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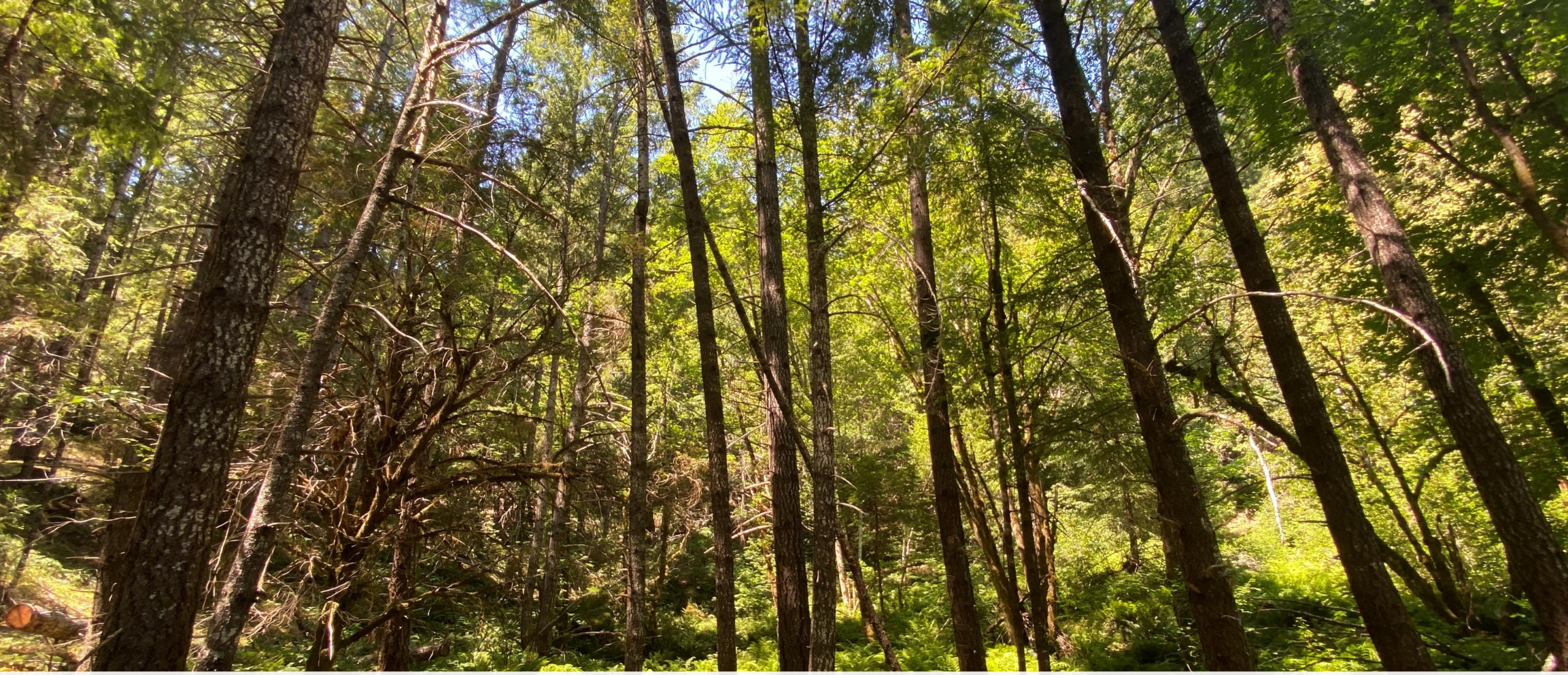
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Wildlife Conservation Board
November 19, 2026 Board Meeting
First Floor Auditorium, CNRA Headquarters Building

North Carrizo Ecological Reserve, Expansion 1
Credit: WCB



California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Item 1. Roll Call

North Coast Range Fen Conservation Area (Woodcock)
Credit: WCB



California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Item 2. Approval of Agenda

Grassland Ecological Area Hunting Access
Credit: WCB



California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Item 3. Executive Director's Report

Encino Ranch Habitat Restoration
Credit: Encino Conservancy

New WCB Staff

Anna Gao
Huey On
Wenli Xia
Dina Le
Babak Bafandehedalat
Wenmiao Chang**





Clarisse Goetzen



Myfanwy Johnston

Credit: WCB

California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Closed Acquisitions





California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Events





Tongva Restoration

California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Beavers!



