

STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
November 30, 2023

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Douglas Bosco (Public Member), Chair  
Joy Sterling (Public Member),  
Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš (Public Member)  
Bryan Cash (Designated, Department of Natural Resources)  
Jeremiah Hallisey (Public Member)  
Donne Brownsey (Designated, Coastal Commission)

**OVERSIGHT MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Laird (District 17)  
Assembly Member Hart (District 37)  
Assembly Member Ward (District 78)  
Kara Woodruff (Representative for Senator Laird, District 17)

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Amy Hutzal, Executive Officer  
Amy Roach, General Counsel

**LOCATION:**

San Luis Obispo City Council Chambers  
990 Palm Street,  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

**MEETING START TIME: 10:06A.M.**

**1. ROLL CALL**

Douglas Bosco (Public Member), Chair

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Joy Sterling (Public Member),  
Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš (Public Member)  
Bryan Cash (Designated, Department of Natural Resources)  
Donne Brownsey (Coastal Commission Chair)  
Jeremiah Hallisey (Public Member)

2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** of the Conservancy’s November 30, 2023 public meeting. Moved and seconded. Minutes were approved.

3. **CONSENT ITEMS**

Following several public comments, Chair Bosco asked the board if any member requested any consent item be removed. Hearing no such request, the following consent items were moved for approval, seconded, and approved by Sterling, Brownsey, Cash, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Hallisey, Bosco (none opposed).

**A. EEL RIVER DAM REMOVAL COMMUNITY PLAN**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to CalWild (“the grantee”) for preparation of a community plan and conceptual project designs to ameliorate changes resulting from the potential decommissioning and removal of the Potter Valley Project hydroelectric facility in Lake and Mendocino counties.

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

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
3. Evidence that the grantee has prepared a fully formulated strategy for community engagement and has secured commitments for a sufficient level of community participation in the engagement to enable the grantee to implement the project successfully.

**Findings:**

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

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1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapters 3 and 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code regarding greenhouse gas emissions and natural resource enhancement, respectively.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. CalWild is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

**B. ARENA COVE HARBOR ACCESS AND RESILIENCE PLAN**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed four hundred eighty-five thousand dollars (\$485,000) to the City of Point Arena (the “grantee”) to prepare the Arena Cove Harbor Access and Resilience Plan, which will include plans, designs, and environmental review for a variety of improvements to protect and enhance existing and future use of the Point Arena Pier, Harbor, and Cove for commercial and recreational purposes in the City of Point Arena, Mendocino County (the “project”).

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

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
3. In addition, to the extent appropriate, the grantee shall incorporate the guidelines of the Conservancy’s ‘Coastal Access Project Standards.’

**Findings:**

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding Urban Waterfront Restoration and a System of Public Accessways, respectively.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

**C. BIG CANYON TIDAL MARSH RESTORATION PHASE 3**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed one million five hundred seventy-five thousand four hundred and nine dollars (\$1,575,409), including nine hundred sixty-nine thousand eight hundred and eighteen dollars (\$969,818) awarded to the Conservancy by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to the Newport Bay Conservancy (“the grantee”) to restore 14.3 acres of coastal wetlands and associated uplands in

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Upper Newport Bay within the 60-acre Big Canyon Nature Park in the City of Newport Beach, Orange County.

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

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

**Findings:**

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding enhancement of coastal resources.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The Newport Bay Conservancy is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Public Comment: Billy Arana

**D. MAPPING YELMU'S HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed four hundred forty-six thousand four hundred dollars (\$446,400) to the San Francisco Estuary Institute ("the grantee") to conduct an ecological and ethnographic study of San Francisco in partnership with the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone, develop cultural and ecological landscape maps of San Francisco that can be used for interpretive programs and capital project planning, and conduct outreach activities to inform educators, public entities, and the public about the study and maps.

