

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation  
September 22, 2022

**EXPLORE THE COAST GRANT PROGRAM – 2022-2023**

Project No. 22-025-01

Project Manager: Carol Martinez, Erin Gravley, & Vanessa Aczon

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorization to disburse up to \$3,301,005 to nonprofit organizations and public agencies for 31 projects that facilitate and enhance the public's opportunities to explore the California coast. Participants are drawn from throughout the State and will visit coastal locations from Del Norte County south to San Diego County.

**LOCATION:** Various locations along the coast of California and the San Francisco Bay shoreline (see Exhibit 1)

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EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [Project Location Map](#)

Exhibit 2: [Advisory Board Members](#)

Exhibit 3: [Project Letters](#)

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**RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS**

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution and findings.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed three million three hundred one thousand five dollars (\$3,301,005) to 29 nonprofit organizations, 1 tribe, and 1 public entity for 31 projects that facilitate and enhance the public's opportunities to explore the California coast. With the approval of the Executive Officer of the Coastal Conservancy, the projects described in the accompanying staff report may be modified to protect the health of participants so long as the modified projects continue to promote the goal of facilitating and enhancing the public's opportunities to explore the California coast. The 31 grantees are as follows (presented in alphabetical order):

- Asian Pacific Environmental Network: One hundred eleven thousand five hundred dollars (\$111,500) to provide up to 100 youth from Oakland with coastal day and overnight trips for a variety of recreational and educational activities throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County and the Inland Empire: One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to bring approximately 160 youth and their mentors from inland southern California counties and North Orange County to the coast over two years for guided, hands-on activities.
- Black Surf Santa Cruz, Inc.: One hundred thirteen thousand dollars (\$113,000) will serve approximately 720 participants from historically excluded groups, including people of color, through three surfing programs that aim to increase mental wellbeing, feelings of belonging, and psychological safety.
- California Health Collaborative: One hundred forty-five thousand dollars (\$145,000) to provide up to 10 coastal experiences over two years to approximately 100-125 low-income and/or Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) youth ages 12-18 and their families from Kings County.
- Color the Water: One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for approximately 1,000 participants to take surf lessons individually or in small groups from surf instructors of color on the central and south coasts.
- Community Rowing San Diego: Sixty-two thousand dollars (\$62,000) to provide up to 45 middle and high school students who are primarily first-generation college aspirants of color with weekly after-school coastal recreation or research activities for three years in San Diego County.
- Conservation Corps North Bay: One hundred ninety-four thousand one hundred fifty-eight dollars (\$194,158) to provide up to 256 participants in the CCNB's job training program in Marin and Sonoma Counties with paid time off to enjoy field trips with recreational activities at Point Reyes National Seashore in Marin County.
- Desert Recreation Foundation: One hundred fifty-eight thousand dollars (\$158,000) to provide two years of coastal excursion programming for approximately 572 children, teens, seniors, and people with physical, cognitive, or emotional disabilities in the underserved and economically-disadvantaged communities of the Coachella Valley.
- Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM): One hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) to connect over 495 individuals of all ages who came to the US from Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine, Laos, and Cambodia through a photography club and family field trips to the central coast.
- Friends of the Petaluma River: Sixty-two thousand seven hundred twenty-two dollars (\$62,722) to provide a six-month program that offers hands-on environmental engagement opportunities to develop a deeper connection to the ocean and the Petaluma Watershed for approximately 45 youth from traditionally marginalized communities.
- Hearts for Sights Foundation: Thirty-eight thousand seven hundred and seven dollars (\$38,707) to provide coastal day-outings, overnight trips, and outdoor leadership training for approximately 200 visually impaired people and family members in Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernadino Counties.

- Lily of the Valley Emmanuel Church of Jesus Christ: One hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) to provide approximately 160 participants the opportunity to explore and enjoy the Santa Cruz Beach Board Walk and Monterey Bay through recreational and coastal stewardship activities.
- Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation: Seventy-three thousand four hundred dollars (\$73,400) to serve approximately 27 Jamul Indian Village youth and 10 adult members with five field trips to iconic locations along the Kumeyaay Coast (La Jolla coastline) where they will explore, learn about, and re-connect with their ancestral lands.
- MarinLink: Nineteen thousand three hundred dollars (\$19,300) to offer sailing instruction to approximately 75-100 visually impaired individuals at the Treasure Island Sailing Center.
- MOSTe (Motivating Our Students Through Experience): Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to provide up to two annual coastal retreats to engage in beach activities, encourage community bonding, and foster environmental stewardship for approximately 90 middle and high school girls from underserved communities in Los Angeles County.
- Napa County Office of Education: One hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$160,000) to take approximately 240 low-income students in grades 4-8 from the cities of Napa and Santa Rosa on a coastal retreat at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area for an immersive outdoor learning and coastal recreation experience.
- North Coast Resource Conservation & Development Council: One hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000) to provide two two-night camping trips to MacKerricher State Park for approximately 25 youth and family members from the Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California in Lake County.
- Noyo Center for Marine Science: Fifty thousand five hundred dollars (\$50,500) to offer outdoor marine science experiences through an after-school program for approximately 120 youth from Fort Bragg and communities within Mendocino County.
- Orange County Adult Achievement Center (doing business as My Day Counts): Sixty-nine thousand seven hundred dollars (\$69,700) to provide two, twelve-month long trainings to develop leadership skills, learn and master new abilities, and improve overall physical and mental well-being for approximately 24 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities through exploration and connection to the coast.
- Point Reyes National Seashore Association: Eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) to provide day trips to the Point Reyes National Seashore for approximately 290 youth from low-income families from underserved communities in San Francisco, the East Bay, and Marin and Sonoma Counties.
- Project Avary: One hundred forty thousand dollars (\$140,000) to take approximately 1,200 children of incarcerated parents and lower-income households to the Marin County shoreline for recreational and educational activities designed to foster long-term healing for the children and inspire a coastal stewardship ethic.

