

STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
October 17, 2019

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Douglas Bosco (Public Member), Chair  
Ann Notthoff (Public Member), Vice Chair  
Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš (Public Member)  
Bryan Cash (Designated, Natural Resources)  
Karen Finn (Alternate, Department of Finance)  
Bob Merrill (Alternate, Coastal Commission)

**OVERSIGHT MEMBERS PRESENT:**

No oversight members attended.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer  
Amy Roach, Chief Counsel

**LOCATION:**

Arcata City Hall  
736 F Street, Council Chambers Room  
Arcata, CA 95521

**MEETING START TIME:** 09:01 A.M.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Douglas Bosco (Public Member), Chair  
Ann Notthoff (Public Member), Vice Chair  
Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš (Public Member)  
Bryan Cash (Designated, Natural Resources)  
Karen Finn (Alternate, Department of Finance)  
Bob Merrill (Alternate, Coastal Commission)

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** of the Conservancy's August 22, 2019 public meeting. Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

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**3. CONSENT ITEMS**

San Schuchat announced that Consent Item 3.G. "Batiquitos Lagoon Ecological Reserve" was postponed. Chair Bosco asked whether there were any member requests to remove a consent item. Hearing no such request, the following consent items were moved for approval, seconded, and approved unanimously:

**A. PHASE II OF THE SANTIAGO PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

Resolution:

"The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to the City of Santa Ana ("the grantee") to design Phase II of the Santiago Park improvements in the City of Santa Ana in Orange County. "

Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding.

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 4.6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program and funding for public access to, enjoyment of, and enhancement of the recreational and educational experience on program lands in a manner consistent with the protection of land and natural resources and economic resources in the Santa Ana River area and its tributaries.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines."

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**B. UPPER NEWPORT BAY**

Resolution:

"The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to Orange County Coastkeeper ("the grantee") to augment the grant previously authorized on June 25, 2015 for oyster and eelgrass restoration using a living shoreline approach in Upper Newport Bay in Newport Beach, California."

Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding.
4. Evidence that all permits and approvals required to implement the project have been obtained.
5. Evidence that the grantee has entered into agreements sufficient to enable the grantee to implement, operate, and maintain the project."

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding resource enhancement.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. Orange County Coastkeeper is a nonprofit organization 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."

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**C. RED CAP CREEK**

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed ninety nine thousand one hundred and two dollars (\$99,102) to the Mid Klamath Watershed Council (“the grantee”) to develop design and environmental compliance documents for the Red Cap Creek Restoration Project near Orleans, Humboldt County.

Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding.”

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding integrated coastal and marine resources protection
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines
3. The Mid Klamath Watershed Council is a nonprofit organization 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.”

**D. MATTOLE RIVER**

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed two hundred and two thousand five hundred twenty eight dollars (\$202,528) to Sanctuary Forest (“the grantee”) to develop design and environmental compliance documents for 185 instream habitat enhancement projects in the upper Mattole River in Humboldt County.

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Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding.”

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding integrated coastal and marine resources protection.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. Sanctuary Forest is a nonprofit organization 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.”

**E. WAVECREST DRIVE COASTAL ACCESS AND PEBBLE BEACH DRIVE**

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed one hundred and three thousand six hundred dollars (\$103,600) to the County of Del Norte (“the grantee”) to prepare plans, permit applications, and environmental review for repairs to an existing ramp to the beach at the Wavecrest Drive Coastal Access and for a new accessible pathway on Pebble Beach Drive in Del Norte County.

Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.

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3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding.
4. In addition, to the extent appropriate, the grantee shall incorporate the guidelines of the Conservancy's 'Standards and Recommendations for Accessway Location and Development' and the requirements of all applicable federal and state laws governing barrier-free access for persons with disabilities into the Wavecrest and Pebble Beach Drive Access Planning Project."

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the creation of a system of public accessways.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The proposed project will serve more than local public needs."

