

STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
January 21, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Douglas Bosco (Public Member), Chair
Ann Notthoff (Public Member), Vice Chair
Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš (Public Member)
Joseph Alioto Jr. (Public Member)
Bryan Cash (Designated, Department of Natural Resources)
Gayle Miller (Designated, Department of Finance)
Stephen Padilla (Coastal Commission)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer
Amy Roach, Chief Counsel

LOCATION:

Teleconference

MEETING START TIME: 10:02 A.M.

1. ROLL CALL

Douglas Bosco (Public Member), Chair
Ann Notthoff (Public Member), Vice Chair
Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš (Public Member)
Joseph Alioto Jr. (Public Member)
Bryan Cash (Designated, Department of Natural Resources)
Gayle Miller (Designated, Department of Finance)
Stephen Padilla (Coastal Commission)

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the Conservancy's November 19, 2020 public meeting.
Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were numerous public comments regarding the Ballona Wetlands.

4. CONSENT ITEMS

Chair Bosco asked the board if any member requested any consent item be removed.

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Hearing no such request, the following consent items were moved for approval, seconded, and approved unanimously:

A. MID MATTOLE RIVER

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed one hundred seventy thousand, five hundred seventy-five dollars (\$170,575) to the Mattole Salmon Group (the grantee) to develop design documents for approximately 165 instream habitat enhancement projects in the mid Mattole River in Humboldt County and to prepare environmental compliance documents for selected high-priority reaches.

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. 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.”

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 Mattole Salmon Group is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.”

B. MARSHALL RANCH

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed two hundred forty-five thousand dollars (\$245,000) to the Salmonid Restoration Federation

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("the grantee") to collect data and prepare designs, environmental compliance documents, and an operations plan for an off-stream water storage pond and associated infrastructure on the Marshall Ranch 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 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.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The Salmonid Restoration Federation is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code."

C. COWELL-PURISIMA COASTAL TRAIL

Resolution:

"The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000) to the Peninsula Open Space Trust ("the grantee") to repair and restore two bridges along the Cowell-Purisima Coastal Trail, south of Half Moon Bay, in coastal San Mateo 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.”

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.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The grantee is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.”

D. CONSERVATION LANDS NETWORK

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed one hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$130,000) to Bay Area Open Space Council (“the grantee”) to fill data gaps in the Conservation Lands Network through citizen science data collection events in severely disadvantaged communities.

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:

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1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. Bay Area Open Space Council is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.”

E. COYOTE CREEK TRAIL SINGLETON ROAD CROSSING

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed one hundred forty thousand dollars (\$140,000) to City of San José (“the grantee”) to restore fish habitat and re-construct the existing creek crossing on the Coyote Creek Trail where Singleton Road crosses Coyote Creek, part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, which is a Priority Conservation Area in Santa Clara 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. 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 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code that provides for grants to improve public access and restore and enhance natural habitats in the nine-county areas around the San Francisco Bay Area.

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

F. MCKINNEY CREEK FISH PASSAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed one hundred ninety-nine thousand five hundred twenty-five dollars (\$199,525) to Northwest California Resource Conservation and Development Council (“the Council”) to replace two culverts that block fish passage with a bridge (“project”) on McKinney Creek, 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 with Proposition 1 as the source of that 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 Council 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 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.”

G. ACCESS EASEMENTS TO ESCONDIDO BEACH

Resolution:

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“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed one hundred thirty one thousand dollars (\$131,000) to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (“the grantee”) to operate and maintain open public accessways and assist with planning for the removal of encroachments on access easements to Escondido Beach in Malibu.

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.

In addition, to the extent appropriate, the grantee shall incorporate the guidelines of the Conservancy’s ‘Standards and Recommendations for Accessway Location and Development’.”

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 a system of public accessways.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.”

5. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A.** Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, presented consideration and possible appointment of an ad hoc advisory subcommittee of the Conservancy to assist with the search for the next Executive Officer. Board Members Ann Notthoff and Bryan Cash were appointed to the subcommittee.

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- B. Amy Hutzal, Deputy Executive Officer, presented a progress report on the Conservancy's Strategic Plan.
- C. Legislative Report – THIS ITEM WAS POSTPONED.
- D. Andy Yuen, Project Leader of San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex, presented Restoration Success: Lessons from South San Diego Bay.

NORTH COAST

6. ELK RIVER WATERSHED

Julia Elkin of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Marissa Adams of California Trout, Inc.

Resolution:

"The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) to California Trout, Inc. ("the grantee") to prepare a feasibility study and conceptual designs for anadromous fish habitat enhancement and flood reduction in the lower Elk River Watershed 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. 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."

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.

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3. California Trout, Inc. is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.”

Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

7. SCOTT RIVER

Michael Bowen of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed two hundred seventy-nine thousand four hundred ninety-one dollars (\$279,491) to the Scott River Watershed Council (“the Council”) to prepare environmental studies, designs and draft permit applications for restoration of a 2.27 mile reach of the Scott River (“project”) near Callahan, 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 (Executive Officer) the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. The names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in undertaking the project.
3. Approves the Redwood National and State Park Visitor Center and Restoration Project, which includes the Prairie Creek Restoration Project.
4. A plan for acknowledgment 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 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. The Scott River Watershed Council is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.”

Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

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8. KLAMATH RIVER AT HORSE TROUGH SPRINGS

Peter Jarausch of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

“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 (Executive Officer) 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.”

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.”

Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

9. RESTORE FISHERIES AND WETLANDS ON THE LOWER KLAMATH RIVER

Peter Jarausch of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

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Resolution:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed two hundred seventy three and three hundred thirty seven dollars (\$273,337) to the Resighini Rancheria (“the grantee”) to create a conceptual restoration plan for the Resighini Rancheria property and a set of preliminary designs for several sites on the property to restore fisheries and wetlands on the lower Klamath River 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. 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.”

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.”

Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

10. CONSERVANCY MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no Conservancy member comments.

11. CLOSED SESSION

Meeting closed at 12:05P.M. for a closed session.

During the closed session, the Conservancy received information and advice from counsel regarding Defend Ballona Wetlands, et al. v. California State Coastal Conservancy, et al., Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 20STCV29911 and Sonoma Land Trust v. Thompson, et al., Sonoma County Superior Court, Case No. SCV 258010.

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Meeting re-opened to public at 12:18 P.M.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:19 P.M.