- Redwood Community Action Agency: Forty-six thousand three hundred twenty dollars (\$46,320) to provide day trips and family fun days for approximately 400 low-income and BIPOC community members at the geographically and culturally significant crossroads located at Little River State Beach and Moonstone Beach in Trinidad, CA.
- Refuge Armona: One hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000) to take approximately 90 youth from socioeconomically disadvantaged communities in Armona to explore and engage in recreational activities along various regions of the California coast.
- Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment: One hundred five thousand dollars (\$105,000) to provide exploration and knowledge of the San Francisco Bay coast and its watershed to approximately 50 high school students from low-income and environmentally stressed communities of color.
- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians: One hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$130,000) to bring approximately 260 historically underserved youth to the Central Coast and the Channel Islands to learn more about marine resources and traditional native knowledge of these resources.
- Saved By Nature: One hundred fifty-three thousand seven hundred dollars (\$153,700) to provide approximately 600 people from underrepresented communities of color with coastal trips along the San Francisco to Monterey Bay shorelines to participate in recreational activities.
- Surfing Madonna Oceans Project: Eighty-four thousand dollars (\$84,000) to provide adaptive surfing and recreational coastal activities for approximately 400 youth who have physical and/or cognitive disabilities from San Diego, Orange, and Riverside Counties.
- Unity Care Group: Ninety-nine thousand nine hundred and ninety-eight dollars (\$99,998) to provide approximately 80 current and former foster youth from throughout Northern California with the opportunity to participate in any of nine coastal outings involving learning activities for career exploration and nature conservation.
- Watts Labor Community Action Committee: One hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$160,000) to provide two years of group trips to approximately 707 Watts residents where they will explore coastal habitats, participate in coastal recreational activities, and learn about water stewardship.
- Wilderness Youth Project: One hundred twenty-seven thousand dollars (\$127,000) to provide two years of afterschool ocean sport experiences, such as surfing, standup paddle boarding, kayaking, and free diving, throughout Goleta and South County Santa Barbara for approximately 35-40 youth of color and low-income background.
- Youth Mentoring Action Network (YMAN): One hundred twenty-seven thousand dollars (\$127,000) for a 24-month project dedicated to creating enjoyable and engaging beach and coast-based experiences for approximately 240 youth from low-income families in the Pomona Valley-Inland Empire region of California.

Prior to commencement of the project, each 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. Any other applicable agreements determined necessary for the project by the Conservancy's 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 Chapters 4.5 and 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the resource and recreational goals in the San Francisco Bay Area (Chapter 4.5), and the establishment of a system of public accessways to and along the California coast (Chapter 9).
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The proposed nonprofit organizations are organized under section 501©(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

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## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

### **PROJECT SUMMARY:**

Staff recommends the Conservancy authorize disbursement of up to \$3,301,005 to nonprofit organizations, tribes, and public agencies for 31 projects that facilitate and enhance the public's opportunities to explore the coast of California under the Conservancy's Explore the Coast (ETC) grant program.

The purpose of the ETC grant program is to provide coastal experiences for people and communities who face challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast (ETC Priority Communities). ETC Priority Communities include, but are not limited to, lower-income individuals and households, people with disabilities, people of color, indigenous communities, immigrant communities, foster youth, and other historically excluded communities who face societal challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast. ETC projects recommended for funding meet one or more of the following priorities: provides an enjoyable experience at the coast; reduces economic, physical, operational, or societal barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast; or inspires an ongoing coastal resource stewardship ethic through active learning and interactive activities.

The ETC grant includes projects that enhance visitors' ability to learn about natural, recreational, cultural, and historic resources of the California coast and San Francisco Bay

shorelines. A variety of activities and programmatic services are eligible for funding under the ETC grant program such as providing transportation, reducing the economic cost of coastal program attendance, providing coastal experiences for persons with disabilities, docent programs that promote awareness of access opportunities or recreational uses of the coast, and overnight coastal experiences for participants. This year's ETC grant program solicitation was released in early January 2022; webinars and virtual technical assistance sessions were held in the following weeks to provide further guidance for potential applicants on the program, the application, and administrative requirements. Additional technical assistance was available upon request and Conservancy project staff helped a number of organizations prior to the application deadline.

In typical years, the Coastal Conservancy allocates hundreds of thousands of dollars through the Explore the Coast grant program to connect underserved communities to the coast. This year \$9,362,734 was allocated for ETC projects as a result of a one-time \$14 million General Fund appropriation for the Explore the Coast Grant Program in 2021. As a result of this funding, the maximum grant amount was increased from \$50,000 to \$200,000. To further improve the grant program, the Conservancy offered a shortened application to existing grantees, with the goal of reducing the burdens associated with the annual grant cycle. This staff recommendation is for new projects that applied with the standard long application. The ETC Renewal Grants staff recommendation addresses augmentations for existing grantees. Combined, the two sets of projects total \$9,362,734.

In recommending projects to the Conservancy, staff aim to equitably distribute this funding and maximize the impact of every dollar spent. To better achieve these goals, Conservancy staff created an Explore the Coast Advisory Board in 2019. Advisory Board members serve a term of two years and can choose to continue their service for another term. This year's Advisory Board cohort represents various regions of the State with backgrounds in environmental justice, coastal access issues, tribal advocacy, disability rights, foundation work and funding, grant program administration, and environmental education (Exhibit 2). The Advisory Board advises staff on the application process, application review, and ongoing management of the grant program. The Advisory Board's participation with staff in the review and selection of projects advances equity by giving the communities served by the program an opportunity to provide direct input on their needs and the types of projects that will best serve their needs.

The Conservancy received 80 applications for new project proposals, requesting over \$7 million in Conservancy funding. Applications were initially reviewed by staff and then 56 applications were forwarded to the Advisory Board. Each application was reviewed by at least two Advisory Board members. In May, the Advisory Board met to discuss the applications and provide recommendations to staff. Following this meeting staff finalized the list of 31 recommended projects with an average award size of \$104,000.

Staff estimates that the proposed 2022-2023 ETC grant program will engage over 9,900 people through the proposed project activities. Of these people, project partners estimate that the program will serve over 7,400 low-income Californians, 8,200 people of color, 283 homeless or foster youth, approximately 2,000 people for whom English is not their first language, and at least 900 people with physical, cognitive, and emotional disabilities.



**CEQA:** The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF ORANGE COUNTY AND THE INLAND EMPIRE** **\$100,000**  
**Increasing Diversity in Ocean Conservation Through Mentorship** **South Coast, Inland Southern California**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County and the Inland Empire offers experiences in ocean/watershed science as well as partnerships between youth ages 10-17 and college student mentors. The program proposes bringing at least 160 inland youth and their mentors over two years to explore the coast from inland community school districts in San Bernardino, Riverside, Santa Ana, Tustin, and Anaheim. The program will provide kayaking and hands-on marine biology activities with the Newport Sea Base, guided explorations of coastal wetlands at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, and science-focused beach cleanups where participants will record, analyze, and discuss what they collect to contribute to a database of common beach pollutants. The program will also provide events such as an annual “career day” with ocean conservationists, and partner with postsecondary education partners to match college students interested in ecology, marine science, or other related fields with first generation college-bound students in both the Inland Empire and North Orange County.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.



