

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation  
January 21, 2021

**Klamath River at Horse Trough Springs: Floodplain Connection Design Project**

Project No. 20-043-01  
Project Manager: Peter Jarausch

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorization to disburse up to \$341,607 to the Mid Klamath Watershed Council to conduct studies, prepare designs and permit applications, and conduct environmental review to reconnect floodplain to the Klamath River at Horse Trough Springs to benefit salmonids in Siskiyou County.

**LOCATION:** Siskiyou County

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EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [Project Location Map](#)

Exhibit 2: [Project Letters](#)

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**RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:**

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 31251- 31270 of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed three hundred forty one thousand six hundred and seven dollars (\$341,607) to the Mid Klamath Watershed Council (“the grantee”) to conduct studies, prepare designs and permit applications, and conduct environmental review needed to reconnect the Klamath River with a section of its floodplain at Horse Trough Springs in Siskiyou County.

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

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
  2. The 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.
  4. Evidence that the grantee has entered into agreements sufficient to enable the grantee to implement the project.”
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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 Chapter 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the restoration of fish and wildlife habitat within coastal watersheds.
  2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
  3. The Klamath River Watershed Council is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.”
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#### **PROJECT SUMMARY:**

Staff recommends the Conservancy authorize the disbursement of up to \$341,607 to the Mid-Klamath Watershed Council (MKWC) to carry out the Klamath River at Horse Trough Springs: Floodplain Connection Design Project. This small habitat restoration project will conduct studies, prepare designs and permit applications, and conduct environmental review necessary to reconnect the Klamath River to its historic floodplain at Horse Trough Springs to provide refuge for juvenile salmonids.

This stretch of the Klamath River was separated from its floodplain by hydraulic mining. Portions of the Klamath River were blocked off from flow and the de-watered river-bed was then run through sluice boxes to extract the gold. The resulting channel and floodplain morphology has changed little in most locations and remains in a highly degraded state. The Klamath River is now lower in the channel because fine sediments from the sluice boxes were washed out to sea and a significant amount of the coarse sediment was removed and left on the floodplain in tailing piles. The boulder and cobble tailing piles that were left further degrade salmon habitat by restricting the river from occupying its pre-mining floodplain, preventing riparian forest development and greatly simplifying instream habitat.

This project is one of 15 prioritized large-scale floodplain restoration and mine-tailing remediation sites along a 70 mile stretch of the mid-Klamath River, between the Shasta River and Happy Camp (see Exhibit 1). Through prior funding from the Conservancy and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), local, tribal, state and federal fish habitat restorationists identified high priority restoration sites in this 70 mile reach of the Klamath River, as described in *Middle Klamath River Floodplain Habitat Enhancement and Mine Tailing Remediation Report* (Stillwater Sciences, 2019). Multiple species of salmon rely on seasonal use of floodplain habitats, which are severely degraded in this reach due to legacy gold mining impacts and contemporary developments. Due to the hardened character and configuration of

the mining debris, active intervention and restoration will be required to create functional floodplain habitats within appropriate biological timescales.

Research increasingly indicates the importance of seasonal rearing in the mainstem Klamath River when conditions are hospitable (e.g., spring and fall), and the need to increase and improve off-channel and floodplain habitats, and the connectivity to and from these habitats, along the mainstem corridor that can provide refuge for juvenile salmonids when conditions are inhospitable during periods of high flows (e.g., winter) and high water temperatures (e.g., summer). This is especially true for young-of-the-year coho from the Shasta and Scott rivers that migrate into the mainstem Klamath River and whose life-history is reliant on employing seasonal use of habitats in, and associated with, the mainstem Klamath River for summer and winter rearing. In addition, research on the effectiveness of restoration treatments for compensating global warming impacts has shown restoring floodplain connectivity to be the most effective treatment (Beechie et al. 2012).