Credit: WCB



Credit: WCB

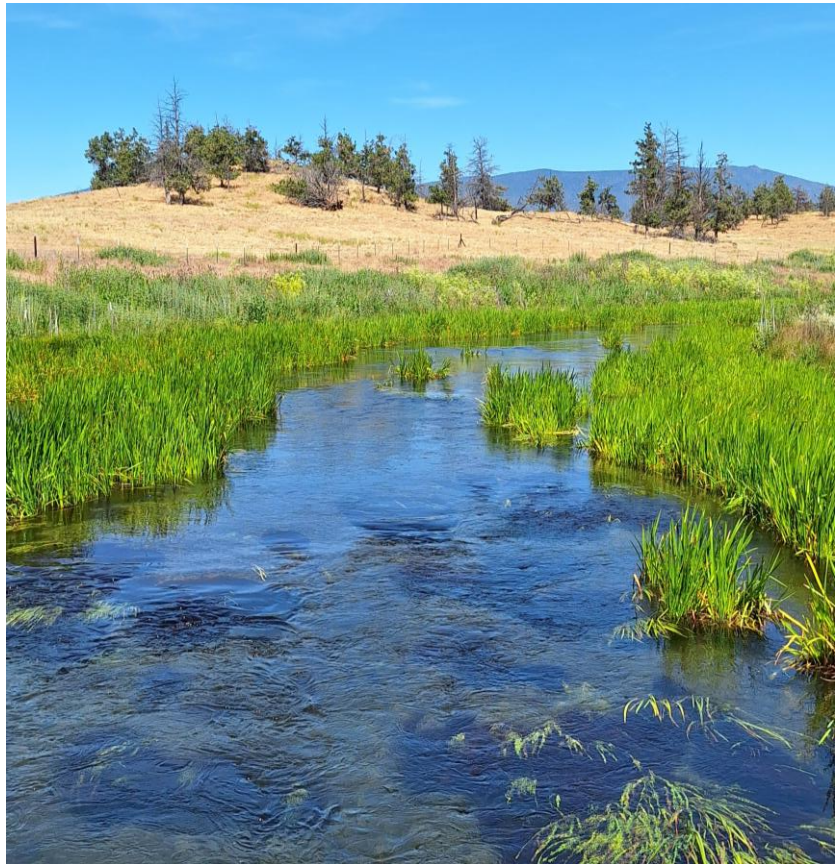
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Climate Bond for Appropriations for FY2026-27

$311.5m to WCB (AB 109/ AB 113):

- **$179m available for competitive grants****
  - Biodiversity -- $109m
  - Wildlife crossings -- $20m
  - San Andreas Program -- $20m
  - Streamflow enhancement projects -- $20m
  - Island restoration -- $10m
- $62.5m directed transfers
- $67.4m directed projects
- $2.6m program delivery

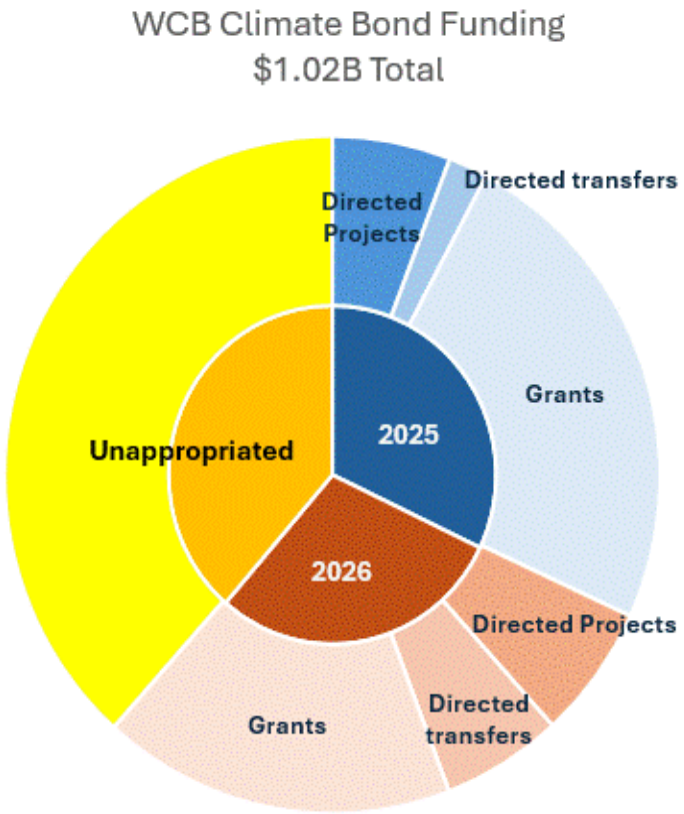
** Salton Sea Public Access -- $30m to Department of Water Resources (anticipated Q1)



Big Springs Ranch Habitat Implementation
Credit: WCB

California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Status of WCB Climate Bond Funding



- 2025: $327.5m appropriated
  - Directed projects-- $58.8m
  - Directed transfers-- $40m
  - Program delivery -- $2.5m
  - Available for competitive grants -- $226.2m

- 2026: $301 appropriated
  - Directed transfers -- $62.5m
  - Directed projects-- $67.4m
  - Program delivery -- $2m
  - Available for competitive grants -- $169.1m

- State bond costs: $7.7m

$383.8 of WCB's $1.02b Prop 4 funds remain available for appropriation in future years

California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD



California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Item 4. Board Member Updates and Reports

Del Dios
Credit: WCB



California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Item 5. Funding Status - Informational

