administer grants to advance nature-based adaptation strategies in Marin County, which also aligns with the Conservancy's priorities and past efforts related to climate change work.

The Conservancy has a long history of supporting projects to enhance, protect, and steward the Marin shoreline. The five new recommended projects will help to leverage prior Conservancy investments in the San Francisco Bay Trail in Marin County, BayWAVE Marin County climate risk assessment, and San Francisco Bay Living Shorelines work on the San Rafael Shoreline. After two successful project rounds, this third grant cycle will disburse additional funds from the Conservancy's third MCF grant.

PROJECT FINANCING

Coastal Conservancy	**$900,000**
All funds provided by a grant from the Marin Community Foundation	
Project Total	**$900,000**

Project Breakdown:

Transforming Marin City's Urban Wetland Audubon California	**$150,000**
Reef Design Innovations for Living Shorelines Estuary & Ocean Science Center, San Francisco State University	**$200,000**
Lower CMC Channel Concrete Removal Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed	**$200,000**
Bothin Marsh Open Space Preserve Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy	**$200,000**
Community Resilience Pilot Project MarinLink – fiscal sponsor of Marin City People's Plan	**$150,000**

As discussed under the Project Summary and Project History sections above, the source of Conservancy funds for the five recommended projects comes from MCF, under two priorities within their environmental program: Climate change and shoreline resilience. MCF participated in the selection of the projects, and the five selected projects will fully carry out the objectives of the Advancing Nature-Based Solutions grant program. An additional $100,000 is being provided by MCF under the grant program for Conservancy staff support and administration of the selected projects.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION:

The proposed projects are consistent with Public Resources Code sections 31113, regarding projects to address the impacts of climate change, and 31160-31165 (Chapter 4.5 of Division 21), regarding projects carrying out the objectives of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program. All five of the proposed projects are located within the County of Marin, which is one of the nine San Francisco Bay counties required by Section 31162.

Section 31113, Address Impacts of Climate Change.

Pursuant to PRC Section 31113, the Conservancy is authorized to address the impacts and potential impacts of climate change on resources within its jurisdiction, and may undertake projects that include, but are not limited to, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and addressing extreme weather events, sea level rise, storm surge, beach and bluff erosion, salt water intrusion, flooding, and other coastal hazards that threaten coastal communities, infrastructure, and natural resources.

Consistent with this section, the five proposed projects will address the potential impacts of climate change by enhancing coastal and bayshore wetlands and shorelines, reducing coastal and bayshore hazards due to sea level rise and storm surge, and reducing beach and bluff erosion, in an effort to protect coastal and bay communities, infrastructure, and natural resources from the impacts of sea level rise.

Chapter 4.5: San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program

Under Section 31162(b), the Conservancy may undertake projects and award grants in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area to achieve the goal of protecting, restoring and enhancing natural habitats. Consistent with this section, the recommended projects consist of work that will result in sound scientific restoration planning and implementation to help protect, restore and enhance natural habitats along the shoreline and closely adjacent watershed areas in Marin County, which is one of the nine Bay Area counties.

Under Section 31163(a), the Conservancy is required to cooperate with the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), other regional government bodies, and other interested parties in identifying and adopting long-term resource goals for San Francisco Bay area. The recommended projects include design goals that came about from the collaborative planning of four primary agencies that developed the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals (Conservancy, BCDC, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), and the San

Francisco Estuary Partnership), and is further consistent with the collaborative planning effort behind the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Science Update.

The recommended projects are appropriate for prioritization under the selection criteria set forth in Section 31163(c) in that: (1) they are consistent with San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals report, the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Science Update, and the San Francisco Bay Plan ("Bay Plan"), as described below; (2) they involve the coordination of environmental solutions across several different agencies and many different jurisdictions within the San Francisco Bay Area, as mentioned above; (3) they will be implemented in a timely manner, with partners prepared to proceed; (4) they provide opportunities for habitat improvement, flood and sea level rise mitigation benefits that could be lost if the projects are not implemented quickly; and (5) include outside grant funds from other sources of funding or assistance.

In addition, under Section 31165, the Conservancy may undertake projects and award grants for activities that are compatible with the preservation, restoration, or enhancement of ocean, coastal and bay resources. The proposed authorization will provide for design and pilot projects that will serve as critical background data for future, large scale nature-based adaptation projects for additional shoreline sections in the Bay.

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

The five projects described in the "Project Summary" section assist the Conservancy with meeting a number of its 2018-2022 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives. Relevant Strategic Plan goals are listed below.

Consistent with Goal 8, Objective B, all five projects will plan and design adaptation projects to increase resilience to sea level rise and other climate change impacts.

Consistent with Goal 12, Objective C, all five projects will develop plans for enhancement of either tidal wetlands, managed wetlands, seasonal wetlands, upland habitat, or subtidal habitat.

Consistent with Goal 16, Objective B, all five projects will increase the resilience to climate change impacts of communities along the coast of California or in the San Francisco Bay Area that lack capacity due to systemic inequities.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:

The proposed project is 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 the "Consistency with Conservancy's Enabling Legislation" section above.

2. **Consistency with purposes of the funding source:** See the "Project Financing" section above.