The major stressors to the juvenile life-stages of endangered Klamath Basin Coho Salmon include lack of floodplain connectivity and channel structure, degraded riparian conditions, and water temperature impairment (NMFS 2014), all of which have contributed to the low amount and poor condition of off-channel rearing and overwintering habitat, in addition to elevated temperatures and a dependence on limited thermal refuges in the summer. Legacy impacts from extensive hydraulic, placer and dredge gold mining within the watershed and project area continue to degrade habitat conditions primarily due to channel incision, mine tailing piles and associated disturbances on the floodplain and riparian corridor which prevent inundation, deposition of fines, and riparian plant succession. In addition to negatively impacting rearing and overwintering habitat, these legacy impacts create a major heating effect rather than the cooling effect of functioning floodplains that contain riparian forests.

In order to move forward with reconnecting the floodplain to the main stem of the Klamath River, the MKWC selected the Horse Springs site as its pilot floodplain restoration project. This site was selected because it is a relatively small 4-acre project (compared to the other 14 prioritized sites) with a willing landowner (the Forest Service), which will enable MKWC to test its hypothesis.

The project consists of preparation of studies and designs, permit applications, and environmental review. The project will start with an initial assessment of the project area focused on the geomorphology and biology of the area. This will address the relationship between the surface and groundwater, scour potential for engineered wood structures, and size of the rocks. Water and soil samples will also be tested for contaminants. Based on this geomorphic assessment the design team will work with a technical advisory committee to develop the designs for side channels, engineered log jams, and other riverine and upland features. Once the designs have reached 65% completion the team will conduct the environmental review, with a focus on National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance. Additionally, the project will include the following studies: Geomorphological Analysis, Hydraulic Modeling, Mine Tailings Assessment, Right-Of-Way Survey, Digital Elevation Model, and a Mussel Survey. Once these studies and the environmental review are completed a basis of design report and plan will be developed. In addition, draft permit applications will be

written for the 404, CDFW Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement, and RWQCB 401 Certification.

To guide the project MKWC will establish a technical advisory committee made up of representatives of local tribes, federal agencies, the landowner, state agencies, and other interested stakeholders. The Karuk, Yurok, and Hoopa Tribes have a strong interest in any fisheries restoration project in the Klamath and Trinity River watersheds; all three tribes need the salmon for their continued cultural existence. MCKW works closely with tribal members on nearly all of its projects.

**Site Description:**

The project is located in Siskiyou County, California, near the town of Gottsville on land owned by the U.S. Forest Service. The project will aims to restore floodplain connectivity to an approximately 2.8 acre terrace located on River Left of the Klamath River. Approximately 4 acres of land may be disturbed in the process of restoring the terrace, as restoration involves displacing cobble within Horse Trough Springs, a 37.5-acre area of the Klamath River. Horse Trough Springs enters the Klamath River on River Left and is directly across the river from Mile Marker 92 on Highway 96. Horse Trough Springs enters the Klamath River at River Mile 165.5, 12.3 miles downstream of the Shasta River (See Exhibit 1).

The project aims to restore floodplain connectivity to an approximately 2.8 acre terrace located on River Left of the Klamath River. This terrace is currently covered with approximately 0.2 acres of mine tailings, a legacy of instream placer mining conducted along the Klamath River in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Sections of the entire Klamath River were blocked off with wing dams that enabled the mining operators to expose the river bottom, which was then run through sluice boxes to extract the gold. This did two things that restricted future floodplain connectivity: it took the soil away from the river bottom, causing the river to be entrenched when the mining was completed, and it left massive rock piles that further exacerbated the problem by further locking the channel into place. This project is a first of its kind, aiming to deal with the problems of the numerous mine tailings in the 70-mile section of the Klamath River between the town of Happy Camp and the Shasta River.

The Klamath River is a migration corridor for multiple species of anadromous fish, including Upper Klamath-Trinity Rivers fall and spring run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Pacific lamprey (*Entosphenus tridentatus*), Klamath Mountains Province steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*), and threatened Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*). Both adults and juveniles of these species need the Klamath River as a continuum to provide migratory conditions that enable them to survive. One important result of floodplain connectivity is that it provides low velocity refuge habitat for rearing juvenile salmonids.