**BLACK SURF SANTA CRUZ, INC.**

**\$113,000**

**Black Surf Santa Cruz**

**Central Coast**

Black Surf Santa Cruz (BSSC), through its three projects, “Prepare to Pop-Up Program” (P2PUP), “Pop-Up Program” (PUP), and celebratory “Liberation Paddle,” will promote physical, spiritual, emotional, and communal wellness for approximately 720 members of Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and People of Color (BILPOC) and other communities historically excluded from the sport of surfing. The P2PUP supports learners with little to no experience along the coast or in the ocean with a guided, multi-week and multi-touchpoint ocean training program that includes swimming lessons. The PUP program consists of single-day pop-up surf lessons and with an integrated ocean, safety, and racial and environmental justice curriculum. Through these programs, BSSC aims to reduce access barriers – such as feeling unwelcome in outdoor spaces, experiencing racial discrimination, or lack of access to equipment and transportation – to create an inclusive BILPOC surfing community. The signature Liberation Paddle Out, in concert with the annual Santa Cruz Juneteenth event, will invite the BSSC membership and public for a day out on the ocean to hear a diverse lineup of event speakers and celebrate BSSC member achievements in honor of the continued journey to equity and justice in all spaces including the coast and ocean.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

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**CALIFORNIA HEALTH COLLABORATIVE**

**\$145,000**

**Kings Coastal Experiences for Youth**

**San Joaquin Valley**

Through the Kings Coastal Experiences for Youth Project, the California Health Collaborative will provide up to 10 coastal experiences over two years to approximately 100-125 low-income and/or BIPOC youth ages 12-18 and their families from Kings County. Four of the twelve trips will focus solely on youth participants and allowing them to experience the Central Coast and the recreational, educational, and professional experiences it has to offer. Two trips a year will invite entire families to visit and experience the coast together. Each trip will include at least

one activity from each of four categories: 1) activities on the ocean or beach including kayaking, paddle boarding, surfing, whale watching, nature hikes or walks, fishing, and/or beach yoga; 2) educational activities such as boat tours to learn about marine and wildlife in the area, guided history tours, and/or museum or lighthouse visits; 3) connecting participants to marine and coastal professions; and 4) recreational activities - leisure time at piers and boardwalks. For activities on the ocean, participants will take beginners lessons to keep all participants safe, especially if they are novice swimmers. The project will serve as an opportunity to mitigate the impacts of toxic stress, increase access to coastal and natural resources, learn about future careers related to coastal conservation, participate in hands-on activities to learn about local marine and aquatic ecosystems, and engage in fun activities at the coast to demystify and create safety around the coastal experience.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**COLOR THE WATER**

**\$100,000**

**BIPOC Surfer Support Circles**

**South Coast, Inland  
Southern California,  
Central Coast**

Color the Water’s Surfer Support Circles is a one-year long program that guides participants on their surf journeys and connection to the ocean through surf lessons, access to surfboards and gear, transportation, orientation to surf breaks and beach entry, and fundamental ocean safety instruction. The goal of the program is to encourage autonomous surfers and the creation of a network of BIPOC surfers for on-going support and sustained connection to the coast. Color the Water will offer up to 1,000 participants the chance to book daily, weekly, or monthly individual or small group lessons with surf instructors of color. Surfers are introduced to the beach break first with not only a land acknowledgement, but also a cultural acknowledgement of the BIPOC

origins of surfing that span from Polynesia to West Africa to Peru. Rather than achievement or performance, instruction is centered around water safety and enjoyment for the learners. At the end, the program will offer surfers video and photographic capture of their experience.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

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## **COMMUNITY ROWING SAN DIEGO**

**\$62,000**

### **Crew for Conservation and Challenge**

**South Coast**

Crew for Conservation and Challenge will provide up to 45 middle and high school students with coastal weekly after-school program activities every year for three years. The program will focus on serving first-generation college aspirants of color. Participants will travel from school to either National City Aquatics Center or the Living Coast Discovery Center to participate in coastal recreation or research. Recreational activities include rowing, erging (indoor rowing), kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, as well as beach bonfires, moonlight swims, and gatherings. The project includes one annual week-long Spring break camp, one annual week-long Fall break camp, and one annual three-week-long Summer camp.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.

- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**CONSERVATION CORPS NORTH BAY**

**\$194,158**

**Coastal Connections: Creating Pathways to Point Reyes for Local Youth**

**North Coast, Bay Area**

The Coastal Connections: Creating Pathways to Point Reyes for Local Youth project will provide up to 256 participants in Conservation Corps North Bay’s job training program in Marin and Sonoma Counties with paid time off to enjoy field trips to Point Reyes National Seashore where many will experience recreational activities like wildlife viewing, tide pooling, and beach exploration for the first time. Every year the program will run once in the Spring and once in the Summer or Fall for two years total and host approximately 8 coastal trips annually. Participants will learn about the Seashore and spot endangered species using binoculars, explore the coastline through beach walks and hikes, engage in fun games and activities, and gain environmental literacy and an understanding of environmental stewardship.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**DESERT RECREATION FOUNDATION**

**\$158,000**

**Coastal Encounters**

**Inland Southern  
California**

Desert Recreation Foundation’s (DRF) Coastal Encounters will bring approximately 572 people to the coast from underserved and economically-disadvantaged communities of the Coachella Valley. Participants will come from communities such as Indio, Coachella, Thermal, Mecca, and Indio Hills with high levels of poverty and unemployment, low high school graduation rates, high percentages of English language learners, and other factors that create barriers to visiting the coast. The coastal trips will be added to DRF’s existing roster of programs including summer camps, teen programs, senior programs, and an adaptive program for people with physical and cognitive disabilities. Most of the participants will be visiting the coast for the first time. Most of the trips will be daytrips with activities appropriate to the group’s ages and abilities. Proposed activities include hikes, bike rides, beach walks, educational experiences, sporting activities such as surfing and kayaking, and up-close experiences with nature. DRF also plans two overnight trips to Catalina Island.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
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**CEQA:** The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**FRESNO INTERDENOMINATIONAL REFUGEE MINISTRIES (FIRM)**

**\$150,000**

**FIRM Refuge Trips**

**San Joaquin Valley**

FIRM will connect up to 100 new American families with adventures and exploration across the Central California coastline, reaching over 495 individuals of all ages who came to the US from Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine, Laos, and Cambodia. There will be two types of trips through this program: (1) the Refugee Youth Photography Club will take approximately 30 young adult participants up to twice a quarter to visit the coast to practice their art and learn about

environmental stewardship, and (2) FIRM Family Field Trips will take approximately 180 individuals per trip, up to 4 times a year, for family-oriented activities. FIRM's Refugee Youth Photography Club will meet at least twice a month in Fresno for leadership development activities, workshops on environmental stewardship and the ocean, photography lessons, and to plan and evaluate monthly trips to the Coast.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for "the Explore the Coast Grant Program."

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
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## **FRIENDS OF THE PETALUMA RIVER**

**\$62,722**

### **Golden Eagles**

### **North Coast, Bay Area**

The Golden Eagles program will serve approximately 45 youth from traditionally marginalized communities including BIPOC, low-income, English language learners, and youth in foster care. Participants will take part in a 6-month program aimed at place-based nature connection, leadership, and interpersonal skill development. Over the six months participants will learn about the Petaluma Watershed, how it is connected to the larger environment, and how their actions shape their environment, as they visit the Petaluma River, Sonoma Coast, San Francisco Bay, Point Reyes National Seashore, and the Sonoma Baylands and engage in hands-on projects. Throughout this journey, teens will develop leadership skills, self-esteem, interpersonal skills, and connections all while developing a deep connection with nature, the ocean, and the Petaluma Watershed. Ongoing activities will include nature journaling, trauma-informed practices, games, and hands-on activities to build ecological knowledge, art and crafting, food preparation and personal growth projects that help them reflect on their journey through the program.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for "the Explore the Coast Grant Program."

