

San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program



San Francisco Bay Trail at Palo Alto Baylands

The **Tenth and Eleventh Years Report**

July 2008 through June 2010

prepared by the State Coastal Conservancy
May, 2011

About This Report

The San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program (Bay Area Conservancy Program) was established in 1997 through state legislation authored by Senator Byron Sher. The Bay Area Conservancy Program is administered by the California State Coastal Conservancy and received its first funding in July of 1999.

This report describes the projects that were awarded funds in the tenth and eleventh years of the Bay Area Conservancy Program, from July of 2008 through June of 2010. During a significant portion of these two years, the State Coastal Conservancy faced an unprecedented freeze on existing and new projects due to the State's budget crisis and difficulty selling bonds.

Despite the bond freeze, grants were awarded in all nine Bay Area counties that are within the jurisdiction of the Bay Area Conservancy Program, and for the full range of program responsibilities – regionally significant public parks, trails, natural habitat preservation and restoration, agricultural protection, and hands-on environmental education.

All acquisitions have been with willing sellers. All dollar amounts listed in this report are approximate and are subject to change as augmented with additional funds or reduced through cost-saving measures. Additionally, not all projects approved by the Conservancy will be implemented due to unforeseen design, funding, or acquisition-related complications.

Despite the diversity of grant recipients and project purposes, all of the funded projects share several characteristics: they are regionally significant; each achieves multiple goals; all are cooperative ventures bringing together many different agencies, organizations, and interests. They close institutional gaps and bring coherence and comprehensiveness to individual efforts. This report is not meant to be an exhaustive accounting of project financing. For more detailed project information please visit the Coastal Conservancy Board archives for FY 2008-2010 online at: <http://www.scc.ca.gov>.

This Report was produced by the State Coastal Conservancy. Special thanks go to Chris Worley for report preparation, to Sam Jenniches for map production, to Conservancy project managers for review, and to all the grantees and partners who made these projects a reality.



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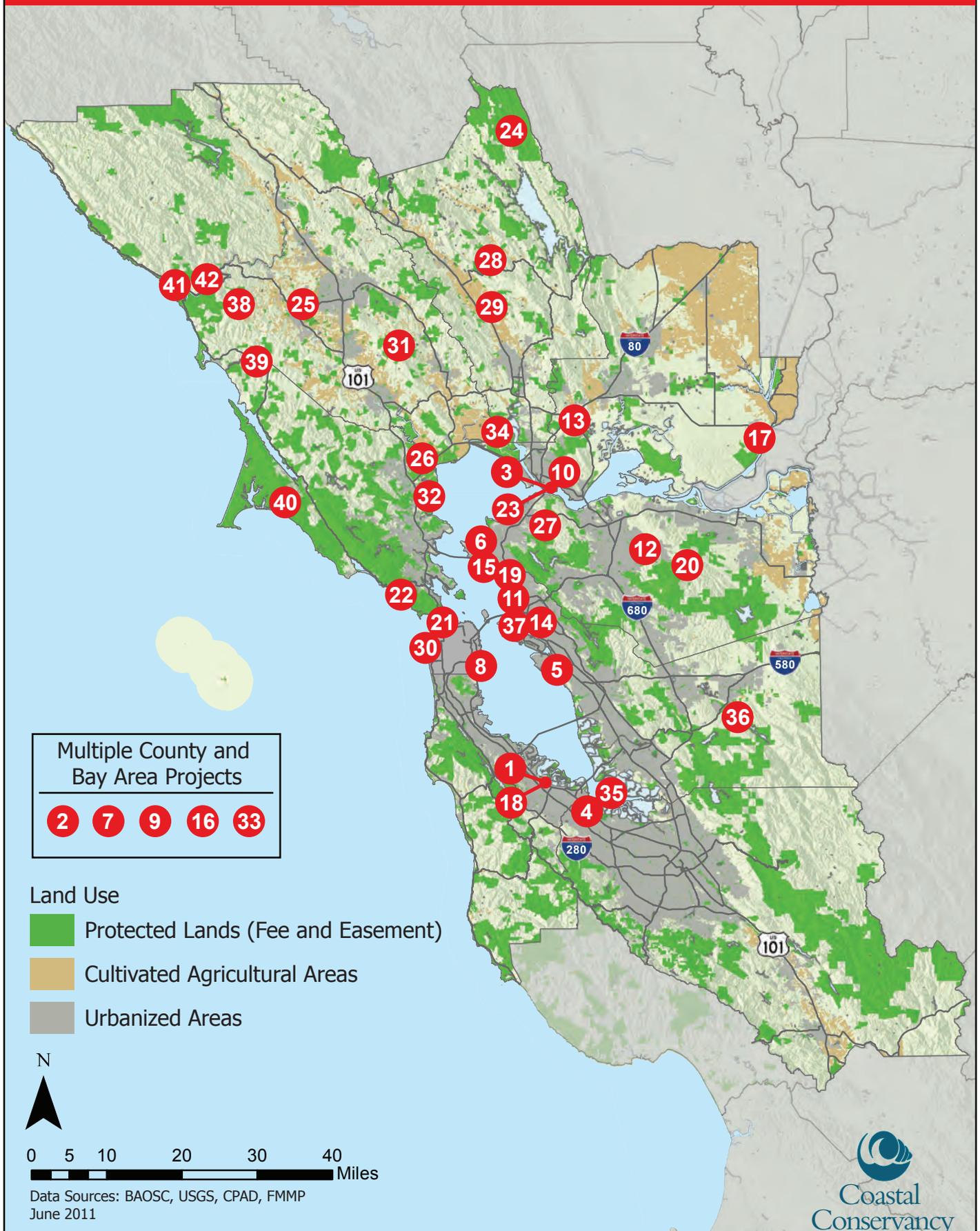
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Map of Bay Area Conservancy Projects (FY 08-10)



Funding Summary of Bay Area Conservancy Program Projects (July, 2008 - June, 2010)

<u>Grant Recipient / Project Sponsor</u>	Bay Area Conservancy Program (a)	Additional Conservancy Funding (b)	Matching Funds (c) (some estimated)
<i>Association of Bay Area Governments: San Francisco Bay Trail</i>			
1) Bair Island Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge Construction (d)	\$200,000		
2) Block Grant	\$3,000,000		\$14,216,795
3) Glen Cove Waterfront Park Trail Construction (d)	\$200,000		\$177,971
4) Palo Alto Baylands Trail Construction (d)	\$58,749		\$58,749
5) San Leandro Slough Crossing Construction (d)	\$300,000		\$3,001,000
6) West County Wastewater District Segment Construction (d)	\$150,000		\$824,134
<i>Bay Area Ridge Trail Council</i>			
7) Bay Area Ridge Trail Planning	\$1,200,000		\$3,600,000
<i>California State Parks Foundation</i>			
8) Yosemite Slough Wetland Restoration North Side Implementation			\$10,708,248
<i>California Wildlife Foundation</i>			
9) Invasive <i>Spartina</i> Project			\$60,500
<i>City of Benicia</i>			
10) Bay Area Ridge Trail: I-780 Overcrossing Construction	\$241,500		\$1,730,000
<i>City of Berkeley</i>			
11) Eastshore State Park Bay Trail Extension	\$355,000		\$1,928,000
<i>City of Concord</i>			
12) Galindo Creek Trail Gap Closure	\$150,000		\$1,388,277
<i>City of Fairfield</i>			
13) Bay Area Ridge Trail: McGary Road Trail Construction	\$150,000		\$1,985,915
<i>City of Oakland</i>			
14) Lake Merritt Water Quality and Habitat Improvements			\$83,187,900
<i>City of Richmond</i>			
15) San Francisco Bay Trail: Canal Boulevard Construction			\$97,000
<i>Coastal Conservancy Association</i>			
16) San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Project	\$45,000		\$573,395
<i>Delta Protection Commission</i>			
17) The Great California Delta Trail: Planning Process	\$100,000		\$322,200
<i>Ducks Unlimited</i>			
18) San Francisco Bay Trail: Bair Island Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge Construction	\$800,000		\$315,000

Funding Summary of Bay Area Conservancy Program Projects (July, 2008 - June, 2010)

<u>Grant Recipient / Project Sponsor</u>	Bay Area Conservancy Program (a)	Additional Conservancy Funding (b)	Matching Funds (c) (some estimated)
<i>East Bay Regional Park District</i> 19) Albany Beach Feasibility Study 20) Chaparral Spring Acquisition	\$1,400,000		\$200,000
<i>Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District</i> 21) Golden Gate Bridge South Visitor Plaza Improvements Design	\$300,000	\$200,000	
<i>Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy</i> 22) Lower Redwood Creek Restoration	\$1,000,000		\$9,750,000
<i>Greater Vallejo Recreation District</i> 23) Glen Cove Waterfront Park Trail Construction	\$75,000		
<i>Land Trust of Napa County</i> 24) Eticuera Creek Watershed Invasive Plant Control and Habitat Rest	\$118,200		\$581,900
<i>Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation</i> 25) Laguna Interpretive Center	\$700,000		\$1,280,000
<i>Marin Audubon Society</i> 26) Bahia Marsh Restoration			\$1,975,650
<i>Muir Heritage Land Trust</i> 27) Franklin Canyon Acquisition	\$1,000,000		\$1,610,018
<i>Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District</i> 28) Moore Creek Acquisition	\$1,650,000		\$1,730,000
<i>Napa County Resource Conservation District</i> 29) Napa River Fish Barrier Removal Plan	\$82,700		\$14,150
<i>San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association</i> 30) Ocean Beach Master Plan	\$300,000		\$110,000
<i>Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District</i> 31) Sonoma Mountain Ranch Acquisition	\$1,500,000		\$8,450,000
<i>State Coastal Conservancy</i> 32) Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project: Bel Marin Keys Unit V Exp 33) Invasive Spartina Project 34) Napa River Salt Marsh Restoration Project Monitoring 35) South San Francisco Bay Salt Ponds Restoration: Phase I Implementation	\$2,750,000	\$2,500,000	\$14,250,000 \$2,158,651 \$65,000 \$23,782,916
<i>Tri-Valley Conservancy</i> 36) Bobba Property Acquisition	\$600,000		\$900,000

Bay Area Projects Funded with Additional Coastal Conservancy Funds (July, 2008 - June, 2010)

<u>Grant Recipient / Project Sponsor</u>	Bay Area Conservancy Program (a)	Additional Conservancy Funding (b)	Matching Funds (c) (some estimated)
<i>Association of Bay Area Governments</i> 37) State of the Estuary Conference		\$100,000	\$240,000
<i>Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District</i> 38) Dutch Bill Creek Fish Passage Improvement 39) Estero Americano Dairy Enhancement, Phase II		\$494,500 \$155,000	\$448,000 \$472,000
<i>National Park Service (Point Reyes National Seashore)</i> 40) Point Reyes Youth Hostel Addition		\$230,000	\$470,000
<i>Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and Sonoma Lnd Trust</i> 41) Jenner Headlands Acquisition	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$28,000,000
<i>Sotoyome Resource Conservation District</i> 42) Austin Creek Watershed Restoration Program		\$262,190	\$173,873

Total Funds Spent in Nine-County Bay Area (July, 2008 - June, 2010)

	Bay Area Conservancy Program (a)	Additional Conservancy Funding (b)	Matching Funds (c) (some estimated)
	\$24,121,405	\$9,887,685	\$216,775,388
Total Funds from All Sources	\$250,784,478		

Notes:

- a) Funds appropriated to the Bay Area Conservancy Program
- b) Funds appropriated to the State Coastal Conservancy as an agency, of which some may be used in the Bay Area
- c) All other funds, including grants provided directly to the Conservancy from the Wildlife Conservation Board, CalTrans, NOAA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. EPA, and others
- d) Funds previously authorized via block grants and not counted towards totals

Description of Projects Funded by the Bay Area Conservancy Program

July 2008 – June 2010

Association of Bay Area Governments

The San Francisco Bay Trail Project is a non-profit that works with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to plan, promote, and implement the Bay Trail. The Conservancy provides block grants to ABAG for Bay Trail projects. Below are descriptions of the Bay Trail Block Grant and Bay Trail implementation projects approved by the Conservancy using these previously-authorized block grant funds; Bay Trail planning projects using the block grant do not need additional Conservancy authorization and are not included in this report.

1) SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL:

BAIR ISLAND PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

Location: Inner Bair Island, Redwood City, San Mateo County

Conservancy Funds: \$200,000 (funds previously authorized via block grants)

The Conservancy authorized the Association of Bay Area Governments to disburse \$200,000 of Bay Trail block grant funds to Ducks Unlimited to accomplish the project described in #18.

2) SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL:

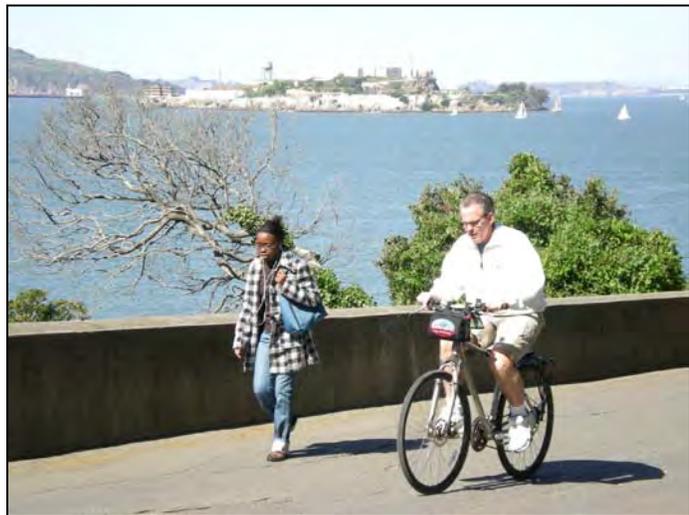
BLOCK GRANT

Location: Various locations along the bay shoreline of the nine San Francisco Bay Area counties

Conservancy Funds: \$3,000,000

Matching Funds: \$14,216,795

The Conservancy granted \$3,000,000 to the Association of Bay Area Governments to plan and implement the San Francisco Bay Trail. This is an augmentation to the fourth Bay Trail Block Grant to ABAG. The previous four Block Grants were for \$2,500,000 in 1999, \$7,387,500 in 2000, \$3,800,000 in 2004 and \$3,000,000 in 2007. The previous \$3,000,000 Block Grant was used to implement a bay-wide sign



program, plan/design over 15 miles, and construct over eight miles of Bay Trail. Over 100 Bay Trail projects have been undertaken with the four previous Block Grants.

This Block Grant will be used to solicit and evaluate grant proposals, to recommend to the Conservancy the award of grant funds to selected projects, to help design selected projects, to fund implementation of selected projects, to monitor implementation of funded projects, and for related matters including administrative costs.

3) SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL: GLEN COVE WATERFRONT PARK TRAIL CONSTRUCTION

Location: Glen Cove Waterfront Park in Solano County

Conservancy Funds: \$200,000 (funds previously authorized via block grants)

Matching Funds: \$177,971

The Conservancy authorized ABAG to disburse to the Greater Vallejo Recreation District \$200,000 of previously-authorized Block Grant funds to construct segments of the San Francisco Bay Trail in Glen Cove Waterfront Park, as follows:

- A 12-foot-wide paved trail segment that will run 1,600 feet along the length of the cove (the entire east-west length of the Park). This trail segment will include two-foot-wide decomposed granite shoulders on each side, and will be accessible per the Americans with Disabilities Act. This segment will likely be designated as both “San Francisco Bay Trail” and “Bay Area Ridge Trail” because these two regional trails coincide at this location.
- A five-foot-wide trail segment of decomposed granite that will run 1,545 feet along the east-west length of the Park, hugging the shoreline on the western side, crossing the paved segment, and then following a northern route on the eastern side. This segment will also be ADA-compliant. The western portion of this segment will likely be designated as both “Bay Trail” and “Ridge Trail,” and the eastern portion will likely be designated as “Ridge Trail.”

The San Francisco Bay Trail (a network of hiking and cycling trails encircling the bay that will connect the shorelines of all nine bay area counties) and the Bay Area Ridge Trail (a trail encircling the bay along the ridge tops, serving hikers, mountain bicyclists and equestrians) share their alignments within the planned 50-mile Carquinez Scenic Loop Trail. This trail will circle the Carquinez Strait by crossing the Al Zampa (Carquinez) Bridge on the western side and the Benicia-Martinez Bridge on the eastern side. Both the San Francisco Bay Trail Project and the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council are committed to completing this loop. The Glen Cove Waterfront Park is located within the alignment of the Carquinez Loop Trail; hence, constructing trail segments through the Park will help complete the loop trail. A separate grant to the Greater Vallejo recreation District from the Conservancy for the Ridge Trail portion of the work is described in #23.

**4) SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL:
PALO ALTO BAYLANDS TRAIL CONSTRUCTION**

Location: Adjacent to the Sea Scout EcoCenter in the Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve, Santa Clara County

Conservancy Funds: \$58,749 (funds previously authorized via block grants)

Matching Funds: \$58,749

The Conservancy authorized ABAG to disburse to Environmental Volunteers \$58,749 of previously-authorized Block Grant funds to construct a segment of the San Francisco Bay Trail adjacent to the Sea Scout EcoCenter in the Palo Alto Baylands. Environmental Volunteers is



planning to restore and slightly relocate the historic Sea Scout EcoCenter building (the building will be restored to function as a community environmental center and the organization's headquarters). As part of the restoration, Environmental Volunteers will complete a gap in the San Francisco Bay Trail that currently exists at the Sea Scout EcoCenter building. The Bay Trail currently terminates on either side of the building. The proposed project consists of connecting the existing

trail by constructing two parallel segments, a pedestrian trail in front of the building along the shoreline, and a bicycle trail between the back of the building and the road. Each path will be constructed of stabilized decomposed granite/oyster shell, and will be 370 feet long and six feet wide. Environmental Volunteers will also install benches and educational signage about the local Baylands habitat.

**5) SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL:
SAN LEANDRO SLOUGH CROSSING CONSTRUCTION**

Location: Metropolitan Golf Links to the northern shoreline of San Leandro Slough (Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline), San Leandro, Alameda County

Conservancy Funds: \$300,000 (funds previously authorized via block grants)

Matching Funds: \$3,001,000

The Conservancy authorized ABAG to disburse to the City of San Leandro up to \$300,000 of previously-authorized Block Grant funds to construct an approximately 0.2-mile segment of the San Francisco Bay Trail that includes a crossing over San Leandro Slough in Alameda County. From an existing Bay Trail segment located at the northwest corner of the Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline, the proposed new Bay Trail segment will run north across San Leandro Slough (also called Oyster Bay Slough), and then head northeast along an existing Port of Oakland levee where it will connect to an existing Bay Trail segment. The proposed new trail segment will consist of a 350-foot long steel bridge spanning San Leandro Slough, which will be supported by three piers, and a Class I paved trail that will be created by widening an existing levee trail. The entire 0.2-mile segment (bridge and trail) will be Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant. Completion of this project will close a critical gap in the Bay Trail spine.

**6) SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL:
WEST COUNTY WASTEWATER DISTRICT SEGMENT CONSTRUCTION
(SAN PABLO CREEK TO WILDCAT CREEK)**

Location: Along the northern and western perimeters of the West County Wastewater District facility, between San Pablo Creek to the north and Wildcat Creek to the south, Contra Costa County

Conservancy Funds: \$150,000 (funds previously authorized via block grants)

Matching Funds: \$824,134

The Coastal Conservancy authorized ABAG to disburse up to \$150,000 of previously-authorized Block Grant funds to the East Bay Regional Park District to construct an approximately 1.1-mile segment of the San Francisco Bay Trail along the northern and western perimeters of the West County Wastewater District facility, between San Pablo and Wildcat Creeks, in Contra Costa County.

Construction of this proposed Bay Trail segment will enable the public to walk along the shoreline for approximately 0.6-miles rather than along the Richmond Parkway, which is where the Bay Trail is currently located. The proposed trail segment will not replace the existing trail segment along the Richmond Parkway, which will remain as an alternative. This proposed trail segment will bring the trail user closer to the City of Richmond shoreline, separate the user from a heavily traveled vehicular route along the Richmond Parkway, and provide interpretive opportunities at Wildcat Marsh, which is adjacent to the western edge of the proposed trail.

Trail width will range from 10 feet to 25 feet, satisfying the minimum Bay Trail width guidelines, and the entire trail segment will be accessible pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act. Construction activities will also include some removal of non-native plants, replacement of existing fencing, placement of signage and benches, and the building of a clear-span bridge.

Bay Area Ridge Trail Council
7) BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL PLANNING

Location: Various locations along the Bay Area Ridge Trail alignment within the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area

Conservancy Funds: \$1,200,000

Matching Funds: \$3,600,000

The Conservancy granted \$1,200,000 to the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council to conduct planning and feasibility studies, data collection and resource evaluation activities to support future development and construction of, and/or acquisition of interests in real property for, new Bay Area Ridge Trail segments.

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council is working towards the goal of creating a 500-mile multi-use (serving hikers, mountain bicyclists and equestrians), continuous trail that rings San Francisco Bay high on the ridgeline. To date, over 320 miles of the Ridge Trail are open and dedicated for public use. The Ridge Trail serves all nine Bay Area counties and helps to create an interconnected system of open space and trails to provide recreation and scenic views to the public. The BARTC is effectively assisting the Conservancy in meeting its statutory and strategic goals of improving access around the San Francisco Bay Area ridgetops.

This authorization would advance the future completion of Ridge Trail segments by continuing identification and refinement of the trail route, negotiating and developing agreements for the acquisition of property (including through fee title and trail easements) from willing sellers, designing and engineering trail segments, addressing needed Ridge Trail signage, and preparing environmental review documents, maps and permit applications.



California State Parks Foundation
8) YOSEMITE SLOUGH WETLAND RESTORATION
NORTH SIDE IMPLEMENTATION – AUGMENTATION

Location: Candlestick Point State Recreation Area, City and County of San Francisco

Matching Funds Granted to Conservancy: \$1,000,000 (Wildlife Conservation Board)

Other Matching Funds: \$9,708,248

The Conservancy granted \$1,000,000 of Conservancy funds, which will be reimbursed by the Wildlife Conservation Board, to the California State Parks Foundation to augment the previously authorized grant for Phase I of the Yosemite Slough Restoration Project to restore and enhance tidal wetlands and other bay shoreline habitat at Yosemite Slough in Candlestick Point State Recreation Area, in San Francisco. On October 5, 2006, the Coastal Conservancy authorized disbursement of up to \$3,316,911 to the California State Parks Foundation to implement Phase I of the Yosemite Slough Restoration Project. Phase I consists of a habitat restoration component, which includes the north side of the slough and nesting islands, an environmental education component, and a San Francisco Bay Trail and access component. The bulk of the restoration component funds (\$3,000,000) came from a Wildlife Conservation Board grant to the Conservancy to be used for wetland habitat restoration projects within the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area.



The Conservancy's October 5, 2006 authorization provided funds toward the approximately \$12 million needed for the total cost of Phase I. The California State Parks Foundation has since conducted site studies and prepared restoration designs, and has continued to raise the remaining needed funds. The results of the studies and design work now show that the cost of Phase I will be closer to \$16 million. This increase is due largely to the costs of handling the soils, some of which are contaminated. The Wildlife Conservation Board therefore agreed to contribute an additional \$1 million of the funds previously granted to the Conservancy towards the restoration component of Phase I.