**Grantee Qualifications:**

MKWC is a California nonprofit corporation, qualified under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) as a charitable organization. It has been actively planning, coordinating and implementing restoration projects in the Mid Klamath subbasin since 2001. Focusing on

projects that directly benefit anadromous fisheries resource, MKWC utilizes grant funding combined with community and stakeholder volunteers to implement practical, hands-on restoration projects while educating participants on restoration techniques and stewardship principles. MKWC is uniquely qualified to assess and restore habitat in this region.

MKWC has a strong track record of completing planning and restoration projects. This includes a 2017 grant from the Conservancy which helped fund the initial planning for floodplain restoration along this stretch of the Klamath River. And, with help from another 2017 grant from the Conservancy MKWC worked with the Six Rivers National Forest on the Six Rivers Aquatic Restoration Project to complete a forest-wide environmental document which will streamline implementation of many fish habitat restoration projects.

### **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 below.
3. **Promotion and implementation of state plans and policies:**
  - a. The project carries out the recommendations prescribed in the *Mid Klamath Subbasin Fisheries Resource Recovery Plan* (MKSFRFP) last updated in 2014. That plan is the collaborative work product of MKWC, the Karuk Tribe and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is often used in concert with a "Candidate Action Table" that was created in 2012. Its recommendations were also incorporated into State and federal recovery plans for anadromous fish species. The documents together identify and rank restoration actions for each Middle Klamath Tributary, and can offer guidance on how to prioritize restoration actions. The MKSFRFP analyzes watershed impacts not only by influential tributary but also on the scale of eight sub-watershed regions "based on landscape/ watershed contiguity, biogeography, and the specific land management circumstances distinct to each." The Elk-Grider, Siskiyou and Western Marble Mountain Sub-basin sections of the MKSFRFP identify one or more of the following habitat issues: legacy mining impacts, thermal refugia and stream connectivity. Section 4.C.3 of the MKSFRFP identifies "mine tailing reclamation and revegetation" as a riparian and streambank restoration priority for the Mid Klamath. Likewise, the Candidate Action Table lists historic mining impacts to channel structure and riparian function as a limiting factor for threatened salmon.

- b. The CDFW's 1996 *Steelhead Restoration and Management Plan for California*, notes the extensive perturbation to the watershed due to extractive industries such as logging and mining, and notes the loss of riparian vegetation that has resulted in elevated stream temperatures and the potential for large-scale mobilization of sediment destabilized by storm events. Restoring the floodplain and riparian vegetation stands would reverse this degradation of the watershed and improve water quality in the region.
  
- c. More recently, the project promotes the policies and objectives of CDFW's 2004 *Recovery Strategy For California Coho Salmon* in that most sections pertaining to the Mid-Klamath recommend that restorationists "revegetate flood plain areas using native species." (KR-UK-04, KR-HC-04, KR-SV-04), an activity only achievable in most cases by restoring the river to its natural floodplain.
  
- d. The project serves to implement the *Final Recovery Plan for the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit of Coho Salmon (Oncorhynchus kisutch)* (National Marine Fisheries Service 2014). Although a federal plan, the State of California is required under federal policy and federal funding requirements to assist in the implementation of the plan. The first passage describing "Stresses" to the coho population of the Mid-Klamath states that "[t]he key limiting stresses for this population are impaired water quality and lack of floodplain and channel structure, as they have the greatest impact on the population's ability to produce sufficient spawners to support recovery..." (pg. 33-9). The report goes on to state that "[w]inter rearing occurs primarily in mainstem, confluence, and tributary habitats where backwaters, alcoves, off-channel ponds and wetlands have formed. Winter rearing habitat has been primarily impacted by past mining activities and construction of flood control levees in the mainstem and in many tributaries, which has led to the loss and degradation of floodplain and channel structure. The majority of winter habitat that does exist is small, has poor quality, and is poorly connected." (33-9).