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above. The proposed project is also consistent with Chapter 4.5: San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Section 31162(a) because it improves public access to the bay and coast by providing bay and/or coastal experiences as described above.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

## HEARTS FOR SIGHTS FOUNDATION

**\$38,707**

### Hearts for Sight Coastal Outings for Visually Impaired People

**South Coast**

The Hearts for Sights Foundation’s Outings for Visually Impaired People (VIPs) will provide coastal day outings, overnight trips, and outdoor leadership training for approximately 200 VIPs and family members in the Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernadino Counties. The Hearts for Sights Foundation (HSF) will partner with the Los Angeles Sierra Club, Bolsa Chica Nature Preserve, State Parks and several local organizations to provide the three types of coastal outings for the VIPs: 1) 9 Day Outings: On each day outing, HSF and its partners will transport 40-50 participants to a coastal site for activities that may include a hike or walk, inclusive yoga, and/or docent-led multisensory experience, lunch, and finally free time to swim or wade at the beach; 2) 5 Outings with Specialized Activities: The specialized activities outings will involve 25-50 participants depending on the activity. Participants will spend the day (or night) learning to kayak, paddle board, surf, or overnight camp with instructors trained to work with the VIP population; 3) Independence and Leadership on the Coast: HSF will organize two scavenger hunts, one in Santa Monica and one on Catalina Island, where VIPs will work in small groups to identify and seek out unknown community assets. Participants will also have time for free beach play and exploration. Lastly 3 VIPs will receive leadership training through the State Parks FamCamp program. Upon completion, the 3 VIPs will be authorized to lead camping trips at FamCamp facilities, which are offered for free by State Parks.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 2, Objective A:** The proposed project will expand or enhance opportunities for access for people with disabilities to the coast as described above.
- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**LILY OF THE VALLEY EMMANUEL CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST**

**\$150,000**

**Communities of Color Explore the Coast**

**San Joaquin Valley**

Lily of the Valley Emmanuel Church of Jesus Christ will offer approximately 160 members of vulnerable, disadvantaged, historically-excluded, and under-resourced BIPOC communities the opportunity to enjoy the Santa Cruz beach boardwalk and Monterey Bay. Participants will enjoy the coast through personal explorations as well as group coordinated excursions. Some group activities include a scavenger hunt, shark watching, kayaking, observing marine life, beach activities, hiking, boat excursions, beach volleyball, Frisbee, and a beach cleanup to explore the concept of coastal stewardship. Individual activities include building sandcastles and volcanoes, walking the trails, walking on the beach, wading in the water, and hiking.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

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**LOS PEÑASQUITOS LAGOON FOUNDATION**

**\$73,400**

**Exploring the Kumeyaay Coast**

**South Coast**

Through its Exploring the Kumeyaay Coast project, the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation (LPLF) and partners will provide approximately 27 youth and 10 adult members from the Jamul Indian Village’s Acorns to Oaks program with the opportunity to explore and re-connect with their ancestral lands along the Kumeyaay Coast (La Jolla coastline). Participants will visit coastal San Diego in four field trips to try surfing, kayaking, and snorkeling, explore tide pools, visit the Birch Aquarium, hike along the beach, enjoy the natural landscapes, and spend afternoons at the beach. Participants will learn about ethnobotany, astronomy, history, tradition, and cultural practices from Kumeyaay Nation tribal members and about resource management and vocation opportunities from scientists. Finally, the youth will collaborate with a professional, award-winning filmmaker to create a short documentary that will capture their experiences during the project through narration, music, interviews, and live-action footage. Participants will learn about the filmmaking process through a guided workshop to empower Native American youth interested in storytelling through modern media. The documentary will debut at the 2023 San Diego Surf Festival, and participants, their families, and other members of Jamul Indian Village will be invited to the showing (with transportation provided) as special guests.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**MARINLINK (FISCAL SPONSOR FOR BLINDSAIL SF BAY)**

**\$19,300**

**BlindSail SF Bay**

**Bay Area**

MarinLink, through BlindSail SF Bay, will introduce approximately 75-100 visually impaired individuals (VIPs) to sailing at the Treasure Island Sailing Center. BlindSail SF Bay provides VIPs the opportunity to learn the fundamental skills of sailing and the basic principles of seamanship. Participants will learn to sail through creative and adaptive methods in a hands-on teaching environment that includes a large print tactile map of the San Francisco Bay, Braille label guides, and model-size sailboats. Blind sailors experience the joy of being on the Bay,

feeling the wind and waves, and learn the skills and teamwork it takes to sail a boat. They learn to feel the direction of the wind on their face and use it to steer towards a specific point, the sense of body positioning (proprioception) helps them maintain the optimal heel of the boat, and they can listen for when sails are out of trim. On the sailboat, participants work together in boat teams of 2-3 along with two sighted sailing instructors. Participants get to enjoy sailing in San Francisco Bay, build confidence through the challenge of trying and learning something new, and also create lasting friendships through the program.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 4.5: San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Section 31162(a) because it improves public access to the bay and coast by providing bay and/or coastal experiences as described above. The proposed project is also consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 2, Objective A:** The proposed project will expand or enhance opportunities for access for people with disabilities to the coast as described above.
- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 13, Objective L:** The project expands opportunities for barrier-free access to natural areas in the San Francisco Bay Area.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

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**MOSTE (MOTIVATING OUR STUDENTS THROUGH EXPERIENCE) \$50,000**

**May 2023 and May 2024 Overnight Coastal Exploration Weekends South Coast**

MOSTe will offer approximately 90 girls from underserved communities in Los Angeles County up to two annual outdoor retreats to the coast, fostering environmental stewardship, encouraging community bonding, developing a sense of self, providing an opportunity for joy and wonder in nature, and incentivizing participation in overall college-access programs. Activities will include group nature hikes, walks at the beach, and watching the sunset over the Pacific Ocean. There will be tidepools exploration if the tidal conditions are right, and between visits to the beach, there will also be inspirational talks by women leaders that encourage students to reflect on their strengths and set goals for their futures. Participants will spend much of the time outdoors on hikes and at the beach, with a goal of helping our students feel connected with the natural world as a resource they can steward as Californians.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

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- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

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**NAPA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION**

**\$160,000**

**COOL School at the Coast**

**North Coast, Bay Area**

Napa County Office of Education (NCOE)’s Explore the Coast project will bring approximately 290 low-income students in grades 4-8 to the Marin headlands for an immersive 3-day coastal adventure over spring-break. NCOE will partner with NatureBridge, an organization which connects young people to the science and wonder of the natural world, igniting self-discovery and inspiring stewardship of the planet. In year 1, approximately 120 students from low-income families in the cities of Napa and Santa Rosa, will spend three days and two nights at the Nature Bridge Golden Gate campus within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. During the trip, participants will hike on coastal trails, explore beaches and tide pools, participate in a stewardship project, and have time to relax and play. Evening activities may include a short night hike, campfire, or beach visit to look for bioluminescent plankton. In year 2 the trip will repeat, bringing a new group of approximately 120 students to the coast along with approximately 10 peer leaders, drawn from year 1 participants. These peer leaders will further develop their leadership skills while supporting and inspiring their peers. They will be involved in year two outreach, answering questions, and encouraging younger students to participate. Once on the trip, they will partner with classroom leaders and NatureBridge educators to lead a portion of the coastal experience.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