California Wildlife Foundation
9) INVASIVE SPARTINA PROJECT

Location: The baylands and lower creek channels of San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

Matching Funds Granted to Conservancy: \$60,500 (settlement funds from Romic)

The Conservancy authorized acceptance from Romic Environmental Technologies Corporation of \$60,500 in settlement funds from a claim for resource damage in South San Francisco Bay, and disbursement of these funds to augment an existing grant to the California Wildlife Foundation for invasive *Spartina* treatment in South San Francisco Bay under the Conservancy's regionally coordinated Invasive *Spartina* Control Program.

For the past nine years the Conservancy has managed the regionally coordinated effort to bring the infestation of invasive *Spartina* under control and is now anticipating near-total eradication in the next few years. Treatment and control of invasive *Spartina* and its hybrids within the San Francisco Bay Estuary are critical to the long-term health of the Estuary and to the species which inhabit and rely upon the salt marshes and tidal flats along its perimeter.

City of Benicia
10) BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL:
INTERSTATE 780 OVERCROSSING CONSTRUCTION

Location: Rose Drive/State Park Road and I-780, City of Benicia, Solano County

Conservancy Funds: \$241,500

Matching Funds: \$1,730,000

The Conservancy granted \$241,500 to the City of Benicia to assist with building an addition to the Rose Drive/State Park Road overcrossing of Interstate 780 to enable safe passage by users of the San Francisco Bay Trail and the Bay Area Ridge Trail. A trail-crossing of I-780 at this location provides the only feasible opportunity in the Benicia/Vallejo area for connecting the Bay Trail and Ridge Trail along the Benicia and eastern Vallejo waterfronts and the new bike and pedestrian facility on the Al Zampa bridge across the Carquinez



Strait with urban areas north of I-780 and the segment of the Ridge Trail that reaches northward near the Napa/Solano boundary. The project entails building a 16-foot-wide bridge with a 12-foot-wide Class 1 trail for pedestrian, bicycle, wheelchair and equestrian use immediately adjacent to the west side of the existing overcrossing. The new overcrossing is designed to use the existing abutments at both ends and will connect with street-level trail improvements being constructed at the north end by private developers of adjacent property and at the south end by Caltrans.

In addition to being priorities for the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and the Bay Trail, the overcrossing is identified in the Solano Transportation Authority's Bicycle Plan as part of the Benicia-to-Vallejo Bicycle Route and presently is among its top four construction priorities. The overpass improvements are also among the City of Benicia's priority capital improvement projects.

City of Berkeley

11) EASTSHORE STATE PARK BAY TRAIL EXTENSION

Location: West end of University Ave, City of Berkeley, Alameda County

Conservancy Funds: \$355,000

Matching Funds: \$1,928,000

The Conservancy granted \$355,000 to the City of Berkeley for construction of an extension of the San Francisco Bay Trail within Eastshore State Park and a water access ramp at the Berkeley Marina, both of which will further implement the Eastshore State Park General Plan. Both the trail and access ramp are components of a larger, planned trail project known as the "Bay Trail Extension." The Bay Trail Extension is an alternative alignment of the Bay Trail that will enable trail users to ride along the shoreline and will include parking, bus stops, benches, and lighting. The land was acquired by the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the East Bay Regional Park District in 1998.



T. H. Mikkelsen, East Bay Regional Park District

The trail portion of the Bay Trail Extension to be funded by the Conservancy will be located entirely on State Parks property. State Parks has agreed to give the City permission to build the trail on Eastshore State Park property. The water access ramp for non-motorized vessels (e.g. kayaks, windsurf boards) will be located on land owned and managed by the City, although it is included in the Eastshore State Park General Plan and is part of the larger Bay Trail Extension project. Once the entire Bay Trail Extension project is completed, the access ramp will be linked to the Bay Trail. The ramp will be at the Berkeley Marina and adjacent to H's Lordships Restaurant, which is outside of the Eastshore State Park.

City of Concord

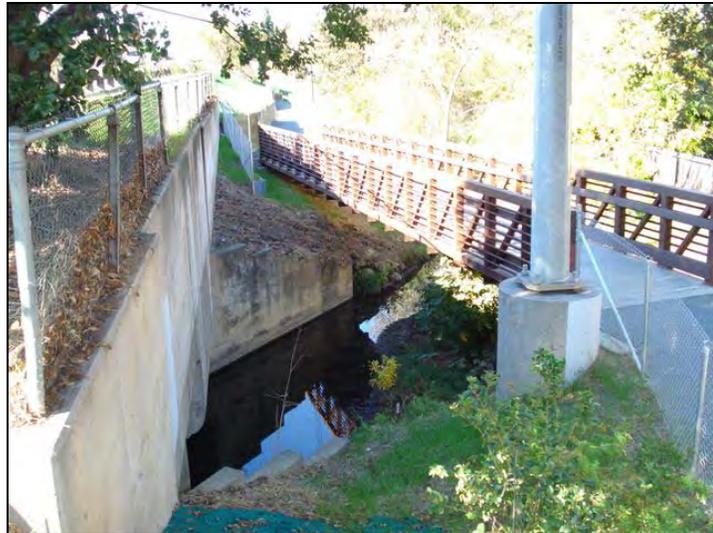
12) GALINDO CREEK TRAIL GAP CLOSURE PROJECT

Location: Ygnacio Valley Road and Alberta Way, City of Concord, Contra Costa County

Conservancy Funds: \$150,000

Matching Funds: \$1,388,277

The Conservancy provided \$150,000 to the City of Concord to complete a 600-foot gap in the historic 20-mile long California Riding and Hiking trail by installing a 74-foot long pedestrian bridge over Galindo Creek and constructing a 528-foot long trail. The California Riding and Hiking Trail is a popular trail for horseback riding and hiking that dates back to the 1940s. The trail starts at the Nejedly Staging Area at Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline, passes over the Franklin Hills in Martinez, continues past numerous city parks in Martinez, Pleasant Hill,



Michelle Jespersen

Walnut Creek, and Concord, and ends at Lime Ridge Open Space Preserve. This project will fill the last remaining segment of this trail needed for riders and hikers to complete the 20-mile journey, as well as provide a completed trail to connect to the Bay Trail and other regional trails in the vicinity. Installation of the bridge crossing over Galindo Creek will ensure safe passage for trail users and reduce impacts to the stream channel.

City of Fairfield

13) BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL: MCGARY ROAD TRAIL CONSTRUCTION

Location: McGary Road between Red Top Road and Lynch Road, City of Fairfield and unincorporated Solano County

Conservancy Funds: \$150,000

Matching Funds: \$1,985,915

The Conservancy granted \$150,000 to the City of Fairfield to assist with the construction of a segment of the San Francisco Bay Area Ridge Trail along 1.65 miles of McGary Road between Red Top Road and the vicinity of Lynch Road. This segment of the Ridge Trail is part of the eastern route of the Ridge Trail alignment adopted by the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council to

extend northward into Solano and Napa Counties between eastern Vallejo and the upper watersheds of Suisun and Green Valley Creeks. In addition to being a priority for the Ridge Trail, the McGary road trail is an important element of the Solano Transportation Authority's Bicycle Plan, intended to provide a recreational and alternate transportation route between Fairfield and Vallejo.

Trail construction along the Red Top-Lynch section of McGary Road will be undertaken by the City in conjunction with extensive rehabilitation of the road, which has been closed for 10 years due to damage from slope movement. Now that CalTrans has stabilized the slope, the City will further stabilize the roadbed, resurface some sections of the road and replace others, and extend the paving and provide striping and signage for multi-purpose trail use on both sides of the road. The width of the right of way will allow for construction of a trail meeting Class 3 ("bike route," a shared right-of-way that is signed but route is not physically demarcated) and, for at least 8,000 feet, Class 2 ("bike lane," that is striped to provide semi-restricted/exclusive use; also signed) standards, but topography and private property ownership constrain the right of way and preclude construction at this time to Class 1 standards, which require a barrier between motorized and non-motorized uses.

City of Oakland

14) LAKE MERRITT WATER QUALITY AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS

Location: Lake Merritt and the channel connecting it to the Oakland Estuary, City of Oakland, Alameda County.

Matching Funds Granted to Conservancy: \$9,000,000 (Wildlife Conservation Board)

Other Matching Funds: \$74,187,900

The City of Oakland is undertaking far-reaching activities at Lake Merritt, the oldest wildlife refuge in the United State. The City was granted \$9 million of Wildlife Conservation Board funds from the Conservancy to accomplish the following activities:

Channel Widening: Hydrological connections between Lake Merritt and the Oakland Estuary will be improved by removing culverts and widening the channel. The channel widening will include removal of concrete box culverts which create hydraulic constraints that prevent flow interaction, reduce tidal fluctuation, and, among other things, contribute to the low dissolved oxygen levels in the lake.

Channel Wetlands: Conservancy funding will assist with approximately one acre of new tidal marsh and restoration of upland habitat along the channel between 10th Street and 12th Street to coincide with the channel widening project. Creation of tidal marsh and upland habitat will restore some of the historical features and is expected to provide viable habitat for a number of bird species. The expected vegetation within the tidal marsh will also positively impact water quality by filtering some pollutants and sediments.



Water Quality Improvements:
Focused efforts to reduce pollutants and remove debris associated with storm drain outfalls are planned to improve water quality in Lake Merritt.

Once completed, these Lake Merritt channel projects and water quality improvements will likely increase the numbers and diversity of birds utilizing the newly developed tidal marsh, mudflats, and upland habitat. Shorebirds, herons, egrets, and ducks will benefit from new feeding areas along the Lake Merritt

channel. The creation of new upland areas proposed along the channel will also provide increased habitat for landbirds.

City of Richmond

15) SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL: CANAL BOULEVARD CONSTRUCTION

Location: Canal Boulevard, City of Richmond, Contra Costa County

Matching Funds Granted to Conservancy: \$97,000 (mitigation funds from Eagle Rock Aggregates Inc.)

The Conservancy granted \$97,000 to the City of Richmond to construct a 465 foot-long segment of the San Francisco Bay Trail along Canal Boulevard. The completion of this Bay Trail segment is required by a permit issued by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission to Eagle Rock Aggregates, Inc. in 2005. The permit requires Eagle Rock to pay an in-lieu fee of \$150,000 to the Conservancy for this specific public access improvement that will close an existing gap in the Bay Trail. The Conservancy authorized \$53,000 to the City in May 2007 to prepare the construction design plans for the Canal Boulevard Bay Trail Gap. The Conservancy is now disbursing the remaining funds to the City for construction of the Bay Trail improvements.

The Canal Boulevard Bay Trail Gap consists of a 465-foot long missing section of the Bay Trail along Canal Boulevard north of the intersection with Seacliff Drive. The proposed new section of trail will connect the existing portion of the Bay Trail along Canal Boulevard to the existing portion of the Bay Trail along Seacliff Drive and a proposed portion of the Bay Trail extending into the Port of Richmond Shipyard No. 3. The Trail Gap will be completed within the existing right-of-way as a Class I, two-way, multi-use trail segment and will meet Bay Trail Design Guidelines. The trail will be a minimum of eight feet wide and comprised of existing and new

asphalt pavement along with striping and drainage swale improvements along the west side of Canal Boulevard. The trail will be designed to direct bicyclists and pedestrians from the existing sidewalk and southbound bike lane along Canal Boulevard across an unnamed road and onto the new trail. Additionally, the new trail will serve pedestrians and bicyclists coming from Seacliff Drive and traveling north along west side of Canal Boulevard. The trail will include safety features such as CalTrans designated object markers (tubular reflective posts that define the edge of the road for both drivers and trail users); a two-foot striped buffer zone separating the trail from Canal Boulevard traffic, striping, and signage. It will also be Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant in that the pathway does not exceed limiting cross slopes and grades.