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

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

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**Findings:**

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

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

**E. EXPEDITED PERMITTING FOR AQUATIC HABITAT RESTORATION: AUGMENTATION**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed two hundred seventy thousand three hundred dollars (\$270,300) to augment the Conservancy's existing grant of \$620,000 to Sustainable Conservation ("the grantee") to advance adoption of, and conduct outreach to facilitate the use of, programmatic permits for aquatic habitat restoration and water quality improvement projects.

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

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

**Findings:**

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

1. The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding integrated coastal and marine resources protection projects.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. Sustainable Conservation is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

**F. CONNECTED COASTLINES ENCINITAS**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) to the City of Encinitas ("the grantee") to install a 4G private mesh network that will increase communications capabilities for fire and marine safety personnel across 3.5 miles of Encinitas coastline. Prior to commencement of the project, the

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grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

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

**Findings:**

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Section 31400.3 regarding providing assistance as is required to aid public agencies in establishing a system of public coastal accessways, and related functions necessary to meet the objectives of this division.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

**G. DEL NORTE SEA TO MARKET**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed two hundred and sixty thousand one hundred dollars (\$260,100) to the Family Resource Center of the Redwoods (“the grantee”) to construct a direct-to-consumer fish processing and sales facility (the “project”), consisting of a filet station, restroom, and storefront, at the Crescent City Harbor, in Del Norte County.

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

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

Prior to commencing the project, the grantee shall enter into and record an agreement pursuant to Public Resources Code 31116(d) sufficient to protect the public interest in the improvements.

**Findings:**

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapters 3 and 7 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding Climate Resilience and Urban Waterfront Restoration respectively.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The Family Resource Center of the Redwoods is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

**H. SANTA ANA RIVER TRAIL GREEN RIVER GOLF COURSE SEGMENT**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed one million three hundred thousand dollars (\$1,300,000) to augment the Conservancy's existing grant of two million three hundred thousand (\$2,300,000) to the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District for preparation of design, engineering, and other documentation needed for environmental review for a 1.5-mile Santa Ana River Trail segment that is adjacent to the Green River Golf Course and connects to the Orange County line in the County of Riverside. This authorization remains subject to the same conditions contained in the Conservancy's September 28, 2017 authorization.

**Findings:**

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 4.6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program and funding for recreational opportunities and trails.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

**I. CAMINO DE LA COSTA STAIRWAY REPAIR FEASIBILITY STUDY**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed three hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$325,000) to the City of San Diego ("the grantee") to conduct a feasibility study for the repair of the beach access stairway and potential improvements to the scenic overlook and parking area located adjacent to 5990 West Camino De La Costa in the La Jolla neighborhood in the City of San Diego (see Exhibit 2).

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

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

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2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
3. In addition, to the extent appropriate, the City of San Diego shall incorporate the guidelines of the Conservancy's 'Coastal Access Project Standards'.

**Findings:**

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding a system of public accessways to and along the state's coastline.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

**J. BEACH AND COAST ACCESIBILITY PROGRAM**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to Orange County Coastkeeper ("the grantee") for the Beach and Coast Accessibility Program to provide grants to nonprofits, agencies, and tribes for beach wheelchairs and other equipment to increase accessibility to California's beaches and coast in coastal counties statewide.

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

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

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding a System of Public Accessways.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. Orange County Coastkeeper is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

**K. SEA OTTER RECOVERY GRANTS 2024**

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed one hundred seventy-four thousand four hundred dollars (\$174,400) to implement two projects to assist in the recovery of the southern sea otter, specifically as follows, to:



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- Defenders of Wildlife: ninety-nine thousand two hundred dollars (\$99,200) to implement the 2023-2024 Southern Sea Otter Conceptual Plan, which sets forth a planning process for the reintroduction of sea otters into northern California.
- Sea Otter Savvy: seventy-five thousand two hundred dollars (\$75,200) to conduct an educational outreach and community engagement program on responsible viewing of wild sea otters to reduce sea otter disturbance.