**F. BEACHFRONT PARK MASTER PLAN**

Resolution:

"The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000) to the City of Crescent City ("the grantee") to prepare a Beachfront Park Master Plan to improve public access to the coast. Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding.
4. In addition, to the extent appropriate, the City of Crescent City shall incorporate the guidelines of the Conservancy's 'Standards and Recommendations for Accessway Location and Development' and the requirements of all applicable federal and state

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laws governing barrier-free access for persons with disabilities into the Crescent City Beachfront Park Master Plan.”

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 7 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, 31300 et seq., regarding urban waterfront restoration.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.”

**G. BATIQUITOS LAGOON ECOLOGICAL RESERVE – THIS ITEM WAS POSTPONED**

**H. SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO BAY SHORELINE PROJECT**

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to \$150,000 (one hundred fifty thousand dollars) for engineering and environmental services as part of the Conservancy’s cost share required by the Project Partner Agreement for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Santa Clara Valley Water District.”

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Conservancy’s mandate to address the resource and recreational goals of San Francisco Bay Area.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.”

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**4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT**

- A. Amy Hutzal, Deputy Executive Officer, provided an update on the development of the Conservancy's Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Guidelines.
- B. Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, presented the legislative report.
- C. Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, presented the 2019 State Coastal Conservancy Meeting Schedule, which the Conservancy approved unanimously.

**NORTH COAST**

**5. LOWER JACOBY CREEK**

Julia Elkin of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Emily Benvie of City of Arcata; Julie Neander of City of Arcata.

Resolution:

"The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed three hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$325,000.00) to Humboldt County ("the grantee") to develop a feasibility study for flood reduction and anadromous fish habitat enhancement in the lower Jacoby Creek watershed in Arcata and Bayside."

Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

- 1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
- 2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
- 3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding and Proposition 1 as the source of that funding."

Findings:

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

- 1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding integrated coastal and marine resources protection.

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2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.”

Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

**6. LITTLE RIVER TRAIL**

Karyn Gear of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Delia Bensee-Kang of Surfrider Foundation; Steve Madrone, Board of Supervisor for Humboldt County; Ben Morehead of Trinidad of Coastal Land Trust; Jen Buck of Caltrans; Emily Sinkhorn of Redwood Community Action Agency.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed nine hundred thousand dollars (\$900,000) to the Redwood Community Action Agency (“the grantee”) to conduct planning and prepare designs and environmental review documentation needed to facilitate development of the Little River Trail, a section of the California Coastal Trail, from Little River State Beach to Scenic Drive, in Humboldt County.

Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding.
4. In addition, to the extent appropriate, the grantee shall incorporate the guidelines of the Conservancy’s ‘Standards and Recommendations for Accessway Location and Development’ and the requirements of all applicable federal and state laws governing barrier-free access for persons with disabilities into the Little River Trail.”

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the creation of a system of public accessways.

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2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The Redwood Community Action Agency is a nonprofit organization 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.”

Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

**CENTRAL COAST**

**7. HOLLISTER RANCH ACCESS PROGRAM**

Trish Chapman of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) provided by the California Department of Parks and Recreation to augment \$50,000 previously authorized by the Executive Officer, to contract for consultant services to facilitate development of a contemporary Hollister Ranch Access Program at Hollister Ranch, Santa Barbara County.”

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Public Resources Code Sections 31111 and 31104, regarding the Conservancy’s ability to undertake planning and feasibility studies and receive financial support from public sources to carry out the purposes of Division 21. The project is consistent with Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding a System of Public Accessways.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.”

Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

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**8. CALIFORNIA COASTAL TRAIL IN MOSS LANDING**

Trish Chapman of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) to the County of Monterey (“the grantee”) to construct a Class 1 bikeway and bike and pedestrian bridge in Moss Landing along State Highway 1, and install interpretive signage along the bikeway, as shown on Exhibit 1 to the accompanying staff recommendation.

Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding
4. Evidence that all permits and approvals required to implement the project have been obtained.
5. Evidence that the grantee has entered into agreements sufficient to enable the grantee to implement, operate, and maintain the project for a period of not less than twenty years.
6. In addition, to the extent appropriate, the grantee shall incorporate the guidelines of the Conservancy’s ‘Standards and Recommendations for Accessway Location and Development’ and the requirements of all applicable federal and state laws governing barrier-free access for persons with disabilities into the project.”

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Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code regarding public access.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted by the Monterey County on September 15, 2015 pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) and attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 3. The Conservancy finds that the proposed project as designed and mitigated avoids, reduces, or mitigates the potentially significant environmental effects to a less-than-significant level, and that there is no substantial evidence based on the record as a whole that the Project may have a significant effect on the environment, as defined in 14 Cal. Code Regulations Section 15382.”

Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

**9. ARROYO BURRO WATERSHED**

Trish Chapman of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) to the City of Santa Barbara (“grantee” or “City”) to acquire Santa Barbara County Assessor Parcel Nos. 049-040-032 and 049-040-030, consisting of approximately 5.3 acres, for the purpose of preserving fish and wildlife habitat, open space, and public access subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of funds for the acquisition, the grantee shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer):
  - a. All relevant acquisition documents for the acquisition including, without limitation, the appraisal, purchase and sale agreement, deed, escrow instructions, environmental or hazardous materials assessment, and title report;

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- b. A baseline conditions report; and
  - c. Evidence that sufficient funds are available to complete the acquisition.
2. The grantee shall pay no more than fair market value for the property, as established in an appraisal approved by the Executive Officer.
  3. The property acquired under this authorization shall be managed and operated for the purpose of preserving fish and wildlife habitat, open space, and public access. The property shall be permanently dedicated to those purposes by an appropriate instrument approved by the Executive Officer.
  4. Conservancy funding shall be acknowledged by erecting and maintaining a sign on the property or in a nearby publicly viewable area, the design and location of which are to be approved by the Executive Officer.”

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding enhancement of coastal resources.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.”

Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

**10. REGIONAL FOREST AND FIRE CAPACITY PROGRAM**

Tom Gandesbery of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed three million and sixty-seven thousand dollars (\$3,067,000) to the following nonprofit organizations and public agencies to carry out planning and implementation projects that will improve forest health and reduce fire threat and that may reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increase carbon sequestration within the State Coastal Conservancy’s jurisdiction as follows:

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- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, manager of the Tamalpais Lands Collaborative (“One Tam”): Seven hundred twenty-five thousand eight hundred dollars (\$725,800) to improve vegetation mapping, develop forest management plans and projects, conduct community education and outreach, and implement demonstration projects.
- Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District: One million three hundred and twenty three thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,323,200) to improve vegetation mapping using GIS, establish a forest management permit coordination program, develop forest management plans and projects, implement demonstration projects and conduct outreach in San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Luis Obispo Counties.
- East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD): Seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) to develop forest management plans and projects, secure permits, conduct stakeholder coordination, education and outreach, and implement demonstration projects in western Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.
- Cachuma Resource Conservation District: Two hundred and sixty-seven thousand dollars (\$267,000) to work in conjunction with the Montecito Fire District and Community Environmental Council to develop fire risk models and conduct community stakeholder engagement, education and outreach in Santa Barbara County.

This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to commencement of each project, each grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:
  - a. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
  - b. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be employed in carrying out the project.
  - c. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy and California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) funding.
  - d. Evidence that all permits, and approvals required to implement the project have been obtained.

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- e. Evidence that the grantee has entered into agreements sufficient to enable the grantee to implement, operate, and maintain the project.
2. In carrying out each project, each grantee shall comply with all applicable requirements associated with disbursements from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), including all requirements set forth in the Air Resources Board's GGRF Funding Guidelines.
3. In implementing its project, the EBRPD shall comply with all mitigation measures and monitoring and reporting requirements for its project that are identified in the Final Environmental Impact Report Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the 2010 Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan (see Exhibit 2) and in any permits, approvals or additional environmental documentation required for the project."