Coastal Conservancy Association

16) SAN FRANCISCO BAY SUBTIDAL HABITAT GOALS PROJECT

Location: San Francisco Bay, all nine Bay Area counties

Conservancy Funds: \$45,000

Matching Funds: \$573,395

The Conservancy authorized the disbursement of up to \$45,000 to the Coastal Conservancy Association to provide technical assistance to the interagency San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Project. Specifically, the CCA will provide technical, scientific advisors to serve on the Subtidal Goals Project's Science and Restoration Committees.



Abe Doherty, State Coastal Conservancy

The Subtidal Goals Project is a collaborative public and private effort to establish a scientifically-based, comprehensive and long-term management vision for the protection, restoration, and appropriate use of the subtidal habitats (submerged areas below Mean Low Water) of San Francisco Bay.

Due to the lack of regional scientific studies on subtidal habitats, the Subtidal Goals Project constitutes a large task that has never been done before to identify the many key uncertainties, data gaps, and habitat information needed about the value of specific subtidal habitats to San Francisco Bay. The Subtidal Goals Project is being developed from the work of three committees—Science, Restoration and Resource Management. The proposed authorization will enable the Subtidal Goals Project to pay members of the Science and Restoration Committees to

attend planning meetings to develop the goals for the final Subtidal Habitat Goals report. Science and Restoration committee members will provide guidance on scientific study and research needs, identify and review scientific literature and current research that will aid in project implementation, and develop research goals and restoration plans. This additional funding is critically needed to ensure that the process includes sound scientific oversight and adequate attention by the professional committee members.

Delta Protection Commission

17) THE GREAT CALIFORNIA DELTA TRAIL: PLANNING PROCESS

Location: Shoreline areas of Contra Costa and Solano Counties, including the cities and communities of Antioch, Brentwood, Isleton, Oakley, Pittsburg, and Rio Vista.

Conservancy Funds: \$100,000

Matching Funds: \$322,200

The Conservancy provided \$100,000 to enable the Delta Protection Commission to conduct planning for development of the Great California Delta Trail Plan in Contra Costa and Solano counties. Conservancy funds will allow the DPC to begin Phase One of a multi-phased planning process that will result in a Delta Trail Plan and programmatic environmental review document that can be adopted and implemented by local jurisdictions of the Delta region. Conservancy funds will be used to support planning for future development of portions of the Delta Trail Plan in and to shoreline areas of Contra Costa and Solano counties.

The completed Delta Trail Plan will include a specific route for a bicycling and hiking trail, connections to existing and proposed park and recreational facilities on land and water, interpretive signage, and links to existing and proposed public transportation hubs. The grant will enable DPC to begin the Delta Plan development process by establishing baseline conditions for the Delta region. To do this, the DPC will gather necessary background data on land use and environmental conditions in Contra Costa and Solano counties and assess existing and proposed plans for trails, connectors, public transportation and other amenities that could become part of the envisioned Delta Trail Plan.

DPC will produce a final report that will serve as the “blueprint” for creating the Delta Trail Plan in Contra Costa and Solano counties. The final report will detail the steps necessary to complete the Delta Trail Plan, suggest general locations for segments of the Delta Trail in Contra Costa and Solano counties and connections to the San Francisco Bay Trail, and identify key policy issues to be addressed in the plan, and potential opportunities and constraints to implementation of the Delta Trail Plan. The report will also include an analysis of necessary public outreach including how best to gather input from engaged citizens and integrate this information into a comprehensive vision for the Delta Trail in these counties. A stakeholder map will be developed for the two counties and will recommend roles and representatives for the stakeholder and technical subcommittees for each of the two counties.

Ducks Unlimited

18) SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL: BAIR ISLAND PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

Location: Inner Bair Island, Redwood City, San Mateo County

Conservancy Funds: \$800,000

Matching Funds: \$315,000

The Conservancy granted \$800,000 to Ducks Unlimited to construct a pedestrian and bicycle bridge linking the San Francisco Bay Trail to Inner Bair Island in Redwood City, San Mateo County. See Project #1 for information about additional grant funds for this project.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is restoring to tidal wetlands approximately 1,400 acres on Bair Island, part of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The restoration project will convert much of Inner Bair Island to salt marsh habitat and reconfigure the existing public access, which currently extends around most of the perimeter of Inner Bair Island. To accommodate the salt marsh habitat, public access on Inner Bair Island will be reduced from 3.3 miles of trail to 1.8 miles of trail. An existing segment of the Bay Trail that consists of a narrow path along Bair Island Road will be rerouted onto Inner Bair Island via a pedestrian/bicycle bridge where it will connect with another segment that is currently on Inner Bair Island. The restoration plan includes the following related public access components: a pedestrian/bicycle bridge from the existing parking lot to Inner Bair Island, which will be used in place of the current access at Whipple Road; improvement of 1.8-miles of trail (two separate out-and-back segments) that will accommodate the restoration work and lead to two observation platforms; parking lot improvements; a new public restroom; an informational kiosk; and kayak accommodations.

The Conservancy grant is solely for construction of the 175-foot-long bicycle/pedestrian bridge, which will consist of construction of two steel and concrete pilings and placement of a pre-fabricated bridge. The bridge will be compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act standards, and will include a predator-resistant barrier to prevent cats, foxes and raccoons from disturbing nesting birds on the island.

East Bay Regional Park District

19) ALBANY BEACH FEASIBILITY STUDY

Location: East Shore State Park, City of Albany, Alameda County

Conservancy Funds: \$100,000

Matching Funds: \$100,000



T. H. Mikkelsen, East Bay Regional Park District

The Conservancy granted \$100,000 to East Bay Regional Park District for this feasibility study to better inform the District and the public as to the feasibility of various habitat and public access improvements contemplated in the Eastshore State Park General Plan for Albany Beach. This study will evaluate the feasibility of replacing the weedy vegetation with native dune plants, some of which may include rare and endangered species. The study will examine various techniques that the District can employ to balance the protection of dune vegetation with the high volume

public use that occurs at Albany Beach while improving public access to the beach. The study, which is expected to take 18 months to complete, may also examine the removal of creosote pilings and removal of other large debris present along this shoreline.

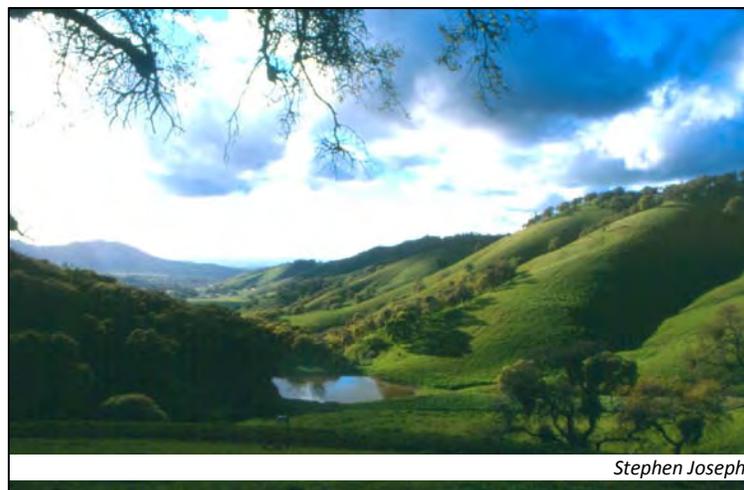
The Eastshore State Park General Plan identifies a number of habitat restoration and public access improvements for Albany Beach. Restoration of the beach would include enhancement of the existing beach and sand dunes. Public access to the beach and water would be provided by installation of new Americans with Disabilities Act compliant walkways and fencing that would provide access to the beach while minimizing impacts to the dunes. Interpretive exhibits, picnic facilities, restrooms and a staging area could also be provided. The study would provide cost estimates for these and other potential improvements.

20) CHAPARRAL SPRING ACQUISITION

Location: Near Marsh Creek Road and Morgan Territory Road, City of Clayton, Contra Costa County

Conservancy Funds: \$1,400,000

The Conservancy granted funds to East Bay Regional Park District to acquire the 333-acre Chaparral Spring property located in the City of Clayton in Contra Costa County. Chaparral Spring contains environmentally sensitive habitats for several special status species. It also has significant recreational opportunities and provides other public benefits. The property is located between the District's



Stephen Joseph

1,030-acre Clayton Ranch to the east and Mount Diablo State Park to the south and is the single most important parcel in a strategic wildlife, open space and recreational corridor between Mount Diablo State Park and District-owned Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, located to the northeast of Clayton Ranch, because it is the only undeveloped parcel in the area with physical and topographical connections across Marsh Creek Road to Mt. Diablo State Park. In addition to this, there is a cattle tunnel connection across the road that can provide for future public access between Chaparral Springs and other protected lands across Marsh Creek Road. As a result, the property provides many new opportunities for public access including extending existing trails like the 30-mile Diablo Trail from Mount Diablo State Park through Chaparral Spring and Clayton Ranch to create a new 60-mile Diablo Grand Loop Trail.

Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District

21) GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE SOUTH VISITOR PLAZA IMPROVEMENTS

PHASE I: DESIGN

Location: South Visitor Plaza at the south foot of the Golden Gate Bridge, City and County of San Francisco

Conservancy Funds: \$500,000 (\$300,000 Bay Program Funds; \$200,000 Other Agency Funds)

The State Coastal Conservancy granted the disbursement of up to \$500,000 to the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District to design and conduct an environmental review for improvements to visitor-serving amenities at the South Visitor Plaza of the Golden Gate Bridge. The designated routes of three major trail systems converge at the South Visitor Plaza before crossing the Golden Gate Bridge: the California Coastal Trail, the San Francisco Bay Trail, and the Bay Area Ridge Trail.



It is estimated that about ten million people from around the world visit the Bridge each year and the District seeks to replace the public restroom facilities as part of a larger long-term renovation of the area's visitor-serving components that includes upgrading bicycle and pedestrian access by widening, re-routing, re-grading and resurfacing bicycle and pedestrian paths and trails in the area, improving visitor flow through landscaping and hardscape surfacing improvements, and installing interpretive elements. The

existing restrooms are very old in design, severely undersized for the very heavy usage they experience, and require complete closure three times per day for cleaning. As a result, there are often long lines, waiting times of up to 15 minutes on busy weekends, and serious crowd control and sanitation issues. The Conservancy will fund the design of a new restroom facility. The new restroom structure will be located in the footprint of the existing facility, which will be demolished. The new restrooms will incorporate a divided design that will eliminate the need for complete closure during cleaning, will be accessible per the Americans with Disabilities Act, and will be able to accommodate a greater number of users at the same time. The design will also include an upgrade of the onsite sewage pump station.

Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy **22) LOWER REDWOOD CREEK RESTORATION**

Location: Muir Beach, Marin County

Conservancy Funds: \$1,000,000

Matching Funds Granted to the Conservancy: \$1,000,000 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Other Matching Funds: \$8,750,000



The Conservancy authorized a grant of \$1,000,000 as well as the acceptance and disbursement of a \$1,000,000 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant to the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy to fund the restoration of natural hydrologic and ecological conditions to Lower Redwood Creek at Muir Beach, and public access to Muir Beach.

