

STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
February 03, 2022

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)
Donne Brownsey (Coastal Commission)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Amy Hutzel, Executive Officer
Amy Roach, General 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)
Donne Brownsey (Coastal Commission)

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the Conservancy's December 02, 2021, public meeting.
Moved and seconded. Minutes Approved.

3. CONSENT ITEMS

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

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

A. SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL

STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
February 03, 2022

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to disburse up to \$300,000 of the Conservancy funds authorized as part of the San Francisco Bay Trail Block Grant No. 6 on October 17, 2019 in the following manner: up to one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) to the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) to construct 1.25 miles of the San Francisco Bay Trail from the San Rafael Bridge Trail landing to the City of Richmond's Historic Winehaven District (Segment A), and up to one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) to the City of Richmond to construct a connected 1.25 miles of San Francisco Bay Trail from the Winehaven Historic District to Point Molate Beach Park (Segment B), for a total construction of 2.5 miles of the San Francisco Bay Trail, in City of Richmond, Contra Costa County, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of funds, ABAG shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy final work programs, schedules and budgets, and grant agreements respectively between ABAG and EBRPD, and ABAG and the City of Richmond.
2. ABAG shall ensure installation of signs acknowledging the Conservancy and displaying the Conservancy logo in a manner approved by the Executive Officer.

Findings:

Based on the accompanying staff recommendation 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 improvement of public access to, within, and around the bay, coast, ridgetops and urban open spaces of the San Francisco Bay area.
2. The proposed projects are consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. As a responsible agency, the Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the "San Francisco Bay Trail at Point Molate Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration" (IS/MND), adopted by the EBRPD on May 1, 2018 pursuant to CEQA and attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 6. The Conservancy finds that construction of 1.25 miles of the San Francisco Bay Trail from the San Rafael Bridge Trail landing to the City of Richmond's Historic Winehaven District, as designed and mitigated, avoids, reduces or mitigates the potentially significant environmental effects to a less-than-significant level, and there is no

STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
February 03, 2022

substantial evidence based on the record as a whole that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, as defined in 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15382.

B. FEDERAL FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY SHORELINE

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the Executive Officer to amend the existing Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (FCSA) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Santa Clara Valley Water District regarding a study of the Santa Clara County shoreline between San Francisquito Creek in the City of Palo Alto and the Guadalupe River in San José to increase the total budget, extend the study duration, and allow for advancement of funds.

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization remains 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.

C. EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL OUTDOOR SUMMER CAMP

Resolution:

The State Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to Inland Empire Waterkeeper ("the grantee") to provide approximately 350 students a free week-long educational and recreational outdoor summer camp at Martha McLean-Anza Narrows Park and Hidden Valley Nature Center and Wildlife Area in Riverside 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.

STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
February 03, 2022

3. 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 4.6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program.
2. The project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The Inland Empire Waterkeeper is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A. Mary Small, Deputy Executive Officer, presented the Conservancy's annual financial report.
- B. Mary Small, Deputy Executive Officer, presented a progress report on implementation of the Conservancy's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan.
- C. Amy Hutzal, Executive Office, presented the process for developing a new Strategic Plan for 2023-2027.

SOUTH COAST

5. NORTH BEACH OF THE CRYSTAL COVE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Rodrigo Garcia of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Kate Wheeler from the Crystal Cove Conservancy.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed twenty-one million dollars (\$21,000,000) to augment the Conservancy grant of eight million four hundred thousand (\$8,400,000), previously authorized to the Crystal Cove Conservancy ("the grantee") to restore 17 historic cottages on North Beach of the Crystal Cove Historic District for the purpose of increasing lower-cost coastal accommodations in California. This

STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
February 03, 2022

authorization remains subject to the same conditions contained in the Conservancy's February 6, 2020, authorization.

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 10 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding Lower Cost Coastal Accommodations.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and guidelines.
3. The Crystal Cove Conservancy is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

6. OC RIVER WALK

Rodrigo Garcia of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Sjanya Larson-Cash from the City of Anaheim.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000) to the City of Anaheim ("the grantee") to prepare preliminary plans, designs, permit applications, and environmental documentation for the "OC River Walk," a project to improve the ecological function of, and public access to and along, a portion of the Santa Ana River in the County of Orange.