Sheepy Ridge Wildlife Area
Credit: The Dore Group



Proposed Projects

November 19, 2026

California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Wildlife Conservation Board Meeting November 19, 2026 Project Map

Credit: WCB

California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD



California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Consent Items 6-19

Mattole Headwaters Habitat Enhancement
Credit: WCB

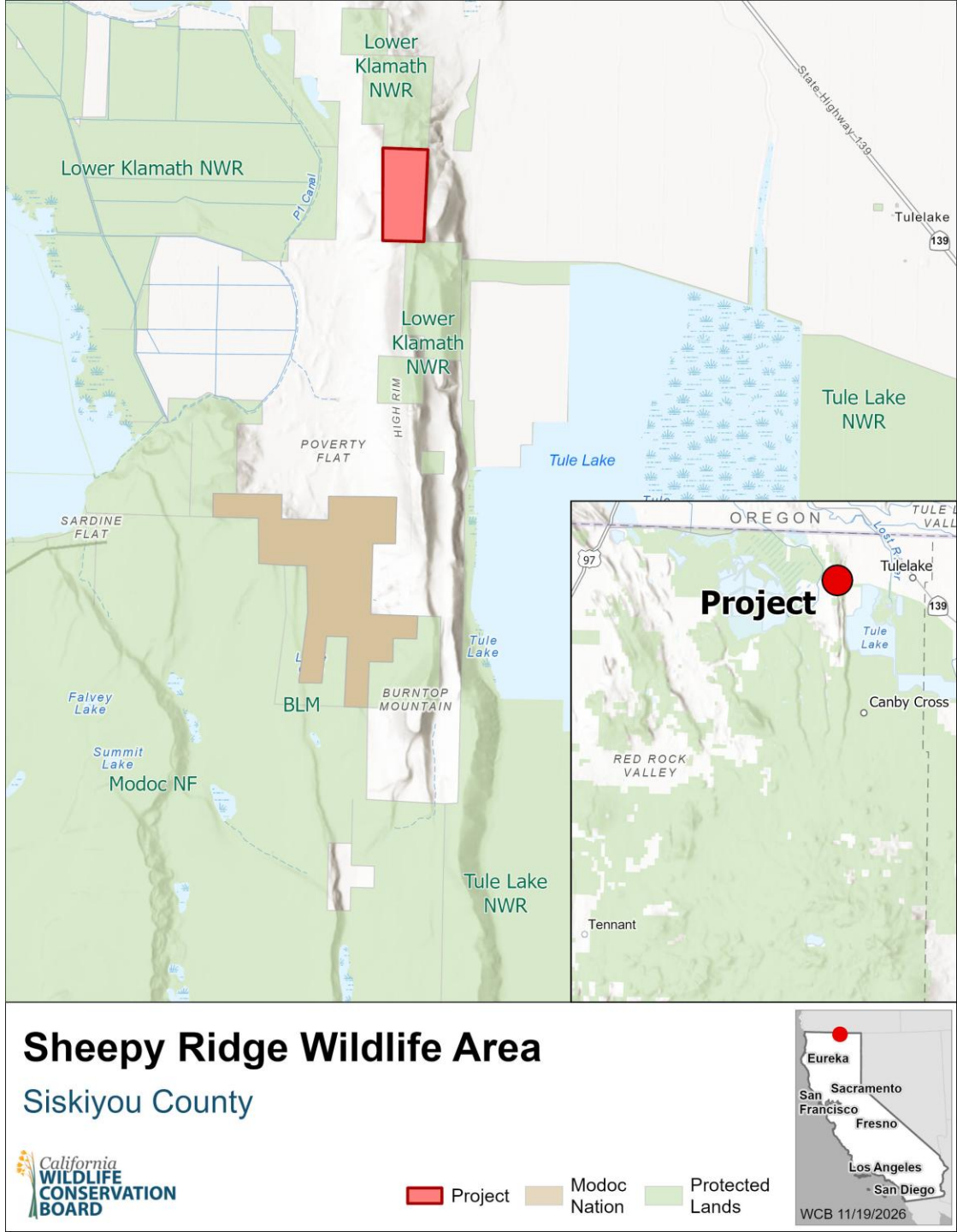
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Item 6. Recovery of Funds

Fund Name	Amount
General Fund	$5,653.40
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund	$94.99
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006	$0.00
Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014	$6,220.86
The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018	$631,100.30
Total Recoveries for All Funds	***$643,069.55***

Sheepy Ridge Wildlife Area

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife property transfer to the Modoc Nation
- 320± acre transfer
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife is charging $0 for this transfer