Lower Redwood Creek has been degraded by a century of landscape modifications, and suffers from a lack of connectivity with its floodplain and a high level of sediment deposition in the channel. The project will restore a functional, self-sustaining ecosystem, re-create habitat for sustainable populations of special status species, reduce flooding by restoring floodplain connectivity and sediment transport, and provide extensive educational programs and stewardship opportunities. The project is part of a watershed-wide collaboration involving watershed residents, non-profits, local, state, and federal agencies; these groups have successfully completed a number of projects to reduce fine sediment inputs to the creek and to restore floodplain connectivity and fish passage in other reaches. The project has been recognized by the National Park Service, a state and federal interagency panel for Redwood

Creek, and the draft Marin County Watershed Management Plan as the most important need for the overall health of Redwood Creek. This lower reach of the creek is the most unstable and impacted portion of this complex and valuable riparian ecosystem.

The project will restore natural function to 2,500 linear feet of Redwood Creek and 31 acres of adjacent floodplain through the removal of an existing 1,300 linear foot levee, relocation of the channel to the pasture east of the existing channel, reconfiguration of the Muir Beach parking lot and picnic area to erase their effect as a hydraulic obstruction, removal of invasive species such as Cape ivy, and planting of native vegetation. The project will also restore and enhance an additional 1.7 acres of freshwater emergent wetlands for the California red-legged frog and one acre of brackish marsh that is currently a monoculture of non-native kikuyu grass. The quality of habitat in the intermittent tidal lagoon for salmonid summer habitat will be enhanced by excavation to allow the tidal lagoon to expand naturally, and engineered log jams will be installed to provide cover for fish. The Marin County Department of Public Works will replace the undersized Pacific Way Bridge with a 250-foot-long “causeway” that will span both the channel and its floodplain.

Greater Vallejo Recreation District

23) GLEN COVE WATERFRONT PARK TRAIL CONSTRUCTION

Location: Glen Cove Waterfront Park, Solano County

Conservancy Funds: \$75,000

The Conservancy granted \$75,000 to the Greater Vallejo Recreation District to construct a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail in Glen Cove Waterfront Park in the City of Vallejo in Solano County. The project is more fully described in #3.

Land Trust of Napa County

24) ETICUERA CREEK WATERSHED INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL AND HABITAT RESTORATION

Location: Eticuera Creek Watershed located at the north end of Lake Berryessa in northeastern Napa County

Conservancy Funds: \$118,200

Matching Funds: \$581,900

The Conservancy granted \$118,200 to The Land Trust of Napa County to implement invasive plant control and riparian habitat restoration in the Eticuera Creek watershed in northeastern Napa County. The proposed project is a watershed-level management effort to protect and restore riparian habitat in the 34,000-acre Eticuera Creek watershed. Invasive plant control will occur within a 300-acre portion of the upper watershed (at the Knoxville restoration site) and

along 43 miles of tributary streams throughout the watershed. Invasive plant control will be followed by replanting of native riparian and floodplain vegetation at the Knoxville restoration site. The Land Trust will work closely with the Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area Conservation Partnership, an informal association long involved in this area.

The Eticuera Creek watershed comprises 34,000 acres at the north end of Lake Berryessa in the Putah Creek watershed. The area is a mosaic of public and private properties with substantial holdings by the California Department of Fish and Game, the Bureau of Land Management, the University of California Natural Reserve System, Homestake Mining Company, and the privately-owned Gamble Ranch. The Eticuera Creek watershed is located within the core of the 785,000-acre Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area. The area's diverse geology supports a unique assemblage of ecological communities, providing habitat for many birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish, and invertebrates. The area is sufficiently remote and large enough to support tule elk, mountain lions, bears, bald and golden eagles as well as a variety of hawks, osprey, harriers, falcons, owls, and other raptors. The serpentine soils of the region host a large number of rare and endemic plants, and the streams and lakes provide abundant riparian and fisheries habitat.

Ecosystem function within the Eticuera Creek watershed, particularly in the area of the former Knoxville town site, is considered impaired at many levels due to the extensive presence of invasive non-native plants and stream channelization has increased flow rates, accelerated erosion, prevented the regeneration of native riparian plants, and facilitated the invasion of non-native species. The project includes the following components: baseline survey and mapping of baseline conditions, invasive plant control, riparian habitat restoration at Knoxville town site, hydrographic assessment and monitoring and follow-up treatment.

Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation

25) LAGUNA INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Location: North of the City of Sebastopol on City of Santa Rosa annexed land along the main channel of the Laguna de Santa Rosa in southwestern Sonoma County

Conservancy Funds: \$700,000

Matching Funds: \$1,280,000

The Conservancy granted \$700,000 to the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation to construct the Laguna Interpretive Center at the Laguna Learning Center site overlooking the main channel of the Laguna de Santa Rosa, in southwestern Sonoma County. The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation is developing the Laguna Learning Center on a 7-acre historic site overlooking the main channel of the Laguna de Santa Rosa. The proposed project is to construct a new Laguna Interpretive Center which will serve as the centerpiece of the Learning Center. The Foundation will offer educational programs at the Interpretive Center, with the goal to promote stewardship of the important Laguna de Santa Rosa wetland complex. Educational programs will inform the public about its rich biological diversity, Native American heritage, agricultural legacy, and hands-on restoration techniques. The site will also be easily accessible from the system of

Laguna trails being developed by the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, and will provide a gateway to the Laguna for local residents and visitors from all over the Bay Area.

The Foundation will construct the 3,000 square foot Laguna Interpretive Center in the style of other on-site historic structures while incorporating “green building” techniques including photovoltaic electrical panels. The proposed Interpretive Center will house an interactive exhibit hall, a classroom, and scientific research facilities where thousands of elementary through college age students and adults will learn and apply hands-on restoration techniques in the natural laboratory of the Laguna de Santa Rosa. An indoor-outdoor layout will allow larger gatherings and exhibitions during dry months. The outdoor area will include permanent mounts for spotting scopes and exhibits interpreting the lifestyles of Southern Pomo and Coast Miwok prior to the arrival of Western settlers.



Using other sources of funding, the Foundation completed rehabilitation of a Civil War era homestead for its administrative center, and plans to rehabilitate other historic landmark structures including a water tower and two barns. One barn will serve as a native plant nursery to support restoration efforts, and the other will house additional educational programs about Sonoma County’s early agricultural legacy. Landscaping will create pathways, a pond surrounded by native vegetation, and a garden and orchard reminiscent of a nineteenth century family farm.

Marin Audubon Society
26) BAHIA MARSH RESTORATION

Location: Along the Petaluma River in the City of Novato, Marin County

Matching Funds Granted to Conservancy: \$95,000 (Wildlife Conservation Board)

Other Matching Funds: \$1,880,650

The Conservancy granted \$95,000, which will be reimbursed by the Wildlife Conservation Board, to the Marin Audubon Society to complete the restoration of seasonal and tidal wetlands located at the Bahia Lagoon. The Bahia Marsh Restoration project consists of a series of earth moving and other construction activities designed to restore tidal marsh and transitional habitat on 480 acres of the Bahia Marsh Restoration site, on the Petaluma River in Marin County. The restoration will be accomplished largely by lowering and breaching levees and removing soil fill that was placed more than 30 years ago.



Significant portions of the project were carried out by Marin Audubon Society using funding provided by the Wildlife Conservation Board, California Bay Delta Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (North American Wetlands Conservation Act funds), and several other non-profit organizations. Conservancy funding is needed to implement two activities that need to be completed to ensure the success of the project: hydro-seeding and winterizing of newly graded slopes, and post-construction surveys. Hydro-seeding is needed to provide initial plant cover to control erosion on newly-graded slopes and to prevent invasion by exotic plants that would take over in the absence of other plants. About 22 acres of transition habitats and uplands will be hydro-seeded with the annual plant *Lolium perenne*. About five acres of seasonal wetland will also be hydro-seeded with locally-grown seed of native meadow barley. In addition to seeding native vegetation, monitoring is necessary to document the success or problems with the project. Marin Audubon Society intends to contract for post-construction surveys to ensure the project is constructed as designed and planned, and to serve as a base for ongoing project monitoring.

Muir Heritage Land Trust
27) FRANKLIN CANYON ACQUISITION

Location: East of Coronado Street at Refugio Valley Road in the City of Hercules, Contra Costa County.

Conservancy Funds: \$1,000,000

Matching Funds: \$1,610,018

The Conservancy granted \$1,000,000 to the Muir Heritage Land Trust for the acquisition of approximately 483 acres of land in the City of Hercules, known as Franklin Canyon, and to conduct planning for stewardship and management and a resource assessment for the property in order to adequately implement the purposes of the acquisition. This purchase will protect a fragile ecosystem, significant watershed lands, and important habitat for numerous special status species and provide public access via key trail alignments, including a potential segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. This project allows for the land, once slated for large-scale development projects, to be permanently protected as open space.



Franklin Canyon is surrounded on two sides by existing protected lands designated as open space or agricultural preserve, and the third side is bounded by a private golf course. The protection of Franklin Canyon will extend the existing wildlife corridor, increase the amount of permanent natural creek channels, and benefit the entire watershed. The property contains a segment of Rodeo Creek, two tributaries to Rodeo Creek and one tributary to

Refugio Creek and supports diverse oak-bay woodland, riparian, coastal scrub, freshwater marsh/seep and annual grassland habitats, as well as many special-status plant and animal species. The property also provides a key link within a critical wildlife corridor extending from the Upper San Leandro Watershed to the Carquinez Strait. Franklin Canyon offers rolling hills, deep canyons, and spectacular panoramic views in every direction.

The property contains numerous fire roads that can be used as trails. The Trails would connect the existing network of fire roads on Franklin Canyon to trails planned for the adjacent Fernandez Ranch and eventually link up with proposed sections of the 550-mile Bay Area Ridge Trail. Acquisition of Franklin Canyon could also help to establish a Ridge Trail connection between Fernandez Ranch and East Bay Regional Park District's 1,939-acre Crockett Hills Regional Park to the north of Franklin Canyon and across Highway 4.

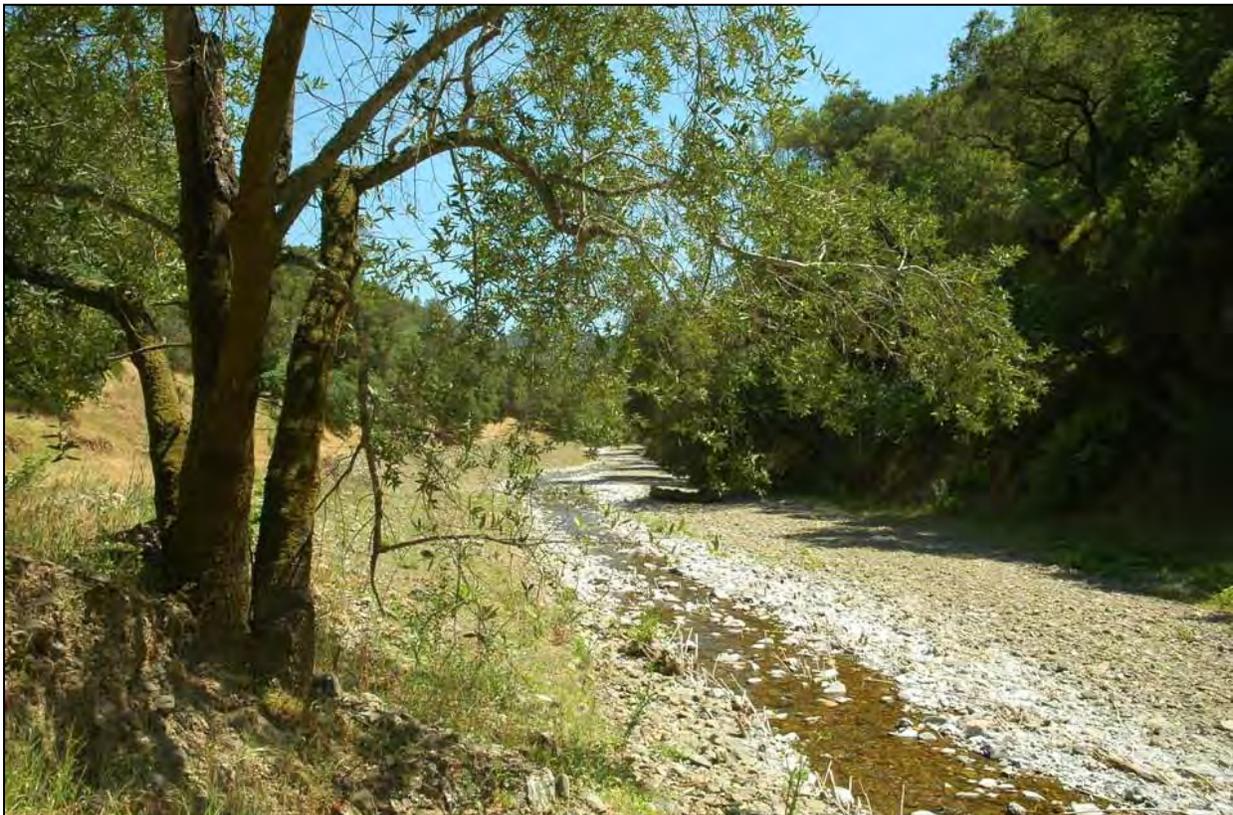
Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District
28) MOORE CREEK ACQUISITION

Location: In central Napa County, east of St. Helena, near Lake Hennessey.