3. **Promotion and implementation of state plans and policies:**

   The five proposed projects are consistent with the state plans and policies listed below, since each of the five proposed projects seeks to enhance resilience to climate change:

   a. **San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Report** (2010, jointly authored by the State Coastal Conservancy, California Ocean Protection Council, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service and Restoration Center, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and San Francisco Estuary Partnership), which is a 50-year Conservation Plan for submerged habitats in San Francisco Bay, and includes recommendations for climate adaptation such as testing living shorelines approaches.

   b. **Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Science Update** (2015, led by the Conservancy with more than 100 contributing entities), which provides a summary of projected climate changes to the San Francisco Estuary and specific recommendations for regional actions to adapt to sea level rise.

   c. **Executive Order B-30-15** (2015, Edmund G. Brown, Governor of the State of California), which instructs all state agencies to implement flexible and adaptive approaches to prepare for uncertain climate impacts and to prioritize natural infrastructure solutions.

   d. **Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risk** (2017 update to the 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy), which seeks to "support hazard mitigation by investing in green infrastructure and other protective structures to address sea level rise, managed shoreline retreat, stabilize river banks and restore and create wetlands…" (p.70), and also seeks to improve management practices for coastal and ocean ecosystems and resources by including climate adaptation strategies.

4. **Support of the public:** The five proposed projects enjoy broad support throughout Marin County, including support from the County of Marin, Marin County Supervisor Karen Rice, City of Marin City, and other community groups (Exhibit C).

5. **Location:** All of the five proposed projects are located within the San Francisco Bay shoreline of Marin County and within the nine-county San Francisco Bay region.

6. **Need:** Without this grant program and funding provided by MCF through the Conservancy, the proposed projects would either not proceed or would have to be greatly scaled back.

7. **Greater-than-local interest:** Though all five proposed projects are located in Marin County, lessons learned and best practices can be leveraged and translated throughout the nine county San Francisco Bay Area and along the coast of California.

8. **Sea level rise vulnerability:** Four of the five proposed projects address the impacts of sea-level rise directly as a project goal. Funding the proposed projects takes a proactive step to protect Marin County's bayshore communities and economy, as well as their natural resources, public health, and recreational amenities from the impacts of sea level rise.

Additional Criteria

9. **Urgency:** Due to the threat of rapidly-accelerating sea level rise, and the consequent need to protect Marin County's assets from future impacts, it is urgent to act now to implement these projects that seek to test new strategies and build capacity with regional planning processes to adapt to sea level rise.
10. **Resolution of more than one issue**: Each of the five proposed projects include community engagement, and benefit both restoration and natural resource protection goals, as well as sea level rise adaptation goals, that protect the natural, built, and human communities of Marin County.
11. **Leverage**: See the "Project Financing" section above.
12. **Innovation**: Each of the five proposed projects develop, employ, and test innovative new strategies for sea level rise adaptation planning and adaptation. These include development of conceptual plans and pilot projects that focus on full or partial removal of hard infrastructure to restore tidal wetlands, development of alternative living shoreline designs, and novel strategies for community engagement that builds community self-reliance.
13. **Readiness**: Each of the proposed grantees are ready to begin work, if and when funding is authorized, and can complete their respective projects in a timely manner.
14. **Realization of prior Conservancy goals**: See "Project History" above
15. **Return to Conservancy**: See the "Project Financing" section above.
16. **Cooperation**: Four of the proposed grantees will collaborate with other entities to assist with community outreach and engagement, while one grantee will lead community-based planning as the primary purpose of their project. All five projects will foster cooperation across multiple institutional and natural boundaries to address the impacts of climate change.
17. **Vulnerability from climate change impacts other than sea level rise:** Each of the five proposed projects is focused on climate change adaptation and their goal is to increase the resilience of the project area and local communities to projected climate change impacts, including sea level rise, increased storm surge and shoreline erosion, flood risk, and shifting temperature and salinity regimes.

CONSISTENCY WITH SAN FRANCISCO BAY PLAN:

The five proposed projects are within the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), and are consistent with the policies of BCDC's San Francisco Bay Plan (Bay Plan) as discussed below.

The proposed projects are consistent with Part IV, Climate Change policies, because they will address the resilience of the project areas to climate change, and the capacity of the project areas to adapt to climate change impacts such as sea level rise. Specifically, a subset of these projects will plan for and test projects to enhance or create habitats to increase shoreline resilience along Marin County's bayshore and protect adjacent communities from flooding due to current flooding issues and projected sea level rise. A subset of the proposed projects are

also consistent with Part IV, Shoreline Protection, because they involve either planning for or testing methods of habitat restoration that will serve to protect adjacent communities from both current and future flooding issues associated with sea level rise.

CEQA COMPLIANCE:

Conservancy staff has determined that the proposed projects are statutorily or categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

In particular, to the extent that all of the projects involve planning and data gathering efforts, the projects are categorically exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, 14 California Code of Regulations, section 15306. Section 15306 exempts projects that involve basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities, which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These projects are also statutorily exempt from review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15262, which exempts projects involving only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions, which have not yet been approved, adopted, or funded. As also required by section 15262, these planning projects will consider environmental factors.

The Reef Design Innovations for Living Shorelines project includes implementation of on-the-ground pilot projects, as well as planning and research. These aspects of the project are also categorically exempt from review under the CEQA Guidelines, pursuant to section 15333, as small habitat restoration projects, not exceeding five acres, to assure the restoration and enhancement of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife. As also required by section 15333, the project will be implemented at locations and under circumstances which ensure that there will be no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare or threatened species or their habitat. In particular, the conservation measures and seasonal timing of the treatments and monitoring incorporate endangered species protections. In addition, there are no known hazardous materials at or around the project site and, given the very small scale of each of these pilot projects and the methodology (timing and protection measures), there is no potential for cumulatively significant effects.

The Community Resilience Pilot Project includes implementation by community members of resilient landscape features on a 3,000 square foot footprint to address flooding, which are categorically exempt from CEQA review, pursuant to section 15304, as minor alterations to land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

Conservancy staff will file Notices of Exemption upon approval of the projects.