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Credit: WCB

Mattole Headwaters Habitat Enhancement

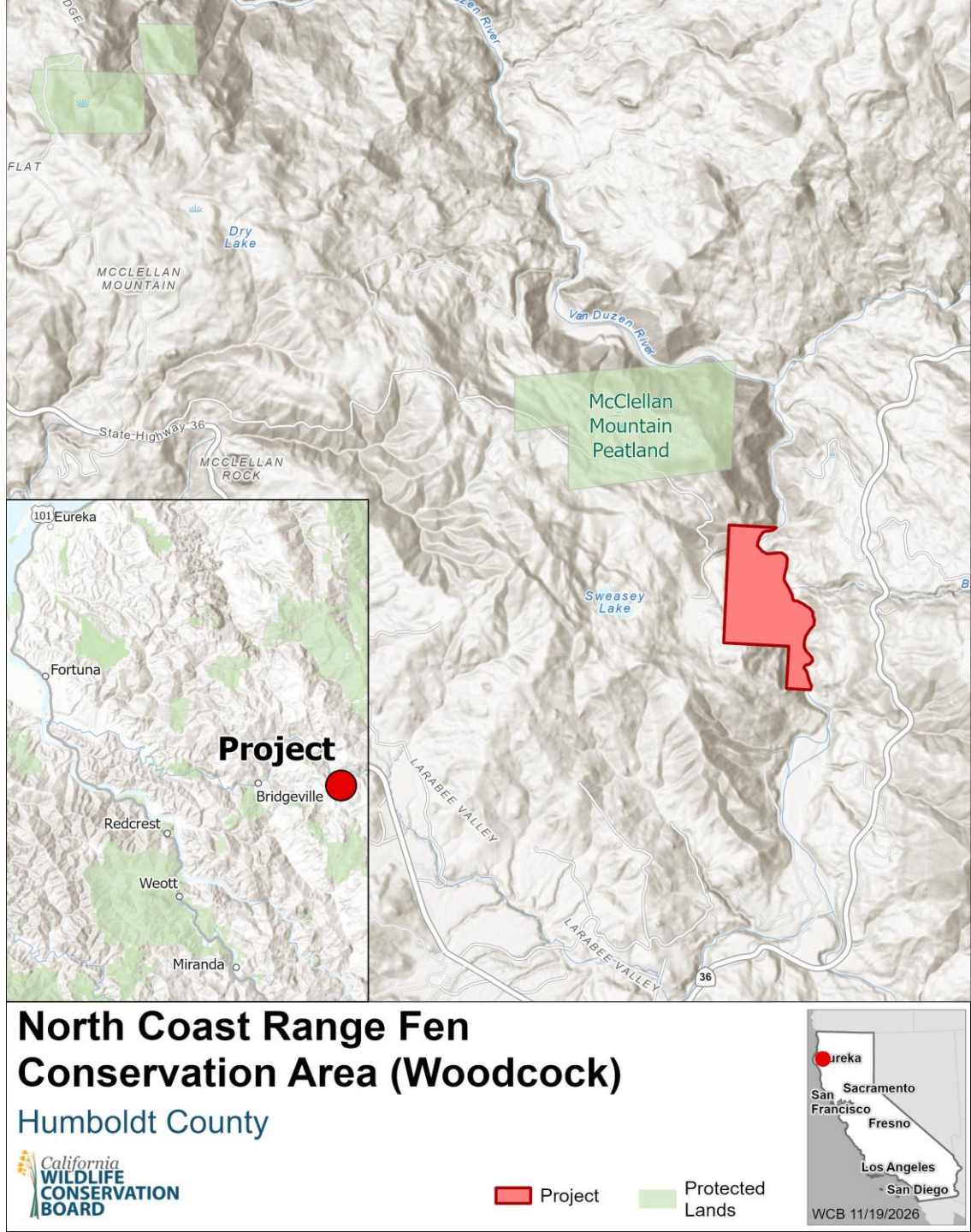
- Mattole Salmon Group (applicant)
- WCB request $688,000 (total project cost $780,000)
- Add large wood at 24 sites in the upper mainstem Mattole River and 6 sites in McKee Creek
- Improve habitat along 2 half-mile reaches of the Mattole River and McKee Creek
- Thin 32 acres of surrounding riparian forest



Credit: WCB

North Coast Range Fen Conservation Area (Woodcock)