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

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

Prior to commencement of their project, Defenders of Wildlife shall submit to the Executive Officer the completed 2023-2024 Southern Sea Otter Conceptual Plan.

**Findings:**

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding Integrated Coastal and Marine Resource Protection.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. Defenders of Wildlife and Sea Otter Savvy are nonprofit organizations organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

**4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT**

- A. Mary Small, Deputy Executive Officer, presented the Conservancy's Legislative report.
- B. Mary Small, Deputy Executive Officer, presented the Conservancy's Annual Financial report.
- C. Tim Duff, Project Manager, presented on the Diablo Canyon Project.
- D. Jessica Davenport, Deputy Regional Manager, presented on San Francisco Bay Sea Level Rise Coordination efforts.

**CENTRAL COAST**

**5. TORO CREEK COUNTY PARK ACQUISITION – PHASE II**

Tim Duff of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

**Resolution:**

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The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) to Cayucos Land Conservancy (“the grantee”) to acquire and transfer to San Luis Obispo County 748 acres of land for addition to Toro Creek County Park located between Morro Bay and Cayucos in San Luis Obispo County, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of funds for the acquisition, the grantee shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer):
  - a. All relevant acquisition documents for the acquisition including, without limitation, the appraisal, purchase and sale agreement, deed, escrow instructions, environmental or hazardous materials assessment, and title report;
  - b. A baseline conditions report; and
  - c. Evidence that sufficient funds are available to complete the acquisition.
2. The grantee shall pay no more than fair market value for the property, as established in an appraisal approved by the Executive Officer.
3. The property acquired under this authorization shall be managed and operated to protect open space and wildlife habitat and to provide public access consistent with these purposes. The property shall be permanently dedicated to those purposes by an appropriate instrument approved by the Executive Officer.
4. Conservancy funding shall be acknowledged by erecting and maintaining a sign on the property or in a nearby publicly-viewable area, the design and location of which are to be approved by the Executive Officer.

**Findings:**

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding integrated coastal and marine resource protection.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The Cayucos Land Conservancy is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Brownsey, Cash, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco; Voting against: none

Public Comment: none

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**6. VALLEMAR SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE RELOCATION PROJECT**

Jessica Madden of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed eight hundred thirteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$813,500) to the San Mateo Resource Conservation District (“the grantee”) to conduct community outreach and prepare technical studies, preliminary design plans, and environmental review and permit documents for the relocation of public sewer infrastructure away from an eroding coastal bluff in San Mateo County.

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

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

**Findings:**

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Section 31113 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Climate Ready Program.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Brownsey, Cash, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco; Voting against: none

Public Comment: none

**7. HISS PARCEL ACQUISITION**

Erin Gravely of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed two million seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$2,750,000) to the Big Sur Land Trust (“the grantee”) to acquire an 84-acre parcel of land in the City of Monterey (Assessor’s Parcel No. 259-091-0010) for natural resource conservation, California Native American cultural resource

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conservation, habitat connectivity, California Native American tribal access, and public access, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of funds for the acquisition, the grantee shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer):
  - a. All relevant acquisition documents for the acquisition including, without limitation, the appraisal, purchase and sale agreement, deed, escrow instructions, environmental or hazardous materials assessment, and title report;
  - b. A baseline conditions report; and
  - c. Evidence that sufficient funds are available to complete the acquisition.
2. The grantee shall pay no more than fair market value for the property, as established in an appraisal approved by the Executive Officer.
3. The property acquired under this authorization shall be managed and operated for natural and California Native American tribal cultural resource conservation, habitat connectivity, California Native American tribal access, and public access. The property shall be permanently dedicated to those purposes by an appropriate instrument approved by the Executive Officer.
4. Conservancy funding shall be acknowledged by erecting and maintaining a sign on the property or in a nearby publicly-viewable area, the design and location of which are to be approved by the Executive Officer.

Findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding integrated coastal and marine resource protection.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The Big Sur Land Trust is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Brownsey, Cash, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco; Voting against: none

Public Comment: none

## **SOUTH COAST**

### **8. PALOS VERDES BLUE BUTERFLY RECOVERY PROJECT**

Dario Bobeda-Padilla of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

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**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000) to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (“the grantee”) to carry out the Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly Recovery Project, consisting of the restoration of 342 acres through the removal of 325 acres of invasive plant species and planting of 17 acres of native butterfly habitat, creation of a native seed bank, and reconstruction of a butterfly rearing facility.

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

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding.
4. Evidence that all permits and approvals required to implement the project have been obtained.
5. Evidence that the grantee has entered into agreements sufficient to enable the grantee to implement, operate, and maintain the project.
6. Prior to commencing the project, the grantee shall enter into and record an agreement pursuant to Public Resources Code 31116(d) sufficient to protect the public interest in the improvements.

**Findings:**

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Climate Ready Program.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.
4. The Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the two Environmental Impact Reports listed below that were adopted by the City of Rancho Palos Verdes pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) and attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 4. The Conservancy finds that the proposed project as designed and mitigated avoids, reduces, or mitigates the potentially significant environmental effects to a less-than-significant level, and that there is no substantial evidence based on the record as a whole that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, as defined in 14 Cal. Code Regulations Section 15382.

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The two applicable CEQA documents are:

- a. Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the Rancho Palos Verdes Natural Communities Conservation Planning Subarea Plan (Project No. /State Clearinghouse No. 2003071008). Certified July 2004.
- b. FEIR Addendum for the Rancho Palos Verdes Natural Community Conservation Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan (State Clearinghouse No. 2003071008). Certified March 2018.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Brownsey, Cash, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco; Voting against: none

Public Comment: none

## **9. SAN DIEGO COASTAL RESILIENCE MASTER PLAN**

Kellan Warner of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

### **Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed one million seventy-two thousand dollars (\$1,072,000) to the City of San Diego (“the grantee”) to the City of San Diego to conduct community and tribal engagement and prepare engineering and design plans for nature-based solutions to sea level rise at three locations in the city of San Diego, in connection with preparing the City’s Coastal Resilience Master Plan. Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

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

### **Findings:**

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

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

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Brownsey, Cash, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco; Voting against: none

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Public Comment: none

**10. TORREY PINES STATE BEACH SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION: DESIGN AND ENGINEERING**

Kellan Warner of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed two million, two hundred sixty-eight thousand, one hundred dollars (\$2,268,100) to the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation (“the grantee”) to conduct outreach and prepare engineering designs and permit applications to relocate parking facilities to preserve public access to North Torrey Pines State Beach, San Diego County. Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

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

**Findings:**

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

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

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Brownsey, Cash, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco; Voting against: none

Public Comment: none

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**NORTH COAST**

**11. COASTAL RESILIENCE PLANNING FOR FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES ON HUMBOLDT BAY**

Fanny Yang of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed six hundred ninety three thousand seven hundred dollars (\$693,700) to the County of Humboldt (“the grantee”) to develop a coastal resilience planning framework, conduct community and tribal engagement, complete a sea level rise and flood vulnerability assessment and an adaptation feasibility analysis, and prepare conceptual designs and preliminary engineering plans for sea level rise adaptation projects for the communities of King Salmon and Fields Landing in Humboldt County.

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

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

**Findings:**

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Section 31113 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Climate Ready Program.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Brownsey, Cash, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco; Voting against: none

Public Comment: none



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**12. GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL – WILLITS RAIL TRAIL PROJECT**

Louisa Morris of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed three million eight hundred thirteen thousand dollars (\$3,813,000) to the City of Willits (“the grantee”) to implement the Willits Rail with Trail Project, consisting of construction of a 1.6mile trail between East Hill Road and East Commercial Street in the City of Willits that will eventually become part of the Great Redwood Trail.