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**NORTH COAST RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

**\$120,000**

**Exploring Coastal Pomo Nation Lands**

**North Coast**

The North Coast Resource Conservation & Development Council’s (NCRCDC) Exploring Coastal Pomo Nation Lands project will take youth and their families from the inland Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California (MRPIC), located in Lake County, with transport to MacKerricher State Park for two two-night coastal camping trips. The Rancheria is several hours away from the coast and has been heavily impacted by wildfires and COVID in recent years. Approximately 25 MRPIC participants will explore the dunes, fen, beach, and rocky coastline of this 2,300-acre state park, in coastal lands where MRPIC ancestors may have visited and traded with neighboring tribes. Each trip will include a variety of activities including fin fishing and shell fishing, nature photography lessons, tide-pooling, edible kelp gathering, bird and wildlife watching, plant identification, whale watching from coastal bluffs, coastal trail running, sandcastle building, and dune and fen explorations. Participants will also have an opportunity to build stewardship skills through hands-on dune restoration activities related to removal of invasive beachgrass. In addition to the above activities, participants will participate in environmental educational modules relating to the native flora, fauna, geology, and stewardship needs.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

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**CEQA:** The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**NOYO CENTER FOR MARINE SCIENCE**

**\$50,500**

**FOR ALL: Fun Outdoors on the River**

**North Coast**

The FOR ALL: Fun Outdoors on the River project will take place at the Noyo Center’s recently acquired research facility at the mouth of the Noyo River; this afterschool program will show kids how nature can boost their emotional state and provide them with robust practical tools to handle their psychological and social challenges as they grow. The goal is to serve approximately 120 kids free of charge during the first two years of the program, with many of the kids coming from Fort Bragg and communities within Mendocino County. Participants will take part in an 8-week after school program where they visit the river, harbor, and ocean to explore marine science and have fun.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

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**ORANGE COUNTY ADULT ACHIEVEMENT CENTER DBA MY DAY COUNTS**

**\$69,700**

**Comprehensive Leadership Learning Cohort at the Coast**

**South Coast**

Throughout 2022-2024, the Comprehensive Leadership Learning Cohort at the Coast project, organized by the Orange County Adult Achievement Center dba My Day Counts, will host two, twelve-month long cohorts for approximately 24 adults (12 per cohort) with intellectual

disabilities and other developmental disabilities (ID/DD). Each cohort will have the opportunity to develop and bolster their leadership skills, increase their confidence in trying new activities, and improve their overall physical and mental health through meaningful, inclusive, and enjoyable coastal experiences. Participants and instructors will travel once a week to various South Coast beaches to partake in coastal teachings and activities including bird watching, tide pool exploration, large-scale sandcastle sculpting and competition, guided meditation during scenic walks, gratitude journaling, and modified yoga. The project will culminate in each cohort implementing what they learned by planning and hosting a “My Day Counts Friends and Family Celebration” Beach Event where approximately 250 people, including participants, families, friends, My Day Counts staff, and other adults with ID/DD will be invited to enjoy a day of integrated and inclusive leisure.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

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**POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE ASSOCIATION**

**\$80,000**

**Youth in Parks (YIP)**

**Bay Area**

The Point Reyes National Seashore Association’s (PRNSA) Youth in Parks (YIP) program will bring approximately 290 youth from low-income families from underserved communities in San Francisco, the East Bay, and Marin and Sonoma Counties to the Point Reyes National Seashore over a two-year period. The YIP program is carried out via partnerships with nonprofit organizations focused on community building and mentorship work in communities historically excluded from public lands, and disproportionately impacted by environmental and social inequalities. For each day trip, youth spend approximately two hours exploring the coast through environmental science and stewardship activities that involve hands-on experiments

during hikes along sand dunes, shoreline, coastal chaparral, riparian, and mixed conifer forests. Activities are tailored to support each group’s specific needs; for example, programs may be offered in Spanish and explore cultural connections of the Latinx community to the Seashore, or programs may offer water quality monitoring as an example of experiential science. Activities are followed by lunch, games on the beach or the trail, and free time to play and enjoy the sand, the dunes, and the surf zone, or to explore the habitat they are visiting via scavenger hunt or self-guided discovery. For many participants this will be their first time visiting the beach. Through these fun outdoor recreation and science experiences, YIP aims to build environmental literacy and deepen connections among participants and the natural world.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

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<b>PROJECT AVARY</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>
<b>Outdoor Leadership Program for Children with Incarcerated Parents</b>	<b>Far North, Bay Area, Sacramento Valley &amp; Sierras</b>

Through its Outdoor Leadership Program for Children with Incarcerated Parents, Project Avary will provide year-round coastal access and leadership experience for approximately 1,200 youth to explore the coastal environments of Marin County. Participants will include youth of incarcerated parents and lower-income households. Program activities designed to foster long-term healing for children with incarcerated parents and care for the coast include monthly youth Leadership Retreats at coastal venues, Summer Camp in Point Reyes, and quarterly ocean Adventure Days. The program provides youths with opportunities to engage in ocean sports like boogie boarding, surfing, and swimming, and offers swim lessons to participants with little or no experience with water activities. Additionally, at summer camps, participants spend mornings hiking along trails, marshes, and tidepools where they learn about the ocean

environment and stewardship to take care of the coastland. Project Avary believes in building leadership from within their community and offers paid junior counselor positions to youth ages 14-18, and the opportunity to become a full counselor at age 19.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

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**REDWOOD COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY**

**\$46,320**

**Little River Experience: Coastal Connections at the Crossroads**

**North Coast**

Little River Experience: Coastal Connections at the Crossroads will provide day trips for approximately 400 youth, family, and student leaders at the historically and geographically significant crossroads located at Little River State Beach and Moonstone Beach in Trinidad. The program will work with partner organizations to recruit and train up to eight student volunteer leaders from Cal Poly Humboldt. These student leaders will help lead the Youth Program Beach Trips for approximately 200 under-resourced youth from Trinidad. During half-day and full-day trips at either Little River State Beach or Moonstone Beach, youth will participate in activities, such as bird watching, tide pooling, sand sculpture building, completing biodiversity checklists, and more. The program’s Family Fun Days will reach approximately 200 additional community members. These events will have participants returning to Little River State Beach with their families to take part in facilitated activities such as safe ocean play, kayaking, and naturalist-guided intertidal exploration.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.