The report prescribes the following recovery strategies and actions for the Middle Klamath:

- SONCC-MKR.2.2.4 Floodplain and Channel Structure, Reconnect the channel to the floodplain and to existing off-channel ponds, wetlands, side channels in any area that could benefit coho salmon;
  
- SONCC-MKR.2.2.4.1 Assess instream flow conditions and side channel connectivity and develop a plan to obtain adequate flows for channel connectivity

- SONCC-MKR.2.2.4.2 Mechanically alter side channels, off channel ponds and wetlands to achieve connectivity
  - SONCC-MKR.10.2.13 Water Quality: reduce pollutants, remove pollutants
  - SONCC-MKR.10.2.13.1 Assess contamination from tailing piles and develop mining activities remediation plan
  - SONCC-MKR.10.2.13.2 Take necessary actions to ensure responsible parties remediate mine tailing piles, guided by the plan
- e. The project carries out the objectives of the *California Water Action Plan*, a collaborative effort of the California Natural Resources Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture. This plan was developed in 2014 to meet three broad objectives: more reliable water supplies, the restoration of species and habitat, and a more resilient, sustainably managed water resources system. It lays out the state's challenges, goals and actions needed to put California's water resources on a safer, more sustainable path. The plan identifies ten overarching strategies to protect our resources, include two particular to this project that the Conservancy funding will help implement: 4) *Protect and restore important ecosystems (restore coastal watersheds and strategic coastal estuaries to restore ecological health and nature system connectivity to benefit local water systems and help defend against sea level rise, eliminate barriers to fish migration)* and 7) *Increase flood protection (encourage flood projects that plan for climate change and achieve multiple benefits)*.
- f. The *California State Wildlife Action Plan (2015 Update, authored by CDFW)* points out that the North Coast Klamath Mountain Province is known for its extensive river systems and the anadromous fish populations they support. These rivers, according to CDFW, support one-third of the state's Chinook salmon, most of the state's coho salmon and steelhead, and all of the coastal cutthroat trout. These populations have suffered significant declines. That is why one of the fourteen conservation targets for the Province is the "native aquatic species assemblages/communities of coastal watersheds." The project will benefit anadromous fish species including Chinook salmon, coho salmon and steelhead by addressing the habitat fragmentation that resulted from mining cited as a cause of major ecosystem degradation in this plan. This project can help achieve the conservation target pertaining to desired channel pattern and natural floodplain, established in 5.1-79 and repeated in 5.1-38 of the North Coast and Klamath Province Chapter of the California Wildlife Action plan. Specifically, Conservation Strategy 7 in this plan speaks to this outcome and calls for cooperation with watershed councils to achieve it.

- g. Finally, *California @ 50 Million: The Environmental Goals and Policy Report* (2013 Draft, Governor’s Office of Planning and Research) Key Action #3 for the “Preserve and Steward State Lands and Natural Resources” section calls for building resilience in natural systems and specifically points out that wetlands “provide important carbon sequestration opportunities for the state.” Riparian forests provide excellent opportunities to increase carbon sequestration levels.
4. **Support of the public:** see “Project Letters” (Exhibit 2).
5. **Location:** See the “Project Summary”.
6. **Need:** Without this grant funding, the MKWC will not be able to proceed with the project.
7. **Greater-than-local interest:** The project helps fulfill the objectives of state and federal species recovery plans and is therefore of greater-than-local interest.
8. **Sea level rise vulnerability:** Located well outside the coastal zone, the project site is not vulnerable to sea level rise.