Conservancy Funds: \$1,650,000

Matching Funds: \$1,730,000

The Conservancy granted funds to Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District for the fee title acquisition of the 673-acre Moore Creek Property in Napa County. The purpose of the acquisition is to permanently protect and restore existing natural resources and provide public recreation and access. The Moore Creek Property is immediately adjacent to the City of Napa's



Lake Hennessey watershed property in central Napa County. Matching funds from Napa County and the District will be used to complete the acquisition and make improvements necessary to transform the property into a public park. Located less than 20 minutes from St. Helena, and 30 minutes from the City of Napa, the property will provide an incredible regional park close to where most Napa residents live.

The 673-acre property has significant natural resource values, rating as a high priority area for biodiversity in the NatureServe evaluation system developed for the Land Trust of Napa County. The detailed plant community mapping for Napa County prepared by U.C. Davis shows why: the property contains a diverse combination of plant communities. The property is bounded on the

west by 772 acres of botanically rich properties protected by conservation easements held by the Land Trust of Napa County, and on the south by over 2,800 acres of watershed owned by the City of Napa. Over two miles of the perennial Moore Creek runs through the property, and an additional 0.8 mile of the creek runs along the outside edge of the property line. There are also 1.2 miles of intermittent streams on the property. In combination with the conservation-easement protected lands to the west, and the State of California's Las Posadas Demonstration Forest, the project protects most of the Moore Creek watershed. Moore Creek is a major tributary feeding into Lake Hennessey, which is the City of Napa's primary water supply.

The property also has the potential for high recreational values. The property is centrally located near the middle of the Napa Valley, easily accessible by people in all four cities and one town in Napa County. Being close to the heart of wine country, it will also serve visitors from the Bay Area, California, the nation and the world.

Napa County Resource Conservation District **29) NAPA RIVER FISH BARRIER REMOVAL PLAN**

Location: Twenty-one sites in the Napa River Basin, Napa County

Conservancy Funds: \$82,700

Matching Funds: \$14,150

The Conservancy granted \$82,700 to the Napa County Resource Conservation District to develop fish barrier removal options for the 21 highest priority sites currently impeding fish passage in the Napa River basin. The proposed project will build on previous barrier inventory work and will result in a plan that includes barrier removal options for the 21 highest priority sites currently impeding anadromous fish passage in the Napa River basin. The Napa River basin currently supports two salmonid species: steelhead and Chinook salmon, and has been identified as the most significant tributary to the San Francisco Estuary for maintaining and restoring salmonid populations (Leidy et. al., 2003). Artificial migration barriers constructed during the past century have contributed substantially to population declines of salmonids in Napa, especially steelhead, which rely on access to tributary streams for spawning and rearing. Until very recently, little was known about the full extent and distribution of these migration barriers.

In March of 2008, the RCD completed an inventory of all known and potential barrier sites using extensive stream survey data, current and historical records, and field verification. The resulting list is the most comprehensive and accurate description of passage sites ever compiled for the basin. In total, 99 current fish passage obstructions were identified on streams known to support salmonids. Nearly 30 of the sites are natural features and are generally not feasible for modification or removal. The remaining 69 artificial passage sites consist mostly of dams (26) and road crossings (e.g., bridges (9), and culverts (18)). All of the sites were ranked for severity using California Department of Fish and Game screening guidelines. Approximately 75% of the artificial sites scored as severe under California Department of Fish and Game guidelines. Of

these barriers, twenty-one sites were determined to be “high priority” based on natural history and feasibility.

The proposed project will generate detailed information about location, size, and type of each artificial barrier/obstacle for the 21 high-priority sites. Information will be collected and analyzed with *FishXing* software (developed in conjunction with DFG). Using protocols outlined in the California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual, a hydraulic model for each passage site will be developed as necessary to inform possible alternatives to facilitate fish passage. The RCD plans to collect field information and to prepare recommendations and options for barrier/obstacle remediation and future project implementation. The RCD will coordinate efforts with participating public and private landowners/managers and build support for implementing passage solutions. As an outcome of this grant, the RCD will complete a comprehensive report and plan that provides specific plans to address passage at each site. The report will include a ranking for the high priority sites, a detailed description of conditions and preliminary cost estimates for remediation and features, and an assessment of the relative importance of each site within the context of the sub-watershed and Napa River basin. A GIS layer will also be generated and will include the *FishXing* rankings and other significant information about each site.



Napa County Resource Conservation District

San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association

30) OCEAN BEACH MASTER PLAN

Location: Ocean Beach, City and County of San Francisco

Conservancy Funds: \$300,000

Matching Funds: \$110,000

The Conservancy granted \$300,000 to the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association to develop a Master Plan for Ocean Beach. Ocean Beach lies within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, along the west side of San Francisco. It is jointly owned and managed by the GGNRA (the beach) and the City and County of San Francisco (the road and

parking). At five-miles long, it is one of the longest urban beaches in the country. Ocean Beach has the potential to become one of the most spectacular metropolitan beaches in the world, but currently suffers from erosion, neglect and a lack of amenities.

Previous planning efforts have identified the need for a single document that integrates the requirements of the natural environment and green spaces, the desires of area residents, recreational opportunities, and the plans and expertise of the number of public agencies maintaining the area. There is also need for strategies that fully realize the beach and promenade as a



Robert Campbell, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

grand civic space for both passive and active recreation, facilitate vehicular and pedestrian access and circulation, and leverage connections to the rest of the city, the GGNRA, Golden Gate Park, the San Francisco Zoo, Fort Funston, and Lake Merced. Finally, the effects of climate change on San Francisco's coastline and wildlife need to be analyzed and incorporated into the planning effort.

The Master Plan will be a comprehensive and dynamic document with sustainability as the core thread, and will address the following elements: climate change and sea level rise; open space (beach, promenade, parks & streetscape, passive and active recreation); roadway (streets & parking); beach erosion control and coastal protection (including seawall); protection and enhancement of natural resources (including habitat for special status species); concepts for signage, interpretive features, lighting and public art; circulation (including east-west flow corridors); integration of related projects and plans that are being implemented by other entities; sustainability guidelines; management/maintenance structures and strategies; and implementation (budgets, funding and phasing). In addition, pilot projects to immediately improve visitor experiences and to inform the Master Plan at Ocean Beach will be solicited and implemented concurrent with the Master Planning process.

Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
31) SONOMA MOUNTAIN RANCH ACQUISITION

Location: Sonoma Mountain, in south-central Sonoma County

Conservancy Funds: \$1,500,000

Matching Funds: \$8,450,000

The Conservancy granted \$1,500,000 to the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District toward the estimated \$9,950,000 cost of acquiring the 283-acre Sonoma Mountain Ranch in southern Sonoma County. The District is also working closely with the Sonoma Land Trust on this acquisition. The District will purchase the fee title to the Property, while the Land Trust is managing the negotiations and due diligence. The District will manage the Property for resource protection and public access.

Sonoma Mountain Ranch occupies the very top of Sonoma Mountain, one of the most prominent geologic features in the north San Francisco Bay area. Centrally located between five of Sonoma County's nine cities and encircled by three major highways, the 2,463-foot mountain is home to a rich assemblage of plants and wildlife, several of which are state or federally listed as threatened or endangered. Located on the eastern edge of the coastal fog belt, the Mountain's climate is transitional between cool, moist conditions and the more extreme conditions of the inland valleys, producing a unique ecosystem supporting great diversity.



The Property represents an important piece of the puzzle in efforts to conserve the outstanding natural, scenic and recreational resources of Sonoma Mountain. The Property will link the adjacent Jack London State Historic Park to hundreds of acres of land already protected. This project will add another important parcel to the assemblage of already protected lands on Sonoma Mountain, bringing the District and the Land Trust one step closer to their goal of preserving in perpetuity the region's unique natural, scenic and recreational resources.

State Coastal Conservancy

32) HAMILTON WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT: BEL MARIN KEYS UNIT V EXPANSION

Location: Southeast Novato, adjacent to and between the Bel Marin Keys residential community and Novato Creek to the north and the Gallinas Sanitary District Property to the south, along the western margin of San Pablo Bay, Marin County

Conservancy Funds: \$4,750,000 (\$2,750,000 Bay Program Funds; \$2,500,000 Other Agency Funds)

Matching Funds: \$14,250,000

The Conservancy authorized its Executive Officer to negotiate and amend the Project Cooperation Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project. The amendment will enable the Corps and Conservancy to expand the existing 963-acre restoration site (which includes Hamilton Airfield and the North Antenna Field) to include the adjacent, 1,585 acre Bel Marin Keys Unit V property. Hamilton Airfield and Bel Marin Keys Unit V are owned by the Conservancy while the North Antenna Field is owned by the State Lands Commission.



The Conservancy also authorized the expenditure of up to \$4,750,000 to be used either to satisfy a portion of the Conservancy's cost share or to carry out components of the restoration work which may be credited towards the Conservancy's cost share. The restoration work at Hamilton Airfield has been underway for several years, and has included site preparation and delivery of millions of cubic yards of dredged material from the Port of Oakland's -50 foot project and other dredging projects in San Francisco Bay. Additional dredged material is needed to raise the site elevation. This will be followed by sculpting of the site, planting of native vegetation, breaching of the bayside levee, and construction of the recreational elements, including the Bay Trail.

The authorization of up to \$4.75 million on the Project is critical to: 1) securing millions of dollars in federal funding for the Project, 2) ensuring beneficial reuse of millions of cubic yards of sediments that will be dredged from San Francisco Bay and 3) ensuring completion of restoration of the Hamilton Airfield segment of the Project.

33) INVASIVE SPARTINA PROJECT

Location: The baylands and lower creek channels of the nine counties that bound the San Francisco Bay.

Matching Funds Granted to SCC: \$400,000 (Mineral Management Service’s Coastal Impact Assistance Program); \$165,454 (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency); \$1,593,197 (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

Other Matching Funds: \$100,000

The Conservancy accepted and disbursed three federal grants for treatment and control of invasive *Spartina* and its hybrids within the San Francisco Bay Estuary. This work is critical to the long-term health of the Estuary and to the species which inhabit and rely upon the salt marshes and tidal flats along its perimeter. For the past nine years the Conservancy has managed the regionally coordinated effort to bring the infestation under control and is now moving towards its goal of eradication.