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 recommendation and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
February 03, 2022

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

Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

7. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WETLANDS RECOVERY PROJECT

Meghan Martinez of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

There were multiple public comments regarding the Staff Recommendation.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed four hundred four thousand, six hundred thirty-three dollars (\$404,633) to one state government agency, two non-profit organizations, and one Joint Powers Authority to collaboratively develop a regional wetland monitoring program for the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP). The four grantees are as follows (presented in alphabetical order):

California Coastal Commission: Thirty-six thousand three hundred thirty-seven dollars (\$36,337) to provide regulatory agency insight and guidance in the development of the regional monitoring program.

San Jose State University Research Foundation (fiscal agent of the Central Coast Wetlands Group): Thirty-five thousand one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$35,175) for the Central Coast Wetlands Group to coordinate with Statewide monitoring efforts, help refine monitoring indicators, and help with sentinel site selection.

Southern California Coastal Water Research Project: Two hundred eighty-four thousand ninety-nine dollars (\$284,099) to develop all components of the regional monitoring program and coordinate input from the other grantees.

The Bay Foundation: Forty-nine thousand twenty-two dollars (\$49,022) to incorporate previous monitoring indicators developed in Southern California into the regional monitoring program.

Prior to commencement of the project, each 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.

STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
February 03, 2022

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 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the funding of plan preparation and feasibility studies, and 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 San Jose State University Research Foundation and The Bay Foundation are nonprofit organizations organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

8. SUNSET NATURAL RESILIENCE PROJECT

Moira McEnespy of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Robin Grossinger of the San Francisco Estuary Institute and Jonathan Cordero of the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed five hundred fifty-five thousand dollars (\$555,000) to San Francisco Estuary Institute (“the grantee”) to prepare designs, design recommendations, and/or guidance documents for the Sunset Natural Resilience Project, six urban greening, wildlife connectivity corridor, and dune restoration projects in the western portion of the City and County of San Francisco.

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, including provisions for acknowledging Conservancy funding.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.

STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
February 03, 2022

Findings:

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

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

Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

9. A SEA LEVEL RISE AND FLOOD RESILIENCE PROJECT ALONG MILLBRAE-BURLINGAME SHORELINE

Jennifer Fields of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Len Materman of the OneShoreline.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed eight million dollars (\$8,000,000) to the San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District to develop plans, designs, environmental review documents, and permit applications for a sea level rise and flood resilience project along Millbrae-Burlingame shoreline, and to conduct regional planning and coordination activities throughout 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.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.

Findings:

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

STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
February 03, 2022

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Climate Ready Program.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.

Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

CENTRAL COAST

10. CARMEL RIVER FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Tom Gandesbery of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

Speaking in favor of the Staff Recommendation: Shandy Carroll of the Monterey County Housing and Community Development & Rachel Saunders of the Big Sur Land Trust.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed four million, two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$4,250,000) to the County of Monterey ("the grantee" or "the County") to construct the Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project ("project"), in Monterey 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.
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 recommendation and attached exhibits, the State Coastal

STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
February 03, 2022

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.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
3. The Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the “Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment” (“EIR/EA”) attached as Exhibit 4 of the accompanying staff recommendation, which was certified by the County of Monterey on January 28, 2020, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”).
4. The Conservancy finds that the proposed project will have potentially significant effects in the areas of Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Public Services, Transportation/Traffic, and Tribal Cultural Resources. With regards to these impacts, the Conservancy finds that the project, as modified by the incorporation of the mitigation measures identified in the EIR/EA, avoids, reduces, or mitigates all possible significant environmental effects of the project to less-than-significant levels on the environment, as defined in Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15382.

Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were numerous public comments regarding the Ballona Wetlands.

12. CONSERVANCY MEMBER COMMENTS

Board Members Miller and Alioto made comments.

13. CLOSED SESSION

The Conservancy did not hold a closed session.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:49 P.M.