#### **Additional Criteria**

9. **Urgency:** As the states of Oregon and California prepare for removal of four Klamath dams it is vital that immediate steps be taken to assure the availability of high-quality habitat for salmonids in the Middle and Lower Klamath Rivers. These reaches will be needed to sustain fish populations while the upper watershed is recovering from the after-effects of dam removal. Of greatest concern will be the release of high sediment loads detrimental to fish populations, and the need for aquatic species to have ready access to tributaries and floodplains that provide a safe haven from water and sediment releases.
10. **Leverage:** See the “Project Financing” section below.
11. **Innovation:** This project is a first of its kind in the middle Klamath, aiming to deal with the problems of the numerous mine tailings in the 70-mile section of the Klamath River between the town of Happy Camp and the Shasta River.
12. **Readiness:** The grantee is ready to carry out this project. All partners and consultants are prepared to start work.
13. **Cooperation:** The project involves cooperation from the US Forest Service (the landowner), and members of the community, including the Karuk Tribe.
14. **Vulnerability from climate change impacts other than sea level rise:** The project will design a river-floodplain connection project that will help mitigate the impacts of more frequent large winter storms by providing slower water refuge for endangered juvenile salmonids.

#### **PROJECT FINANCING**

**Coastal Conservancy**

**\$341,607**



**Bureau of Reclamation**

**\$115,614**

**Project Total**

**\$457,221**

Unless specifically labelled “Required Match” the other sources of funding listed above are provided as estimates. The Coastal Conservancy does not typically require matching funds nor does it require documentation of expenditures from other funders. Typical grant conditions require grantees to provide any funds needed to complete the project.

The expected source of Conservancy funds for this project is an appropriation to the Conservancy from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1, Water Code § 79700 et seq.). Funds appropriated to the Conservancy derive from Chapter 6 of Proposition 1 and may be used “for multi-benefit water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration projects for the watersheds of the state” (Water Code Section 79731). Section 79732 identifies specific purposes of Chapter 6 which include: protect and restore aquatic, wetland and migratory bird ecosystems, including fish and wildlife corridors; protect and restore coastal watersheds, including, but not limited to bays, marine estuaries, and nearshore ecosystems; and assist in the recovery of endangered, threatened or migratory species by improving watershed health, instream flows, fish passage and coastal or inland wetland restoration. The proposed project will help achieve these purposes of Proposition 1 by completing the designs and environmental analyses necessary to enable restoration of aquatic habitat that will provide new rearing habitat for salmonids and improve watershed health to benefit endangered fish.

As required by Proposition 1, the proposed project will plan a restoration project that will provide multiple benefits. By restoring off-channel habitat, the restoration project will restore juvenile salmonid rearing habitat, improve water quality by forming new channels, and reduce temperatures to levels suitable for aquatic life.

The proposed project was selected through a competitive grant process under the Conservancy’s Proposition 1 Grant Program Guidelines adopted in June 2015 (“Prop 1 Guidelines”). (See § 79706(a)). The proposed project meets each of the evaluation criteria in the Prop 1 Guidelines as described in further detail in this “Project Financing” section, the “Project Summary” section and the “Consistency with Conservancy’s Project Selection Criteria & Guidelines” section of this report.

MKWC has secured approximately \$115,000 from the Bureau of Reclamation for the project.

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

The proposed authorization is undertaken pursuant to Chapter 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, as follows: Pursuant to section 31251, the Conservancy may award grants to local public agencies and nonprofit organizations for enhancement of coastal resources which, because of human-induced events, or incompatible land uses, have suffered the loss of natural and scenic values. Consistent with this section, the proposed authorization provides funds to MKWC for planning and environmental review necessary to enable the enhancement of coastal

fishery resources disturbed by incompatible land uses, such as intensive mining, timber harvest and other legacy land uses that have disrupted the channel and floodplain processes in the Klamath River.

Pursuant to section 31251.2(a), to enhance coastal resources within the coastal zone, the Conservancy may award a grant for a project that enhances a watershed resource that is partly outside of the coastal zone. The Klamath River at Horse Trough Springs site is located outside the coastal zone. However, the site provides habitat for salmon populations known to travel many miles upstream of the coastal zone boundary to fulfill their life history patterns. Indeed, salmon depend on unimpeded access to high-quality habitat both within and outside of the coastal zone to survive. Thus, salmon are watershed resources located both within and outside the coastal zone, and the restoration of this section of the Klamath River will enhance this watershed resource, thereby enhancing a coastal resource.