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**REFUGE ARMONA**

**\$120,000**

**Refuge Dream Days**

**San Joaquin Valley**

The Refuge Dream Days project will bring approximately 90 youth from socioeconomically disadvantaged communities in Armona to coastal regions in California over the course of two years. Trips will be up to three days long and will include recreational activities such as hiking to tide pools, walking on a pier, kayaking in the ocean, biking on the Coastal Trail, visiting historical ports, and boogie boarding or other ocean play. The main goal of the project is to allow young men and women to have life changing and memorable experiences at the coast that will encourage possibilities for their futures.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

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**ROSE FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT** **\$105,000**

**New Voices are Rising Summer Academy: Submerge in Water Justice Week program** **Bay Area**

Through its New Voices are Rising Summer Academy: Submerge in Water Justice Week program (New Voices), the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment will provide approximately 50 high school students from low-income and environmentally stressed communities of color in the San Francisco Bay Area, particularly Bay View-Hunters Point, the Contra Costa County Industrial corridor, and East, West, and Downtown Oakland, the opportunity to explore nearby beaches and the watersheds that feed into them. New Voices is part of the Rose Foundation’s larger six-week long program, Summer Climate Justice Leadership Academy, in which participants develop their leadership and advocacy skills, and gain a deeper understanding of the environmental impacts on vulnerable communities. During the week of the New Voices program, students will participate in various activities and fieldtrips, including canoeing on a local tidal estuary, volunteering for coastal clean-up and restoration, conducting water monitoring, and meeting with SF Idle No More “Water is Life” members to gain an indigenous perspective on water management. Participants will go on a weekend camping trip at a local park next to the beach in the San Francisco’s Golden Gate National Recreation Area where the youth will get a chance to leave their day to day lives, unplug from screens, have fun, experience nature, observe marine wildlife, and frolic in the waves while developing new skills, building meaningful relationships, and having an experience of a lifetime. The New Voices program offers a safe and inclusive space for students to grow as community leaders and become better equipped to advocate and organize for climate resilience and social and environmental justice.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above. The proposed project is also consistent with Chapter 4.5: San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Section 31162(a) because it improves public access to the bay and coast by providing bay and/or coastal experiences as described above.

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**SANTA YNEZ BAND OF CHUMASH INDIANS**

**\$130,000**

**Santa Ynez Chumash Environmental Coastal Resource & Education Project**

**Central Coast**

The Santa Ynez Chumash Environmental Office (SYCEO) in collaboration with University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER) will bring approximately 260 youth who have historically had little chance to visit the coast to the Central Coast and Channel Islands to learn about marine resources and traditional knowledge of these resources. This opportunity will bring UCSB students and Chumash youth together to share science and traditional ecological knowledge of coastal and marine resources. Youth participants from the first year will then lead the youth during the 2nd year of the project, creating an opportunity for leadership and knowledge of marine resources to be shared by Chumash youth with Chumash youth. The program includes transportation or transportation assistance for day and overnight trips that will include fun experiences such as hiking and kayaking.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

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**SAVED BY NATURE**

**\$153,700**

**Dock of the Bay**

**Bay Area**

Saved By Nature’s Dock of the Bay project will engage approximately 600 people of all ages from underrepresented communities of color through up to twenty trips along the coast and San Francisco and Monterey Bay shorelines to experience fishing, crabbing, boat touring, kayaking, camping, backpacking, kite flying, and hiking adventures. Multigenerational participants will discover and explore breathtaking coastal wonders near home together, gain

skills and confidence, steward our coastal areas, as well as engage in restorative practices that will foster joy and healing.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

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- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

## **SURFING MADONNA OCEANS PROJECT**

**\$84,000**

### **Special Needs Surf Camp**

**South Coast, Inland  
Southern California**

Through their Special Needs Surf Camp, Surfing Madonna Oceans Project (SMOP) will provide adaptive surfing and beach activities to approximately 400 youth, ages 4-17, who have physical and/or cognitive disabilities. Many of the participants will be from lower-income households, families of color, immigrant communities, and other historically excluded groups who primarily reside in inland San Diego, Orange, and Riverside Counties. The project will occur at San Diego beaches during ten Saturdays in the summers of 2023 and 2024. Participants will engage in fun and healing experiences through instructor-led surfing, swimming, sandcastle building, and playing at the beach. While the focus of the activities will be about fun and exploration, participants will also build their confidence and skills in learning new activities. SMOP staff, trained instructors, and volunteers will provide compassionate training, support, and encouragement to all participants. This project will further support the participants, as Surfing

Madonna Oceans Project encourages return visits to the coast by equipping families with resources and knowledge on accessing adaptive wheelchairs and taking public transportation.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 2, Objective A:** The proposed project will expand or enhance opportunities for access for people with disabilities to the coast as described above.
- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**UNITY CARE GROUP**

**\$99,998**

**Seasons of Learning: Coastal Edition**

**Bay Area, Sacramento Valley & Sierras**

Through its Seasons of Learning: Coastal Edition project, Unity Care Group will provide approximately 80 foster youth the opportunity to participate in fun activities for career exploration and conservation learning. Youth will be able to join any of the following activities that will be organized over the course of a year: (1) a visit to Aquarium of the Bay; (2) a visit to Stinson Beach; (3) whale and elephant seal watching at Point Reyes National Seashore; (4) a tour of the California Academy of Sciences; (5) a whale watching cruise at the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary; (6) a bioluminescence kayak trip at the Farallones; (7) a tour of the Monterey Bay Aquarium; (8) a visit to the Crissy Field Wave Organ and the San Francisco Maritime Historical Park; and (9) presentations about the Navy and Air Force at the Alameda Shoreline - USS Hornet Museum. This project is an opportunity for youth, who usually must be focused on their independence, to have fun while they explore the possibilities of who they might become.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above. The proposed project is also consistent with Chapter 4.5: San Francisco Bay

Area Conservancy Program, Section 31162(a) because it improves public access to the bay and coast by providing bay and/or coastal experiences as described above.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**WILDERNESS YOUTH PROJECT (FISCAL SPONSOR FOR THE SEA LEAGUE)**

**\$127,000**

**The Sea League**

**Central Coast**

Through the Sea League (TSL), Wilderness Youth Project will provide afterschool ocean sport experiences for approximately 40 youth from throughout Goleta and South County Santa Barbara. The Sea League is a BIPOC-led organization dedicated to providing opportunities for youth of color to engage in ocean sports such as surfing, standup paddle boarding, kayaking, and free diving. TSL is an affordable, community-driven program that serves a high proportion of youth of color and low-income backgrounds. During the school year, the Sea League holds 2-hour sessions, 2 days a week from January to April (12 weeks). Participants are not expected to have experience or knowledge of the ocean. Program instructors are present to teach participants about ocean sports safety to ensure a fun, welcoming, and positive ocean experience. For kids who aren't comfortable in the water, TSL has partnered with the YMCA to provide vouchers for 8 free swim lessons. Programming in the summer includes approximately 6 sea kayaking or snorkeling boat trips within the Santa Barbara Channel and one overnight camping trip. The Conservancy's grant will support two years of TSL programming.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for "the Explore the Coast Grant Program."