The Conservancy accepted \$400,000 from the Mineral Management Service’s Coastal Impact Assistance Program, \$165,454 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Association of Bay Area Governments, and \$1,593.197 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Coastal and Marine Restoration Grants Program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009,

in order to implement treatment and eradication of invasive *Spartina* through the 2009 and 2010 treatment seasons, annual planning, management, and monitoring activities, water quality monitoring, a workshop to develop a rapid response plan, and staff costs to administer the Invasive *Spartina* Project.

34) NAPA RIVER SALT MARSH RESTORATION PROJECT MONITORING

Location: The northern edge of San Pablo Bay, bounded in the east by the Napa River and the west by Sonoma Creek, Napa County

Matching Funds Granted to Conservancy: \$65,000 (San Francisco Foundation)

Using grant funds from the San Francisco Foundation, the Conservancy accepted and disbursed \$65,000 to assist with monitoring and research activities to be undertaken as a part of the Napa River Salt Marsh Restoration Project. Specifically, the grant funds will be used to assist with a biosentinel mercury monitoring program to assess methylmercury exposure at the Napa-Sonoma Marsh and other locations in San Pablo Bay.



Biosentinels are small fish species (e.g., prickly sculpin, Mississippi silverside, juvenile largemouth bass) which, because they are localized and short-lived, help to answer the “where” and “when” questions of how methylmercury gets into fish and the rest of the food web.

The Napa River Salt Marsh Restoration Project is the first large-scale restoration of a former salt pond to occur in the San Francisco Bay and ecological monitoring efforts have already been conducted at the project site since 1996. However, continued monitoring is needed to meet regulatory requirements and to inform adaptive management decisions. In addition, while wetland restoration is generally viewed as a positive step for the ecology of a region, there are concerns that new large wetland restoration projects may increase methylmercury exposure both locally and regionally. Methylmercury is the form of mercury of primary concern as it is readily accumulated in the food web and poses a toxicological threat to highly exposed species. Recent research has indicated that a proper mercury monitoring program should include mercury levels in small fish as they provide a sensitive measure of methylmercury exposure to the aquatic food web.

The Conservancy used the grant funds to contract with the Aquatic Science Center, a joint powers agency staffed by the San Francisco Estuary Institute, to conduct monitoring of mercury using a small fish biosentinel approach. Sampling sites will be located in San Pablo Bay, primarily within the Napa-Sonoma Marsh complex, but also offshore of the Hamilton Airfield restoration site and along the Petaluma River. The information generated from the biosentinel monitoring will be shared at the Napa-Sonoma Marsh Restoration Group, a public stakeholder group which was developed as a forum for exchanging information about research and restoration efforts in the 38,000-acre Napa-Sonoma Marsh Complex.

35) SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO BAY SALT PONDS RESTORATION: PHASE I IMPLEMENTATION

Location: San Francisco Bay, south of the San Mateo Bridge, in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties

Conservancy Funds: \$4,550,000 (\$2,604,005 Bay Program Funds; \$1,945,995 Agency Funds)

Matching Funds Granted to Conservancy: \$6,027,746 (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration); \$1,000,000 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Other Matching Funds: \$16,755,170

The Conservancy authorized: (1) disbursement of up to \$4,250,000 for implementation of Phase I of the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project; (2) disbursement of up to an additional \$300,000 towards the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study; and (3) acceptance and disbursement of two federal grants in order to construct three of the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Phase I implementation projects and cover staff time and contractor costs associated with implementing these projects: \$6,027,746 through National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal and Marine Restoration Grants Program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and \$1,000,000 through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants Program.

This authorization would enable the Conservancy to fund the first implementation phase of the restoration project for 15,100 acres of former Cargill salt production ponds in South San Francisco Bay. This is the first major implementation action of the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration project (aside from the April 2008 Conservancy authorization of \$63,250 for improvements to the Moffett Field Bay Trail) and includes \$2.05 million in funding of habitat and public access construction as well as \$1.5 million for applied studies required by the Adaptive Management Plan. In order to successfully implement the construction projects and Adaptive Management Plan as well as plan for future project phases, this authorization also includes \$700,000 in funding for engineering and environmental services and project management.

The authorization would also allow the Conservancy to provide additional funding for the South Bay Shoreline Study, a feasibility study that is being jointly funded by the Santa Clara Valley Water District, the Conservancy, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under a federal Feasibility Cost Share Agreement for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study between the parties. On completion, the Shoreline Study will identify specific flood control, habitat restoration and public access improvements projects in the South Bay. The Shoreline Study encompasses a much larger area of the South Bay than the Salt Pond Restoration Project, including areas adjacent to the salt ponds in Santa Clara Counties. The Shoreline Study will facilitate the restoration of the South Bay Salt Ponds because it will complete the required analysis that will enable the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to cost-share significant portions of future environmental restoration, public access and tidal and creek flood protection projects likely to be similar to those identified in the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Plan.

The Conservancy accepted and disbursed two federal grants in order to construct three of the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Phase I implementation projects. The three Phase 1 projects total 1,510 acres, ten percent of the entire 15,100 acre South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. Pond A6 and A8 are both in the Alviso Salt Pond Complex, owned and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, while Ponds E8A/9/8X are in the Eden Landing Salt Pond Complex, owned and managed by the California Department of Fish and Game. The three projects entail restoration of full or partial tidal influence, benefiting endangered species and fish and other aquatic species. NOAA funds will also be used to undertake fish studies which will assess the effects of wetland restoration actions on fish species and communities within the Restoration Project area.



Tri-Valley Conservancy

36) BOBBA PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Location: Outside the City of Livermore in eastern Alameda County.

Conservancy Funds: \$600,000

Matching Funds: \$900,000

The Conservancy granted up to \$600,000 to the Tri-Valley Conservancy to purchase the approximately 74-acre Bobba property. The primary purpose of the acquisition is to provide public access trails across the Bobba property that would link Del Valle State Park, which is located southeast of the Bobba property, to Sycamore Grove Regional Park, which is immediately to the west. It will also link Camp Arroyo, located adjacent to southern most property line, and Veteran's Park, adjacent to part of the property's northern boundary.



Sharon Burnham, Tri-Valley Conservancy

The Bobba property is located within the South Livermore Valley Area in eastern Alameda County, just outside the City of Livermore. The future trail connections afforded by purchasing the Bobba property would enhance the existing recreational opportunities at Del Valle State Park, which includes Lake Del Valle and the surrounding 4,316 acres of land available for hiking, horseback riding, and nature study, and Camp Arroyo. The ultimate vision for public access within the region is the establishment of a trail that would go from the Ohlone Wilderness trail to East Bay Regional Park District's Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area in South Pleasanton, and connect up to the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

The property also contains scenic and open space features and some limited habitat values. The protected areas on either side of the Bobba property include significant natural areas and are home to at least two special status species. Sycamore Grove contains possible breeding ponds for the California tiger salamander, a federally-listed threatened species. Although no biological surveys have been done at the Bobba property, it is likely that a pond located on the lower portion of Bobba property could provide habitat for the California tiger salamander as well as other amphibian species (i.e. tree frogs and toads). There have also been a limited number of documented sightings of California red-legged frogs at Sycamore Grove. Given its proximity, the Bobba property could provide some limited dispersal habitat near the Arroyo Del Valle Creek for this species. In addition, the property is a wildlife corridor between the surrounding protected lands; deer, bobcats, foxes, and coyotes have often been seen crossing the property.

Description of Bay Area Projects Funded With Additional Conservancy Funds July 2008 – June 2010

Association of Bay Area Governments

37) STATE OF THE ESTUARY CONFERENCE

Location: The conference is held in Oakland, California, and is focused on the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary.

Conservancy Funds: \$100,000

Matching Funds: \$240,000

The Conservancy granted \$100,000 to the Association of Bay Area Governments for the purpose of organizing and presenting the State of the Estuary Conference in the fall of 2009. ABAG administers the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, a federal-state-local program, one of 28 National Estuary Programs throughout the United States that were established under the Clean Water Act. For more than 20 years, the San Francisco Estuary Partnership has worked to protect and restore the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. Together with many other nongovernmental organizations and public agencies, the San Francisco Estuary Partnership developed, to protect and restore the Estuary, a plan of action called the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, which was last updated in 2007.

The three-day Conference, which has been held every two years since 1993, provides the opportunity for scientists, managers, interest groups and the public to link the CCMP implementation to other ecosystem management programs and activities, address challenges, provide education, and solicit feedback on Bay-Delta Estuary restoration and protection. The Conference also provides a forum to hear about new research and monitoring data, political and scientific impacts on environmental policy, and priority ecosystem management issues, with 50-75 speakers presenting. The three-day conference includes both plenary sessions and concurrent sessions. The conference also includes a poster session, with over 200 posters on display at the 2007 conference providing an opportunity for many students, scientists, and resource managers to showcase projects and results. Media outreach and awards for innovative restoration and education projects are also included in the Conference.

Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District
38) DUTCH BILL CREEK FISH PASSAGE IMPROVEMENT

Location: Occidental in Western Sonoma County

Conservancy Funds: \$494,500

Matching Funds: \$448,000

The Conservancy granted \$494,500 to the Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District to restore fish passage to 3.4 miles of Dutch Bill Creek, enhance riparian habitat, and improve public access across Dutch Bill Creek at Camp Meeker. The RCD is removing the dam at Camp Meeker and retrofitting the culvert at Market Street. The project will also improve public access across the creek by installing an 80-foot pedestrian bridge at Camp Meeker. The project will effectively remove the last two remaining fish barriers on the mainstem of Dutch Bill Creek. The Camp Meeker Dam and the culvert under Market Street are identified as Sonoma County's Numbers 2 and 5 priority barriers to fish passage in the *Russian River Stream Crossing Inventory and Fish Passage Evaluation* (Ross Taylor and Associates, 2003). Dutch Bill Creek is one of only five remaining streams in the Russian River system where wild juvenile coho are known to exist for each year of the species' three year reproduction life cycle. The California Department of Fish and Game identifies Dutch Bill Creek, within the Guerneville Hydrologic Subarea, as having the highest possible rank for restoration and management potential in the Central California Coast Coho Evolutionarily Significant Units in the *Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon* (DFG, 2004).



The proposed project will completely remove the Camp Meeker Dam and the adjacent concrete apron. The dam was constructed in the 1950s to create a seasonal swimming hole and beach area for the local community. The upstream channel will be regraded to form a meander and more natural grade change. The project will include bank stabilization and installation of new habitat structures such as woody debris and rock boulders. The newly formed stream will be restored using the natural transport of spawning gravel to downstream reaches. Revegetation includes seeding, mulching and use of erosion-control fabric. An 80-foot pedestrian, pre-fabricated, steel bridge will be installed in the same location as the dam. The new bridge will connect to the existing foot path and maintain pedestrian passage over Dutch Bill Creek. This is the primary

pedestrian path for the community of Camp Meeker that connects the post office and community center on the east bank with the majority of residences located on the west bank of Dutch Bill Creek. The Market Street component of the project will restore fish passage at a 1960s-era concrete culvert where Market Street crosses Dutch Bill and intersects with the Bohemian Highway. Significant downstream erosion has resulted in an 8 foot drop at the culvert. The proposed project will retrofit the Market Street culvert with baffles and construct six rock weirs below the culvert to create pools that enable safe fish passage upstream to 3.4 miles of spawning and rearing habitat. The revegetation will utilize native plants such as alder, bay laurel, big leaf maple, willow, Oregon ash, and others native to the area to help control future erosion and promote wildlife habitat.