To maintain and restore salmon to historic levels, projects to improve salmon habitat must be undertaken both within and outside the coastal zone. The proposed project is consistent with the Humboldt County and Del Norte County local coastal programs, as discussed in the “Consistency with Local Coastal Program Policies” section below.

Pursuant to Section 31253, the Conservancy may provide up to the total cost of a resource enhancement project. The amount of recommended funding has taken into consideration the total amount of funding available, fiscal resources of the grantee, and the relative urgency of the project.

#### **CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM POLICIES:**

The proposed project is located in the Klamath-Trinity watershed, outside the coastal zone. Nonetheless, it addresses a coastal zone resource and comports to the goals and objectives outlined under the Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) for Del Norte and Humboldt County, in which the watershed is located.

The project is consistent with the applicable LCPs as follows:

##### **Del Norte County**

The authorization is consistent with the relevant portions of the Del Norte County Local Coastal Program (DNLCP), which was certified by the Coastal Commission on October 12, 1983. It is due to the diversity in life history patterns of anadromous fish species that the Del Norte LCP acknowledges the importance of coastal streams and riparian vegetation systems as Sensitive Coastal Habitat, necessary to both the aquatic life and the quality of water courses. Under the DNLCP, Chapter VI, the following goals and objectives are identified:

*The County shall maintain all existing species of fish, wildlife, and vegetation for their economic, intrinsic and ecological values as well as providing adequate protection of rare and endangered species.” (p. 55)*

*The County should establish riparian corridors along local streams, creeks, and sloughs to maintain their aesthetic appeal, wildlife habitat, control of erosion... (p. 56)*

*The County encourages programs (e.g., fish hatcheries, habitat rehabilitation) designed to improve the quality of coastal fisheries and other marine resources. (p. 57)*

*All surface and subsurface waters shall be maintained at the highest level of quality to ensure the safety of public health and the biological productivity of coastal waters. (p. 58)*

The proposed project will prepare designs, permit applications, and environmental analyses needed to improve juvenile anadromous fish rearing habitat thereby enhancing the aquatic resources of the county, and, thus, is consistent with the DNLC.

#### Humboldt County

The authorization is consistent with relevant portions of the Humboldt Bay Local Coastal Program (HBLCP), which was certified by the Coastal Commission on October 14, 1982, and which states:

*The biological productivity and the quality of coastal waters, (and) streams. . . appropriate to maintain optimum populations of marine organisms . . . shall be maintained, and, where feasible, restored...(HBLCP, 3-55)*

*New development within stream channels shall be permitted when there is no less environmentally damaging feasible alternative, where the best feasible mitigation measures have been provided to minimize environmental effects and shall be limited to...wetlands, fishery, and wildlife enhancement and restoration projects... (HBLCP, 3-56)*

The proposed authorization will prepare designs, permit applications and environmental analyses for a project that, when constructed, will restore biological productivity of a river that flows to coast and, thus, is consistent with the HBLCP.

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

Consistent with **Goal 6, Objective C** of the Conservancy's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, the proposed project will develop a plan to enhance a coastal watershed.

Consistent with **Goal 6, Objective F**, the proposed project will develop a plan to improve water quality.

Consistent with **Goal 16, Objective A**, the proposed project is located in and directly benefits a disadvantaged community.

**CEQA COMPLIANCE:**

The proposed project will restore a 2.8 acre terrace and will not adversely affect threatened species, disturb hazardous materials, or have significant impacts when viewed in connection with other projects. Thus, the proposed project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to California Code of Regulations title 14, section 15333. Section 15333 provides that small, less than 5 acre habitat restoration projects with no adverse impacts to rare, threatened or endangered species, no disturbances to hazardous materials, and no significant impacts when viewed in connection with other projects are categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA.

Upon approval of the project, Conservancy staff will file a Notice of Exemption.