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

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

In addition, to the extent appropriate, the City of Willits shall incorporate the guidelines of the Conservancy’s ‘Coastal Access Project Standards’.

**Findings:**

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding a system of public accessways.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the “Willits Rail with Trail Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration” adopted by the City of Willits on April 27, 2022, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) and attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 4. The Conservancy finds that the proposed project, as designed and mitigated avoids, reduces, or mitigates the potentially significant environmental effects to a less-than-significant level, and that there is no substantial evidence based on the record as a whole that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, as defined in 14 Cal. Code Regulations Section 15382.

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Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Brownsey, Cash, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco; Voting against: none

Public Comment: none

**13. BUSH PARCEL ACQUISITION**

Joel Gerwin of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed seven hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$725,000) to the Elk Valley Rancheria, California (“the grantee”) for the acquisition of the 9.19-acre Bush parcel (Del Norte County Assessor Parcel No. 115-030-007) on Crescent Beach, south of Crescent City, in Del Norte County, for the purposes of protecting open space, protecting public and tribal access, protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat, and sea level rise adaptation measures, including measures to protect nearby roads and highways, consistent with open space and habitat protection; and for preparation of a plan for wildlife habitat enhancement and public access for the property, and for removal of invasive species on the property. The grant is authorized subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of funds for the acquisition, the grantee shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer):
  - a. All relevant acquisition documents for the acquisition including, without limitation, the appraisal, purchase and sale agreement, deed, escrow instructions, environmental or hazardous materials assessment, and title report;
  - b. A baseline conditions report; and
  - c. Evidence that sufficient funds are available to complete the acquisition.
2. The grantee shall pay no more than fair market value for the property, as established in an appraisal approved by the Executive Officer.
3. The property acquired under this authorization shall be managed and operated for protecting open space, protecting public and tribal access, protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat, and sea level rise adaptation measures, including measures to protect nearby roads and highways, consistent with open space and habitat protection. The property shall be permanently dedicated to those purposes by an appropriate instrument approved by the Executive Officer.

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4. Conservancy funding shall be acknowledged by erecting and maintaining a sign on the property or in a nearby publicly viewable area, the design and location of which are to be approved by the Executive Officer.
5. Prior to the disbursement of funds for enhancement planning and invasive species removal, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:
  - a. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
  - b. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
  - c. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding.
  - d. Evidence that all permits and approvals required to implement the project have been obtained.

**Findings:**

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Section 31113 of Chapter 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Climate Ready Program.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Brownsey, Cash, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco; Voting against: none

Public Comment: none

**14. MATTOLE ESTUARY LOWER BEAR CREEK HABITAT RESTORATION**

Su Corbaley of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed two million, two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$2,250,000) to the Mattole Salmon Group (the “grantee”) to reconnect Lower Bear Creek to the middle slough of the Mattole River Estuary, in part by elevating road infrastructure, to address critical habitat needs for endangered salmonids and improve resilience to climate change and sea level rise in Humboldt County (the “project”).

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

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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.
4. Evidence that all permits and approvals required to implement the project have been obtained.
5. Evidence that the grantee has entered into agreements sufficient to enable the grantee to implement, operate, and maintain the project.

**Findings:**

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding enhancement of coastal resources.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The Mattole Salmon Group is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.
4. The Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the “Lower Bear Creek Habitat Enhancement Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration” adopted by Humboldt County on January 6, 2023, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) and attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 4. The Conservancy finds that the proposed project as designed and mitigated avoids, reduces, or mitigates the potentially significant environmental effects to a less-than-significant level, and that there is no substantial evidence based on the record as a whole that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, as defined in 14 Cal. Code Regulations Section 15382.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Brownsey, Cash, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco; Voting against: none

Public Comment: none

**15. BOLINAS LAGOON WYE RESILIENCY PROJECT**

Su Corbaley of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed one million five hundred four thousand, nine hundred ninety dollars (\$1,504,990) to the Marin

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County Open Space District (“the grantee”) to implement the Bolinas Lagoon Wye Resiliency Project, which will reduce localized flooding and increase resilience to sea level rise and which consists of restoring 20 acres of tidal and riparian wetlands and returning Lewis Gulch Creek to its historic floodplain by, in part, removing and elevating roads at the northern end of Bolinas Lagoon in Marin County.