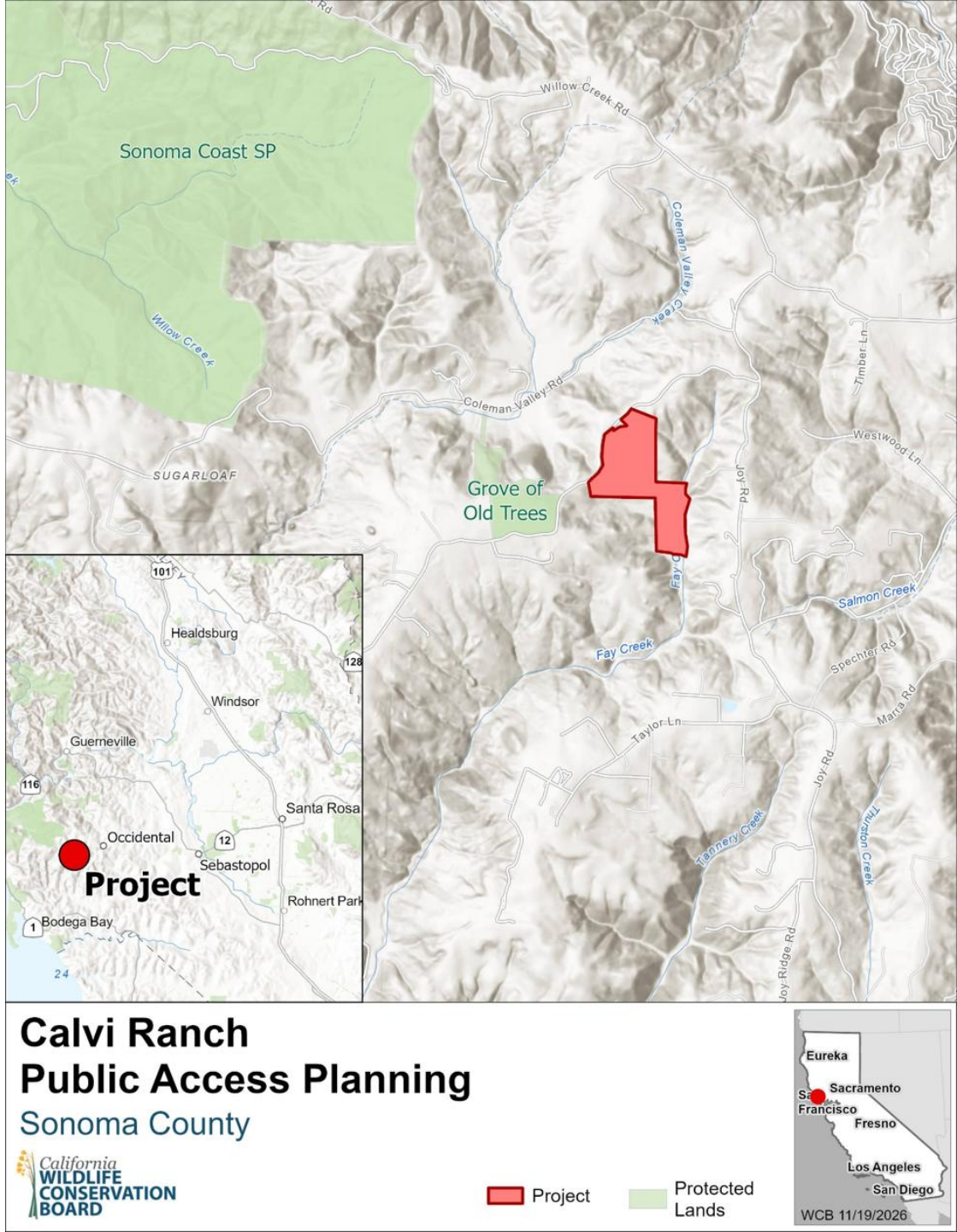
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife acquisition
- 110± acre fee acquisition
- Purchase price $600,000
- WCB request $600,000
- Property includes 1 mile of stream habitat, a large spring and wetland complex, mixed evergreen hardwood forest, and riparian forest habitat
- Benefits summer steelhead trout