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**WATTS LABOR COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE**

**\$160,000**

**Watts to Waves**

**South Coast**

Watts to Waves is a 2-year program that will provide approximately 707 Watts residents – children, families, and formerly incarcerated adults – with recreational group day trips in water, sand, and sun at local beaches and coastal locations. All participants will cycle through up to 6 coastal destinations throughout each year, and enjoy beach day activities such as swimming, kayaking, boogie boarding, and playing in the sand. Additionally, the project will take participants to observe marine life in the tidepools, explore the caves, and hike on the cliff to better see the ocean and marsh birds. Participants will also learn about water stewardship through a tour of the Los Angeles Environmental Learning Center and Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**YOUTH MENTORING ACTION NETWORK (YMAN)**

**\$127,000**

**Youth Wellness Collaborative: Pathways to Our Coast**

**Inland Southern  
California**

Race, income, and physical distance are just some of the barriers that prevent Inland California’s working-class Black and Latinx youth from developing strong, positive relationships with California’s coast and beaches. YMAN’s Pathway to Our Coasts is a 24-month project dedicated to creating enjoyable and engaging beach and coast-based experiences for

approximately 240 youth from low-income families in the Pomona Valley-Inland Empire region of California. By changing the narrative of coastal access for youth of color; reducing economic and transportation challenges in getting to the beach; and developing engaging activities such as swimming, kayaking, and coastal botanical tours, this project aims to foster a deeper sense of belonging among youth to California’s coast that will fuel the desire and eagerness to return again and again.

**Funding:** The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is from a FY 2021/2022 appropriation from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Grant Program.”

**Enabling Legislation:** The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

**Strategic Plan:** The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

**CEQA:** The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

#### **CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA:**

The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy’s Project Selection Criteria, last updated on September 23, 2021, in the following respects:

##### **Selection Criteria**

#### **1. Extent to which the project helps the Conservancy accomplish the objectives in the Strategic Plan.**

See the “Consistency with Conservancy’s Strategic Plan” section below.

#### **2. Project is a good investment of state resources.**

The projects recommended for funding under this authorization will serve an estimated 9,900 people from communities throughout the state and will provide public access to the coast for recreational, educational, and stewardship programs. The ETC projects will leverage approximately \$1.9 million in additional funding and hundreds of hours of support by volunteers.



The ETC grants program is consistent with the San Francisco Bay Plan (see “Consistency with Bay Plan”, below), the California Coastal Act goal to “maximize public access to and along the coast,” and the conservation priorities to expand access to nature identified in [Pathways to 30x30](#).

**3. Project includes a serious effort to engage tribes. Examples of tribal engagement include good faith, documented efforts to work with tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated to the project area.**

Among the communities that are designated a priority under the grants program are federally-recognized tribes and indigenous communities. Project partners who serve these communities work with tribes to access coastal ancestral lands for traditional stewardship and leadership development, promote inter-generational communication, and practice traditional ecological knowledge. The following proposed ETC projects are specifically designed to serve tribal communities. Several other projects expect to serve some Native American participants.

- Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation (Exploring the Kumeyaay Coast)
- North Coast Resource Conservation & Development Council (Exploring Coastal Pomo Nation Lands)
- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (Santa Ynez Chumash Environmental Coastal Resource & Education Project)

**4. Project delivers multiple benefits and significant positive impact.**

While the primary objective of the ETC grants program is to provide Californians joyful coastal experiences, the ETC program has several additional benefits. The projects recommended for funding will reduce economic barriers by providing participants with free or reduced-cost program fees. They will eliminate geographic barriers for coastal and inland communities alike through subsidized transportation. They will eliminate physical barriers by providing coastal experiences for persons with disabilities. They will reduce societal barriers by offering safe access and culturally relevant activities to coastal locations. In addition, the projects will help to protect California’s coast for future generations by inspiring a coastal stewardship ethic.

Evidence suggests that underserved and/or frontline communities are disproportionately affected by social and environmental stressors. ETC projects recommended for funding are expected to alleviate these stressors either through direct coastal access or through a combination of access and intentional programming designed to provide mental and physical health benefits.

A subset of the projects recommended for funding will feature program elements that provide participants with leadership development and/or job training programs, preparing them for potential long-term opportunities in the environmental or sustainable land use field.

**5. Project planned with meaningful community engagement and broad community support.**

The projects recommended for funding are primarily led by nonprofit organizations who either have close ties with the communities they serve or are led by the communities themselves.

Engagement typically involves dialogue between the communities being served and staff with relevant training and cultural competency.

The broad level of support for environmental education, resource protection and enhancement, and public access projects is indicated by the large numbers of people that will participate in the 2022-2023 ETC program. It is estimated that over 9,900 people will be served by the 31 ETC projects. In addition, this suite of proposed ETC projects is supported by elected officials, numerous community and nonprofit organizations, and local agencies (See Exhibit 3).

**PROJECT FINANCING**

<b>Coastal Conservancy</b>	<b>\$3,301,005</b>
Others (matching funds excluding in-kind)	\$1,971,527
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$5,272,532</b>

The anticipated source of Conservancy funding is a fiscal year 2021-2022 appropriation to the Conservancy from the General Fund specifically for “the Explore the Coast Program.”

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. Project partners will provide approximately \$1.9 million in matching funds for the 2022-2023 ETC grants. The projects will also benefit from hundreds of hours of volunteer time, plus donations or price reductions on outdoor gear, clothing, equipment, and transportation services, and free site and facility usages via partnerships between organizations.

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

Staff recommends the Conservancy find that the 31 proposed projects are consistent with the Conservancy’s enabling legislation, Division 21 of the Public Resources Code as described in the “Project Summary” section, above. Below is a list of the proposed projects that staff recommends the Conservancy find consistent with the relevant section of the Conservancy’s enabling legislation.

Chapter 4.5 San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program

The proposed projects listed below will be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 31160-31165, regarding recreational and resource goals in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Pursuant to Section 31162(a), the Conservancy is authorized to award grants to projects located in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area that will help improve public access to, within, and around the bay, coast, ridgetops and urban open spaces through completion and operation of regional bay, coast, water and ridge trail systems, and local trails connecting to population centers and public facilities. Pursuant to Section 31162(d), the Conservancy is authorized to

award grants that promote, assist, and enhance projects that provide open space and natural areas that are accessible to urban populations for recreational and educational purposes. Pursuant to Section 31165, the Conservancy is authorized to award grants for activities that are compatible with the preservation, restoration, or enhancement of ocean, coastal, bay, or watershed resources, or that facilitate environmental education related to these resources. The projects listed below are consistent with these sections as they all help to achieve at least one of these goals, as more particularly described in the “Project Summary” section, above.

- AYPAL: Building API Community Power is a fiscally sponsored project of Asian Pacific Environmental Network (AYPAL: Building API Community Power)
- BlindSail SF Bay is a fiscally sponsored project of MarinLink (BlindSail SF Bay)
- Friends of the Petaluma River (Golden Eagles)
- Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment (New Voices are Rising Summer Academy: Submerge in Water Justice Week Program)
- Saved By Nature (Dock of the Bay)
- The Unity Care Group (Seasons of Learning: Coastal Edition)

#### Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways

All projects proposed for funding will be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 31400-31410, regarding public access to and enjoyment of coastal resources.