39) ESTERO AMERICANO DAIRY ENHANCEMENT, PHASE II

Location: Estero Americano in Marin and Sonoma Counties

Conservancy Funds: \$155,000

Matching Funds: \$472,000

The Conservancy granted \$155,000 to the Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District for the implementation of dairy enhancement projects in the Estero Americano watershed in Sonoma and Marin counties. The funding will enable the RCD to implement dairy enhancement projects in the Estero Americano watershed in Sonoma and Marin counties with the purpose of improving water quality in the Estero and increasing viability of agricultural lands in the watershed. The enhancement projects will take place on five dairies in close proximity to the Estero totaling roughly 1,950 acres. All of the project implementation work will take place on dairies where the RCD has been granted access by the landowner and the landowner agrees to maintain the improvements.

With funding from both the State Water Resources Control Board, as well as a previous Conservancy grant authorized in June of 2006, the RCD evaluated dairy operations in the watershed during a first phase of the Estero Americano Dairy Enhancement Program. The program included a regional nutrient management planning workshop, the development of comprehensive nutrient management plans for eight dairies, the installation of gutters and stormwater drainage diversions on five dairies, manure transfer and distribution equipment on four dairies, and extensive soil and manure sampling on all participating dairies. Five of the participating dairies from the initial phase of the project are continuing in Phase II, which will seek to improve water quality and ensure the economic viability of dairy production in the region through improved manure management practices, the adoption of pasture management practices to promote soil fertility and forage productivity, and water quality protection such as riparian pasture fencing and revegetation, off-channel water development, cross-fencing, and manure composting facilities. The purchase and installation of manure transfer and distribution equipment will allow operators greater control over the timing and rate of manure application to farm fields, which will improve production of forage and reduce the need for increasingly expensive imported feed. The program will also fund conservation planning assistance for each operator enrolled in the program.

National Park Service (Point Reyes National Seashore)
40) POINT REYES HOSTEL ADDITION

Location: Point Reyes National Seashore in Marin County

Conservancy Funds: \$230,000

Matching Funds: \$470,000

The Conservancy granted \$230,000 to the National Park Service to expand the availability of low-cost lodging at the Point Reyes National Seashore by constructing additional family and staff accommodations at the Point Reyes Hostel, and bringing the Hostel into compliance with current state, federal, and Marin County regulations. This project will increase the size of the existing Hostel by 1,800 square feet and add 12 beds for visitors to the current 44-bed capacity for a total capacity of 56 beds. In addition, staff housing capacity will be increased from the current two rooms for staff to three rooms. The Point Reyes Hostel provides low-cost lodging for visitors to Point Reyes National Seashore and to West Marin. The scarcity of affordable overnight accommodations in this popular tourist destination presents a significant gap in public access to the California coastline. The Point Reyes Hostel operation dates back to 1972. This project is the first major capital investment at the Hostel since the concession operation was initiated. The park has no plans for further expansion of guest accommodations beyond these improvements. The design calls for sustainable materials to be used for construction, energy saving devices, low flow fixtures, natural lighting, and design features to reduce future maintenance needs.

***Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and
Sonoma Land Trust***
41) JENNER HEADLANDS ACQUISITION

Location: Jenner, northwestern Sonoma County

Conservancy Funds: \$8,000,000 (\$4,000,000 Bay Program Funds; \$4,000,000 Other Agency Funds)

Matching Funds Granted to Conservancy: \$5,850,000 (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

Other Matching Funds: \$22,150,000

The Conservancy granted the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and Sonoma Land Trust funds to acquire the Jenner Headlands property, which consists of 5,630 acres of rolling coastal terrace and wooded slopes north of the Russian River in western Sonoma County to ensure the preservation of its outstanding scenic, habitat and public access resources. Conservancy funding in the amount of \$8,000,000 was granted to Sonoma Land Trust for their

fee title acquisition of the property and NOAA funding in the amount of \$5,850,000 was granted through the Conservancy to Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District for their acquisition of an easement over the property.

The Jenner Headlands' scenic ridge tops, forest and rolling coastal terrace grasslands are highly visible to drivers for 10 miles of Coastal Highway 1 along the western side of the property. Open space views of the property are a backdrop for kayakers and paddlers on the Russian River to the south and hikers, bicyclists and equestrians recreating at Sonoma Coast State Beach to the west



of the property. In addition, a future link in the California Coastal Trail along 2.5 miles of coastal terrace with wide-ranging open ocean views will be made possible through the acquisition. The property's proximity to Sonoma Coast State Beach, the Poff Ranch (acquired by Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District in December 2007 with Conservancy support) and other Russian River area destinations may enable a fantastic network of coastal and inland trails. The riparian areas, dense redwood and Douglas fir forest, oak woodlands, chaparral, meadows and coastal

prairie land of the property are home to a diversity of plants, wildlife and fish - including federally-listed steelhead trout and coho salmon. In addition, the site may also provide for potential adaptation to global climate-change for wildlife and vegetation over time due to its size, variety of habitat and its adjacency to nearly 25,000 acres of protected lands in public ownership and under conservation easements in western Sonoma County.

The risk of development of the Jenner Headlands is high due to the existence of 42 perfected certificates of compliance on the property, the desirability of Sonoma's coast for homes and its proximity to the Bay Area. Without the proposed conservation acquisition, the property could be developed for residential use, and commercial timber harvest would continue. However, working with the property owners and a number of funding partners, Sonoma Land Trust has negotiated an opportunity to forever protect the Jenner Headlands' tremendous ecological resources and ensure access for the public to this remarkable Sonoma coast property.



Sotoyome Resource Conservation District
42) AUSTIN CREEK WATERSHED RESTORATION PROGRAM

Location: Austin Creek, a tributary to the Russian River, and its watershed lands, approximately 5 miles from the Pacific Ocean, unincorporated Sonoma County

Conservancy Funds: \$262,190

Matching Funds: \$173,873

The Conservancy granted funds to the Sotoyome Resource Conservation District for a watershed restoration program, including in-stream habitat improvements for migrating and rearing steelhead and Coho salmon, in the Austin Creek Watershed, a tributary of the Russian River in western Sonoma County. The RCD will complete the *Austin Creek Watershed Restoration Program* for restoration of the 69-square mile Austin Creek watershed, one of the largest and most important watersheds draining into the Russian River. The proposed authorization would also enable the RCD to implement the next phase of the *Lower Austin Creek Migration Improvement Project*, a collaborative effort previously approved by the California Department of Fish and Game, designed to improve migration and rearing habitat conditions for endangered Coho salmon, as well as threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead populations.

The *Austin Creek Watershed Restoration Program* focuses specifically on controlling sediment sources in the upper Austin Creek Watershed. In previous studies, the RCD identified 55 miles of unpaved road segments on private lands in the watershed that need corrective action to reduce sedimentation and promote the recovery of healthy populations of Coho salmon and steelhead. In this phase, the RCD will assess and recommend corrective actions for specific sediment sources on these private road segments; prepare plans, engineering designs and environmental documentation for the highest priority projects; and obtain any permission necessary to complete projects on privately held lands. As a first step, the RCD will form a technical advisory committee with agency personnel and landowner representatives to help guide planning and assessment of the watershed. The RCD will identify priority restoration projects on private road segments based on estimates of total yards of sediment



that would be prevented from entering the stream, overall cost effectiveness, and landowner cooperation, including pledges of monetary or in-kind contributions. The RCD will prepare design and engineering plans, complete all necessary environmental documentation for the highest priority projects, and prepare applications for implementation funding from appropriate sources.

In addition, to provide immediate benefits to Austin Creek salmonid populations, the RCD will implement several instream projects identified in the *Lower Austin Creek Migration Improvement Project*, such as installation of log, root wad and boulder structures in Lower Austin Creek, and careful excavation of gravel to generate new pools and resting areas for salmon. The RCD will also remove the invasive Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) which has infested the lower reaches of the creek. The RCD will replant the stream bank with approximately 1,800 native willow pole cuttings.

Funding Summary of Bay Area Conservancy Program Projects Years One Through Eleven

	Bay Area Conservancy Program (a)	Additional Conservancy Funding (b)	Matching Funds (some estimated) (c)
Year One: FY 1999-2000 (42 Projects)			
Total Conservancy Funds	\$9,722,126		\$17,990,159
	\$9,722,126		
Funding Leverage: Bay Area Conservancy Program	35%		65%
Funding Leverage: Total Coastal Conservancy Funds (Bay and Additional)	35%		65%
Year Two: FY 2000-2001 (51 Projects)			
Total Conservancy Funds	\$20,286,027	\$21,715,000	\$80,948,268
	\$42,001,027		
Funding Leverage: Bay Area Conservancy Program	20%		80%
Funding Leverage: Total Coastal Conservancy Funds (Bay and Additional)	34%		66%
Year Three: FY 2001-2002 (41 Projects)			
Total Conservancy Funds	\$16,082,196	\$5,130,000	\$57,034,781
	\$21,212,196		
Funding Leverage: Bay Area Conservancy Program	22%		78%
Funding Leverage: Total Coastal Conservancy Funds (Bay and Additional)	27%		73%
Year Four: FY 2002-2003 (26 Projects)			
Total Conservancy Funds	\$15,672,185	\$5,000,000	\$66,852,488
	\$20,672,185		
Funding Leverage: Bay Area Conservancy Program	19%		81%
Funding Leverage: Total Coastal Conservancy Funds (Bay and Additional)	24%		76%
Year Five: FY 2003-2004 (35 Projects)			
Total Conservancy Funds	\$17,256,585	\$544,381	\$52,371,386
	\$17,800,966		
Funding Leverage: Bay Area Conservancy Program	25%		75%
Funding Leverage: Total Coastal Conservancy Funds (Bay and Additional)	25%		75%
Year Six: FY 2004-2005 (35 Projects)			
Total Conservancy Funds	\$24,327,875	\$1,500,000	\$76,987,574
	\$25,827,875		
Funding Leverage: Bay Area Conservancy Program	24%		76%
Funding Leverage: Total Coastal Conservancy Funds (Bay and Additional)	25%		75%
Year Seven: FY 2005-2006 (42 Projects)			
Total Conservancy Funds	\$13,460,402	\$950,000	\$40,175,391
	\$14,410,402		
Funding Leverage: Bay Area Conservancy Program	25%		75%
Funding Leverage: Total Coastal Conservancy Funds (Bay and Additional)	26%		74%
Year Eight: FY 2006-2007 (37 Projects)			
Total Conservancy Funds	\$12,968,588	\$2,992,468	\$17,632,696
	\$15,961,056		
Funding Leverage: Bay Area Conservancy Program	42%		58%
Funding Leverage: Total Coastal Conservancy Funds (Bay and Additional)	48%		52%
Year Nine: FY 2007-2008 (57 Projects)			
Total Conservancy Funds	\$20,057,321	\$16,141,483	\$88,624,297
	\$36,198,804		
Funding Leverage: Bay Area Conservancy Program	18%		82%
Funding Leverage: Total Coastal Conservancy Funds (Bay and Additional)	29%		71%
Years Ten and Eleven: FYs 2008-2010 (42 Projects)			
Total Conservancy Funds	\$24,121,405	\$9,887,685	\$216,775,388
	\$34,009,090		
Funding Leverage: Bay Area Conservancy Program	10%		90%
Funding Leverage: Total Coastal Conservancy Funds (Bay and Additional)	14%		86%
Sum Total for Years One Through Eleven			
Year One - Year Eleven: FY 1999-2010 (408 Projects)			
Total Conservancy Funds	\$173,954,710	\$63,861,017	\$715,392,428
	\$237,815,727		
Funding Leverage: Bay Area Conservancy Program	20%		80%
Funding Leverage: Total Coastal Conservancy Funds (Bay and Additional)	25%		75%

Notes:

- a) Funds directly appropriated to the Bay Area Conservancy Program
- b) Funds appropriated to the State Coastal Conservancy as an agency, of which some may be used in the Bay Area
- c) All other matching funds, including funds granted to the Conservancy