Credit: WCB

Calvi Ranch Public Access Planning

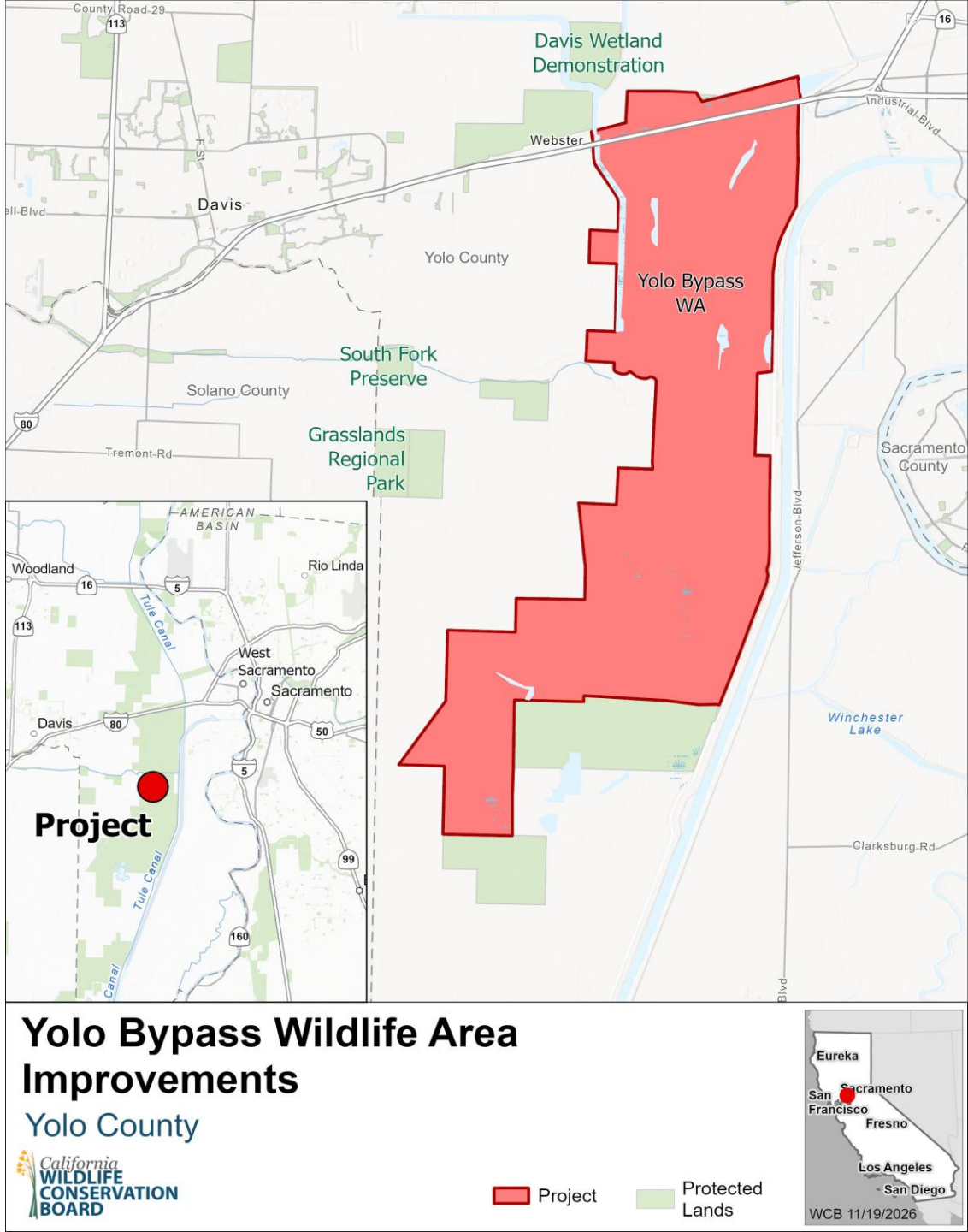
- LandPaths (applicant)
- WCB request $750,000 (total project cost $1,959,748)
- Complete stewardship plan for habitat enhancement of redwood forests, coastal serpentine prairie, and Fay Creek
- Complete public access planning for hiking trails, parking, and educational opportunities



Credit: WCB

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Improvements

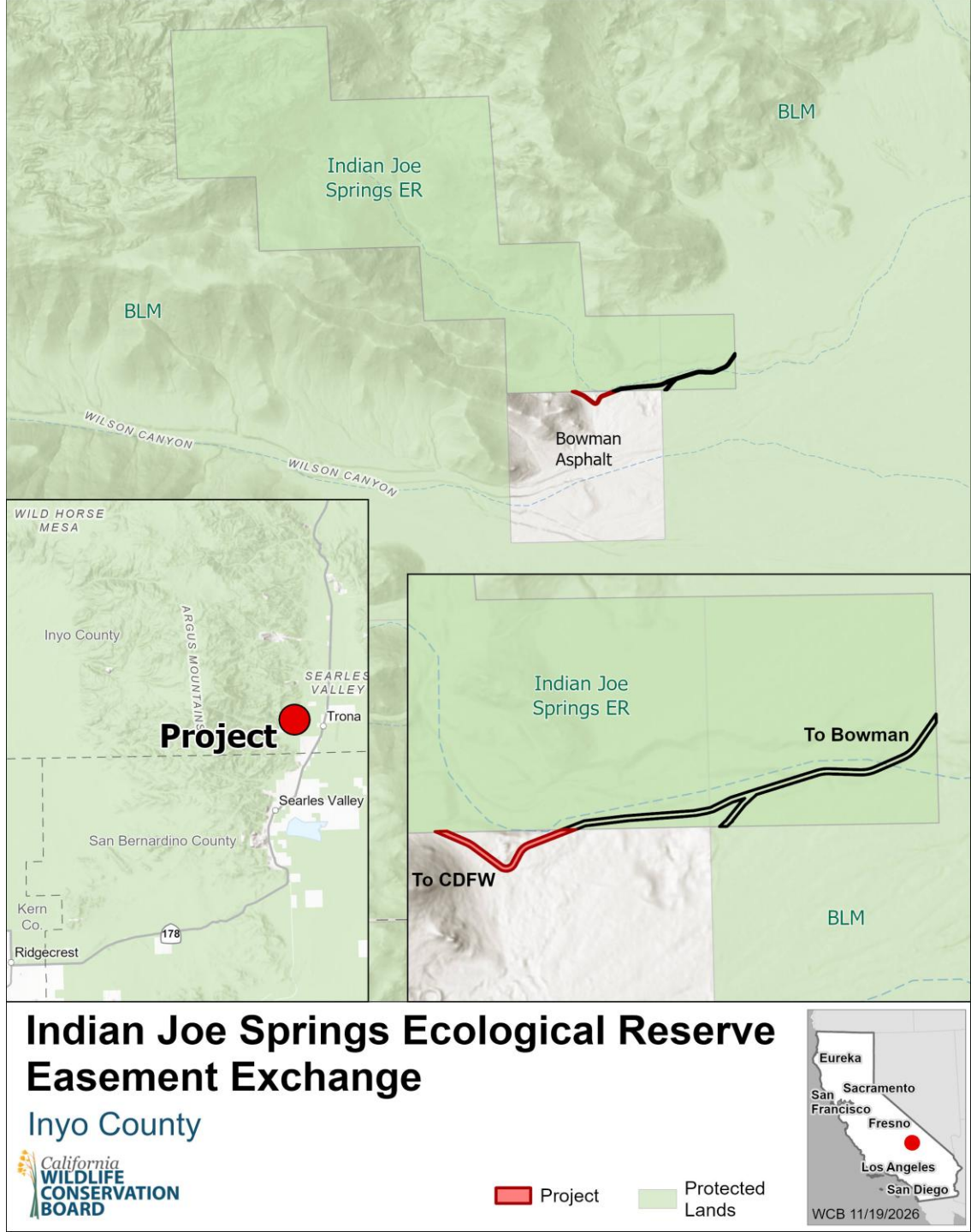
- California Waterfowl Association (applicant)
- WCB request $615,000 (total cost $627,000)
- Address growing demand while improving accessibility, safety, and quality of outdoor experiences for hunters, anglers, photographers, wildlife viewers, school groups, and visitors with disabilities