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

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

**Findings:**

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding enhancement of coastal resources.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the “Final Revised Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed Bolinas Lagoon Wye Wetlands Resiliency Project” adopted by the Marin County Open Space District on October 10, 2023, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) and attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 5. The Conservancy finds that the proposed project as designed and mitigated avoids, reduces, or mitigates the potentially significant environmental effects to a less-than-significant level, and that there is no substantial evidence based on the record as a whole that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, as defined in 14 Cal. Code Regulations Section 15382.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Brownsey, Cash, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco; Voting against: none

Public Comment: none

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**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA**

**16. SOUTHERN EMBARCADERO RESILIENCE AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

Eric Johnson of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed seven million and eight hundred thousand dollars (\$7,800,000) to the Port of San Francisco (“the grantee”) to develop plans and engineering designs to adapt shoreline infrastructure to sea level rise, improve public access amenities, and include green-gray infrastructure opportunities, for a 0.6-mile stretch of the southern Embarcadero waterfront in San Francisco. Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

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

**Findings:**

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

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

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Brownsey, Cash, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco; Voting against: none

Public Comment: none

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**17. NAPA RIVER ESTUARY ACQUISITION**

Linda Tong of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

**Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed two million, five hundred and twelve thousand, five hundred dollars (\$2,512,500) to Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (“the grantee”) to acquire approximately 57 acres of historic tidal marshland within the lower tidal reach of the Napa River in Napa County (Assessor’s Parcel Nos. 043-103-007, 043-103-020, 043-103-021, 043-103-022) for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of natural and scenic resources, including wetlands and open space; and, to the extent compatible with the aforementioned purposes: public access, passive recreation, and California Native American tribal cultural uses. This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of funds for the acquisition, the grantee shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer):
  - a. All relevant acquisition documents for the acquisition including, without limitation, the appraisal, purchase and sale agreement, deed, escrow instructions, environmental or hazardous materials assessment, and title report;
  - b. A baseline conditions report; and
  - c. Evidence that sufficient funds are available to complete the acquisition.
2. The grantee shall pay no more than fair market value for the property, as established in an appraisal approved by the Executive Officer.
3. The property acquired under this authorization shall be managed and operated for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of natural and scenic resources, including wetlands and open space; and, to the extent compatible with the aforementioned purposes: public access, passive recreation, and California Native American tribal cultural uses. The property shall be permanently dedicated to those purposes by an appropriate instrument approved by the Executive Officer.
4. The grantee shall continue to engage in consultations about potential plans for the property with all interested tribes who are included on the California Native American Heritage Commission Contact List.
5. Conservancy funding shall be acknowledged by erecting and maintaining a sign on the property or in a nearby publicly viewable area, the design and location of which are to be approved by the Executive Officer.

**Findings:**

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the impacts of climate change.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Brownsey, Cash, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco; Voting against: none

Public Comment: none

## **STATEWIDE**

### **18. COASTAL STORIES GRANT PROGRAM 2023**

Emely Lopez and Erica Johnson of the Coastal Conservancy presented the Staff Recommendation.