Section 31400 states the Legislature’s intent that the Conservancy play a principal role in the implementation of a system of public accessways to and along the state’s coastline, including San Francisco Bay. Section 31400.3 authorizes the Conservancy to provide such assistance as is required to aid public agencies and nonprofit organizations in establishing a system of public coastal accessways, and related functions necessary to meet the objectives of this division. All projects proposed for funding are consistent with these sections as more particularly described in the “Project Summary” section, above.

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

The 31 projects proposed for funding assist the Conservancy in meeting a number of its Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives. Relevant Goals and Objectives are listed below, along with the names of the proposed projects that meet each goal. Please see the “Project Summary” section, above, for how each proposed project meets the relevant goal(s) and objective(s).

Consistent with **Goal 2, Objective A**, which seeks to develop projects that expand opportunities for access for people with disabilities to and along the coast and coastal trails, the following proposed projects will contribute to this goal:

- BlindSail SF Bay is a fiscally sponsored project of MarinLink (BlindSail SF Bay)
- Hearts for Sights Foundation (Hearts for Sight Coastal Outings for Visually Impaired People)
- Orange County Adult Achievement Center dba My Day Counts (Comprehensive Leadership Learning Cohort at the Coast)

- Saved By Nature (Dock of the Bay)
- Surfing Madonna Oceans Project (Special Needs Surf Camp)

Consistent with **Goal 4, Objective A**, all proposed 2022-2023 ETC projects will contribute to the goal of supporting educational programs and interpretive events that improve public understanding and promote stewardship of coastal resources.

Consistent with **Goal 13, Objective L**, which seeks to implement projects that expand opportunities for access for people with disabilities to natural areas in the San Francisco Bay region, the following proposed project will contribute to this goal:

- BlindSail SF Bay is a fiscally sponsored project of MarinLink (BlindSail SF Bay)
- Saved By Nature (Dock of the Bay)

Consistent with **Goal 16, Objective A**, which seeks to prioritize projects for funding that are located in disadvantaged communities or directly benefit disadvantaged communities, the following proposed projects will contribute to this goal:

- AYPAL: Building API Community Power is a fiscally sponsored project of Asian Pacific Environmental Network (AYPAL: Building API Community Power)
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County and the Inland Empire (Increasing Diversity in Ocean Conservation Through Mentorship)
- California Health Collaborative (Kings Coastal Experiences for Youth)
- Community Rowing San Diego (Crew for Conservation and Challenge)
- Conservation Corps North Bay (Coastal Connections: Creating Pathways to Point Reyes for Local Youth)
- Desert Recreation Foundation (Coastal Encounters)
- Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM) (FIRM Refuge Trips)
- Lily of the Valley Emmanuel Church of Jesus Christ (Communities of Color Explore the Coast)
- MOSTe (Motivating Our Students Through Experience) (Overnight Coastal Exploration Weekends)
- Napa County Office of Education (COOL School at the Coast)
- North Coast Resource Conservation & Development Council (Exploring Coastal Pomo Nation Lands)
- Noyo Center for Marine Science (FOR ALL: Fun Outdoors on the River)
- Orange County Adult Achievement Center dba My Day Counts (Comprehensive Leadership Learning Cohort at the Coast)
- Point Reyes National Seashore Association (Youth in Parks)
- Project Avary (Outdoor Leadership Program for Children with Incarcerated Parents)
- Redwood Community Action Agency (Little River Experience: Coastal Connections at the Crossroads)
- Refuge Armona (Refuge Dream Days)
- Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment (New Voices are Rising Summer Academy: Submerge in Water Justice Week)

- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (Santa Ynez Chumash Environmental Coastal Resource & Education Project)
- Saved By Nature (Dock of the Bay)
- The Unity Care Group (Seasons of Learning: Coastal Edition)
- Watts Labor Community Action Committee (Watts to Waves)
- Youth Mentoring Action Network (Youth Wellness Collaborative: Pathways to Our Coast)

Consistent with **Goal 16, Objective C**, all the proposed 2022-2023 ETC projects will contribute to the goal of Increasing coastal access for all Californians, by supporting organizations that provide coastal experiences to underserved populations.

### **CONSISTENCY WITH SAN FRANCISCO BAY PLAN**

The ETC Program seeks to provide coastal and bayshore experiences for people and communities who face challenges to accessing or enjoying the coast. Some of the projects under this program are authorized pursuant to Chapter 4.5 of the Conservancy’s enabling legislation, regarding the San Francisco Bay Conservancy Program, and either (1) take place at least in part along the Bay shoreline and/or (2) provide access for people with disabilities in the Bay Area and cite Strategic Plan objective 13L. These projects are consistent with the findings and policies of the San Francisco Bay Plan as described below:

The proposed projects are consistent with the following Bay Plan “**Part IV - Recreation**” section findings: (1) That the Bay and its shoreline provide unique recreational opportunities that can inspire an appreciation of the Bay and can motivate people to participate in responsible management and protection of the Bay; (2) there is increasing need for a variety of accessible, water-oriented recreational facilities and diverse recreational opportunities at these facilities for people of all races, cultures, ages, and income levels; (3) education, interpretation, and community service opportunities in waterfront wildlife and park areas can increase appreciation and stewardship of the Bay and improve public safety; and (4) the importance of the regional Bay, Ridge, and Water Trail systems in connecting communities to the shoreline.

The proposed projects are consistent with the Bay Plan’s “**Part IV - Public Access**” section findings: (1) The Bay provides an environment for numerous forms of public enjoyment including viewing, photography, wildlife observation, nature study, fishing, wading, walking, bicycling, jogging, or just sitting beside the water; (2) the Bay and its shoreline can be refuges from heat and noise and can offer relief from crowded, often stressful, urban areas, thereby contributing to well-being; and (3) certain communities may be physically and/or culturally disconnected from public access areas due to land use patterns, poor public transit, lack of safe bicycle and walking paths, language barriers, economic barriers, and/or culturally inaccessible designs. In addition, Public Access Policy #10 states that diverse and interesting public access experiences should be provided that that encourage users to remain in designated access areas to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects on wildlife and their habitat. All projects authorized under Chapter 4.5 will facilitate appropriate enjoyment and use of the San Francisco Bay shoreline in a manner consistent with this policy.

**CEQA COMPLIANCE:**

Conservancy staff reviewed the 31 proposed projects for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000-21189 and its implementing regulations (14 California Code of Regulations, Sections 15000-15387)). All of the proposed projects are categorically exempt under CEQA. Please see the “Project Summary” section above, for more information on each proposed project and its compliance with CEQA. Applicable CEQA exemptions are listed below.

14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities): All 31 of the proposed 2022-2023 ETC projects are categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301, which exempts operation, maintenance, and minor alterations of existing facilities or topographic features involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use, including pedestrian trails (Section 15301(c)) and wildlife areas and stream channels to protect fish and wildlife resources (Section 15301(i)).

Upon approval of the projects, Conservancy staff will file Notices of Exemption.