Credit: WCB

Indian Joe Springs Ecological Reserve Easement Exchange

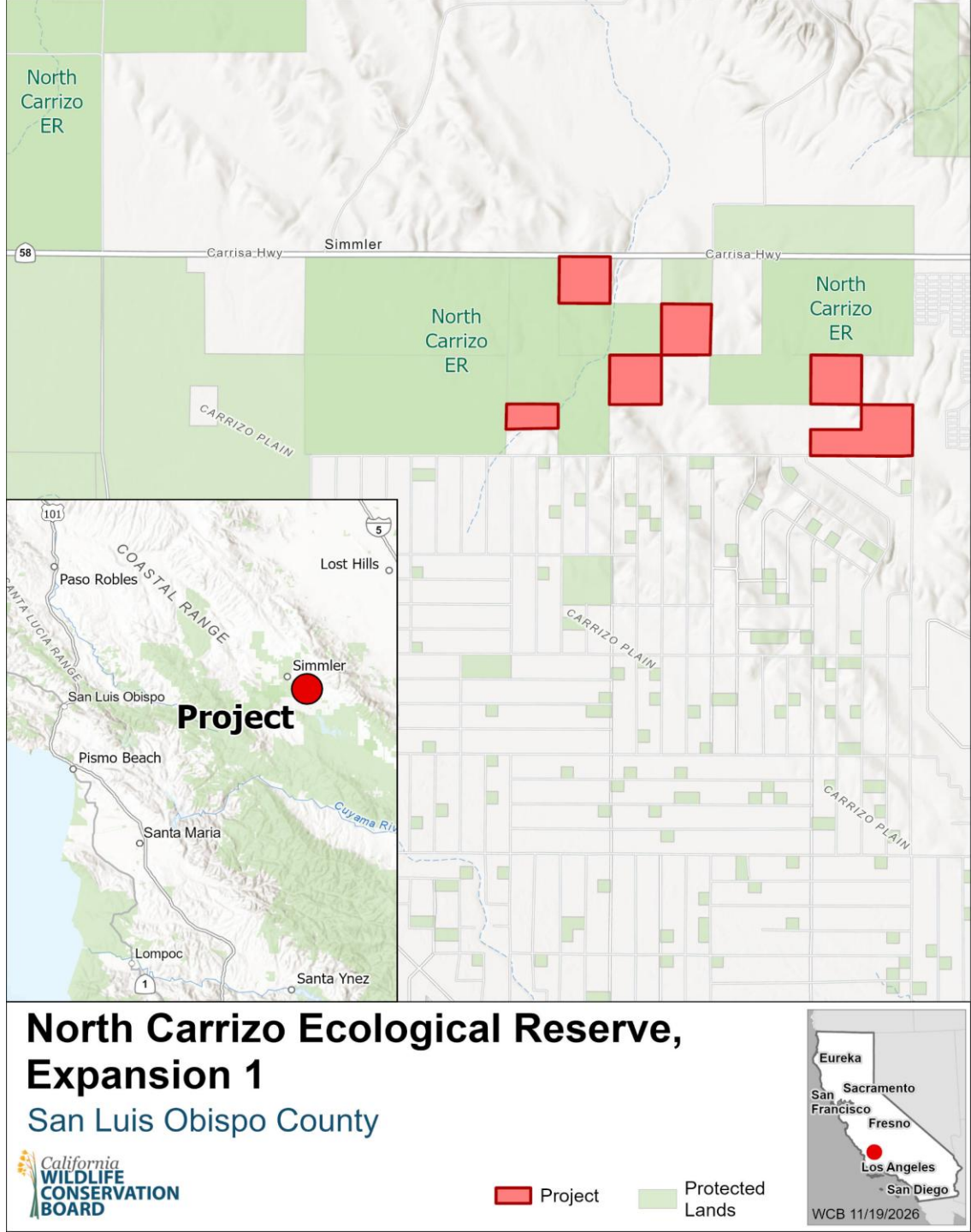
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) acquisition/exchange
- 1± acre access easement granted to CDFW and 2± CDFW-granted access easement
- Purchase price $0
- WCB request $0
- Improves CDFW access to the southern portion of the reserve to maintain and protect critical desert habitat, while solidifying legal access for both parties