#### **Resolution:**

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes grants of a total amount not to exceed one million one hundred four thousand seven hundred thirty-six dollars (\$1,104,736) to eight nonprofit organizations for coastal storytelling projects that will create storytelling installations, murals, or interpretive materials that represent diverse communities' perspectives that historically have been excluded from narratives of California's coast and publicly accessible lands. The eight grantees, grant amounts, and project summaries are as follows (presented in alphabetical order):

- California Marine Sanctuary Foundation, fiscal sponsor for the Tribal Marine Stewardship Network: One hundred ninety-five thousand dollars (\$195,000) to gather, document, and interpret the traditional uses, practices, ceremonies, and ways of stewarding coastal marine resources of California Native American tribes along the California Coast. These stories will encompass sustainable practices, ways of living in better harmony with nature, and connections to place. The stories will be converted into easily understandable educational content for the public.
- Coastal Watershed Council: One hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000) to implement the San Lorenzo River Public Art Interpretation Project, which includes planning, designing, and installing two interpretive signs with QR codes that link to video and web content that will increase storytelling and representation of Indigenous, Chinese, and Latinx communities in public spaces in the City of Santa Cruz.



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- East Palo Alto Community Archive: Two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) to implement the East Palo Alto Community Heroes and Legends Project, which will engage communities in developing 3-5 physical interpretive and art installations at Cooley Landing Park to tell the history of the diverse community who contributed to the development of the park and the establishment of the 40-year-old city amidst racist redlining practices.
- Ink People Center for the Arts: Ninety-eight thousand dollars (\$98,000) to interview, record, and archive diverse community voices with accompanying exhibits at the Brenda Tuxford Gallery and Da Gou Rou Louwi' Cultural Center in Eureka, install a listening station at the Eureka Visitor Center, and make transcriptions of collected stories available as electronic versions via QR codes on signage along the Eureka Waterfront and Halverson Park.
- Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy: Sixty-three thousand six hundred thirty-six dollars (\$63,636) to partner with the Tongva Cultural Collective to develop audio-visual storytelling elements featuring Tongva-narrated stories and install connected wayfinding and native plant signage in a native plant garden at the White Point Nature Preserve. The project will tell a contemporary story of a coastal native community that has persevered against great odds and is growing stronger through language revitalization and facilitating Tongva people's return to their ancestral lands.
- Save the Redwoods League: One hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000) to plan, design, and fabricate new interpretive exhibits consisting of kiosks, signs, and interactive exhibits and experiences at a newly constructed comfort station at Founders Grove in Humboldt Redwoods State Park on the Avenue of the Giants in Humboldt County. New interpretive elements will incorporate the story of women who were key members of the coast redwood conservation movement and the current and ongoing stewardship stories of the Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria and Eel River Wailaki Tribe.
- Un Mar De Colores: Twenty-eight thousand two hundred dollars (\$28,200) to plan, design, and install an interactive mural representing the Latinx community recreating and surfing outdoors along the scenic coast highway in Encinitas, CA.
- Watsonville Wetlands Watch: One hundred sixty-nine thousand nine hundred dollars (\$169,900) to develop and install a community-designed mosaic mural and mosaicbordered paths with the theme of "Migrations" at the new Watsonville Nature Center in Watsonville to welcome visitors with an inclusive depiction of the Pajaro Valley and wetlands in Santa Cruz County.

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

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

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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 Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding implementing a system of public accessways to and along the California coast.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The proposed grantees are nonprofit organizations organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Moved and seconded.

Voting in favor: Brownsey, Cash, Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Hallisey, Sterling, Bosco; Voting against: none

Public Comment: none

**19. CONSERVANCY MEMBER COMMENTS**

Donne Brownsey made a comment.

Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš made a comment.

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

Walter Lamb spoke on Ballona Wetlands

**21. CLOSED SESSION**

Meeting closed at 1:43 P.M. for a closed session.

During the closed session, the Conservancy received information and advice from counsel, and provided direction to counsel, regarding:

Pappas, et al. v. State Coastal Conservancy, et al., Santa Barbara County Superior Court, Case No. 1417388; and

Grassroots Coalition, et al. v. California State Coastal Conservancy, et al., Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 21STCP02237.

Session was closed to the public pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(e)(2)(A).

Meeting re-opened to public at 2:12 P.M.

**22. ADJOURNMENT**

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Meeting adjourned at 2:18 P.M.