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code Section 31113, regarding addressing climate change and potential climate change impacts.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the Final Environmental Impact Report for the 2010 Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan (EIR) attached as Exhibit 2 of the accompanying staff recommendation, which was certified by EBRPD on April 21, 2010 pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
  - a. The EIR identifies "potentially significant" effects from project implementation in the areas of Biological Resources, Geology, Cultural Resources and Noise. With regards to these impacts, the Conservancy finds that the project, as modified by the incorporation of the mitigation measures identified in the EIR, avoids, reduces, or mitigates all possible significant environmental effects of the project except for the impacts identified in finding 3b below.
  - b. The EIR determined that the project may result in "significant and unavoidable" impacts to Visual Resources (temporary adverse visual effects to the scenic

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character of the project area. Specific environmental (forest health), economic and social (reduction of fire risk and damage to persons and property) described in the accompanying staff recommendation and detailed in the EIR outweigh and render acceptable this unavoidable adverse environmental effect because the project will result in the long-term benefits of reduced threat of wildfire within the forested areas as well as wildland-urban interface (WUI), improved forest health by removing non-native and senescent tree stands, reduced tree density, a potential increase in carbon sequestration, and improved biodiversity.

- c. There are no feasible mitigation measures which would further avoid or reduce the potential impacts associated with the project. Alternatives to the project analyzed in the EIR are infeasible in that they do not achieve the project objectives of decreasing the threat of catastrophic wildfires within the Study Area and, specifically, within the wildland-urban interface. The Preferred Alternative meets the goal of the Plan in that it reduces wildfire hazards as well as maintaining and enhancing ecological values for plant and wildlife habitat consistent with fire reduction goals and it provides a vegetation management plan which is both financially and environmentally sustainable on an on-going basis.

- 4. The Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy is a nonprofit organization existing 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.”

Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

**SOUTH COAST**

**11. SANTIAGO PARK PHASE I IMPROVEMENTS**

Greg Gauthier of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to the City of Santa Ana (“the grantee”) to construct Phase I of the Santiago Park improvements in the City of Santa Ana in Orange County. ”

Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

- 1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.

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2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding.
4. Evidence that all permits and approvals required to implement the project have been obtained.
5. Prior to commencing the project, the grantee shall enter into and record an agreement pursuant to Public Resources Code 31116(c) sufficient to protect the public interest in the improvements.”

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 4.6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program and funding for public access to, enjoyment of, and enhancement of the recreational and educational experience on program lands in a manner consistent with the protection of land and natural resources and economic resources in the Santa Ana River area and its tributaries.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.”

Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA**

**12. SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL**

Brenda Buxton of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Laura Thompson of the Association of Bay Area Governments.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed one million four hundred thousand dollars (\$1,400,000) to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) (“the grantee”) to fund design and implementation of individual

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projects to complete the San Francisco Bay Trail. This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of Conservancy funds to any individual project grantee, ABAG shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a work program, schedule, budget, and sign plan for the project.
2. Conservancy funds shall not be disbursed for any project unless the Conservancy has authorized ABAG to fund the project, which authorization may be by the Executive Officer if the Executive Officer determines that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
3. Projects proposed for funding pursuant to this authorization shall, to the extent feasible, provide for the Bay Trail to be:
  - a. designed to reduce expected risks from, and increase resiliency to, sea level rise,
  - b. designed and located to minimize costs to repair and relocate over the projected lifetime (typically 20 years) of the project, and
  - c. constructed using measures to avoid or minimize greenhouse gas emissions.”

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding public access to and around San Francisco Bay.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.”

Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

**13. PRIORITY CONSERVATION AREA GRANT PROGRAM**

Brenda Buxton of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution

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“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby recommends to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission that the following projects (in geographic order) and recommended grant amounts totaling \$7,397,000 be included in the Priority Conservation Area Grant Program:

1. One million dollars (\$1,000,000) to the City of Richmond to construct a 1.25-mile, Class 1 segment of the San Francisco Bay Trail connecting Point Molate Beach Park to the Winehaven Historic District in Contra Costa County.
2. One million dollars (\$1,000,000) to East Bay Regional Park District to construct a 1.25-mile, Class 1 segment of the San Francisco Bay Trail connecting the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge to Point Molate Beach Park in Contra Costa County.
3. Nine hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$950,000) to the John Muir Land Trust for construction of trails, bridges, overlooks and other public access amenities as part of the Pacheco Marsh (Lower Walnut Creek) Restoration Project in Contra Costa County.
4. Four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) to the City of Livermore to complete an existing 1.4-mile gap in the Arroyo Road Trail in Alameda County.
5. Three hundred twenty-one thousand dollars (\$321,000) to Alameda County to prepare preliminary engineering and a programmatic environmental impact report for the Niles Canyon Trail Project which will include a project-level analysis for Phase 1 (the 1.8 miles from Niles to Palomares Road) in Alameda County.
6. Two hundred fifty-one thousand dollars (\$251,000) to the City of Albany to implement the Albany Hill Access Improvements Project, which will complete a new 480-foot trail to the summit, improve existing trails, provide access amenities such as log seating, bike racks, and a foot bridge over El Cerrito Creek, provide ADA parking, and remove nonnative trees to improve butterfly habitat in Alameda County.
7. One million dollars (\$1,000,000) to the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority to acquire the Tilton Ranch in Santa Clara County.
8. Four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) to the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority to prepare final designs, obtain permits, and construct trailhead facilities including bike and vehicle parking, a restroom, an interpretive/educational station, signage, overlooks and other amenities serving the 6.8-mile trail network on the Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve in Santa Clara County.

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9. Three hundred seventy-nine thousand dollars (\$379,000) to Point Blue Conservation Science to restore a three-quarter linear mile of stream habitat and provide hands-on environmental education opportunities to over 1,000 students and community members in the Pajaro River watershed in Santa Clara County.
10. Two hundred twenty-three thousand dollars (\$223,000) to the City of San Jose to advance two trail planning and design projects as follows: \$140,000 for the Singleton Road Crossing 65% design plans and \$83,000 for a master plan of a 1.4-mile former railway route now called the Five Wounds Trail in Santa Clara County.
11. Five hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$520,000) to the City of Menlo Park to improve the existing San Francisco Bay Trail segment to separate it from the entrance road, reconstruct the park entrance to improve visibility as well as make the park more resilient to sea level rise, and improve the stormwater runoff water quality at Bedwell Bayfront Park in San Mateo County.
12. Two hundred ninety-eight thousand (\$298,000) to the City of Half Moon Bay to construct a restroom, parking, and other amenities to serve the Coastal Trail and Surfer's Beach in San Mateo County.
13. One hundred fifty-one thousand dollars (\$151,000) to Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to refine the alignment, to evaluate potential parking areas and the Highway 1 crossing, and to conduct stakeholder outreach for eventual construction of the Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail and Parking Area Project in San Mateo County.
14. Two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) to the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy for the community engagement element of the National Park Service's Rancho Corral de Tierra Ranch Unit Plan in San Mateo County.
15. One hundred ninety-four thousand dollars (\$194,000) to the City of San Francisco to prepare a concept plan and preliminary designs for improved pedestrian and bike connections to McLaren Park in San Francisco County.
16. One hundred ten thousand dollars (\$110,000) to the City of South San Francisco to conduct the Colma Creek Adaptation Study which will assess the feasibility of creek restoration, sea-level rise adaptation, flood management, and improved public access along the creek and to the Bay and Bay Trail."

Findings:

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

The proposed authorization is consistent with Section Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Conservancy’s authority to address the potential impacts of climate change and the resource and recreational goals of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program.”

Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

**14. IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE**

Marilyn Latta of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

“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

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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."

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.

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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.”

Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

**15. CLOSED SESSION**

The Conservancy did not hold a closed session.

**16. CONSERVANCY MEMBER COMMENTS**

There were no Conservancy member comments.

**17. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no public comments.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 11:21 A. M