Credit: WCB

North Carrizo Ecological Reserve, Expansion 1

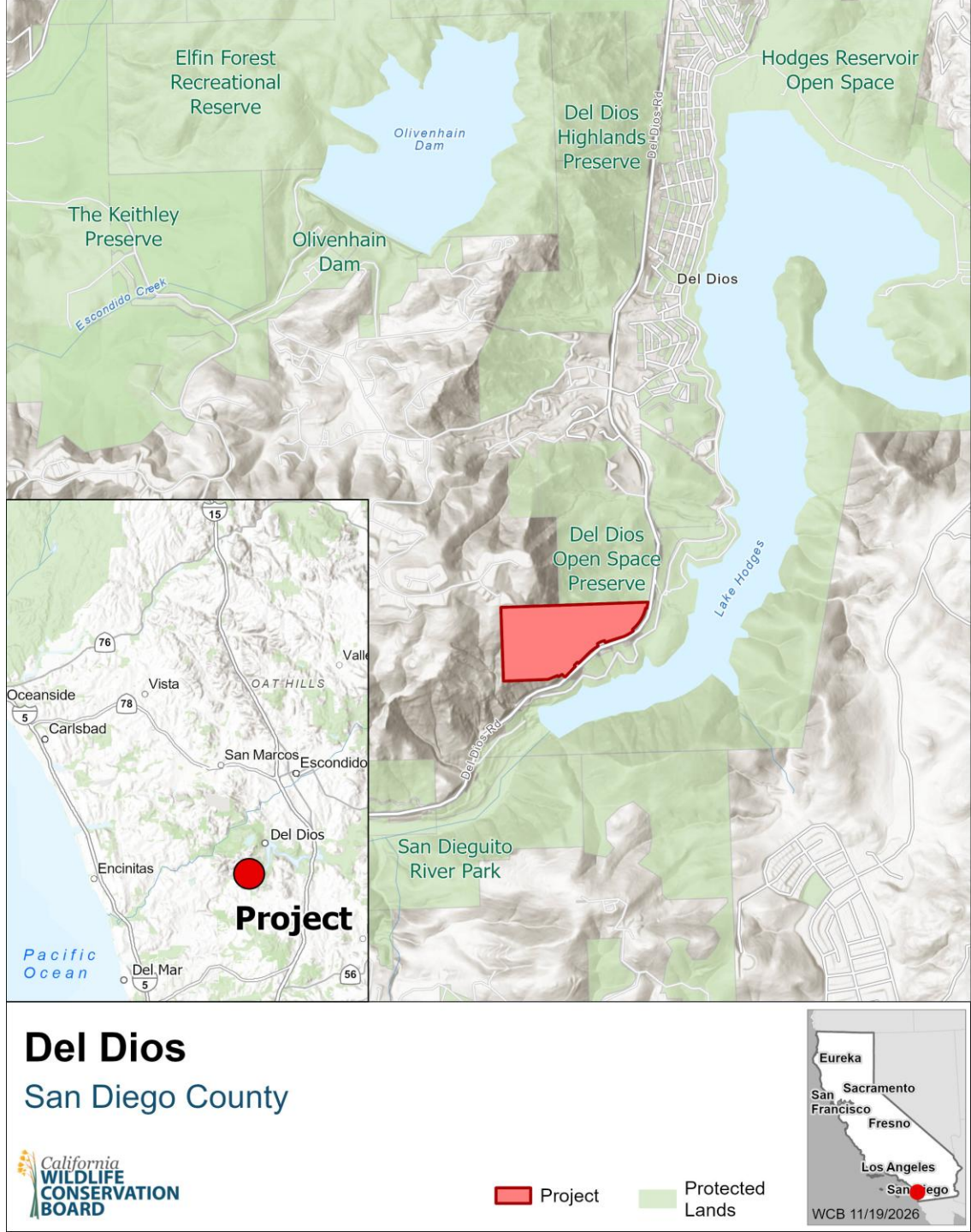
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife acquisition
- 240± acre fee acquisition
- Purchase price $5,000
- WCB request $5,000
- $545,000 bargain sale by landowner
- The Property is an expansion to the existing North Carrizo Ecological Reserve and provides protection for giant kangaroo rat, San Joaquin kit fox, and pronghorn antelope



Credit: WCB

Del Dios

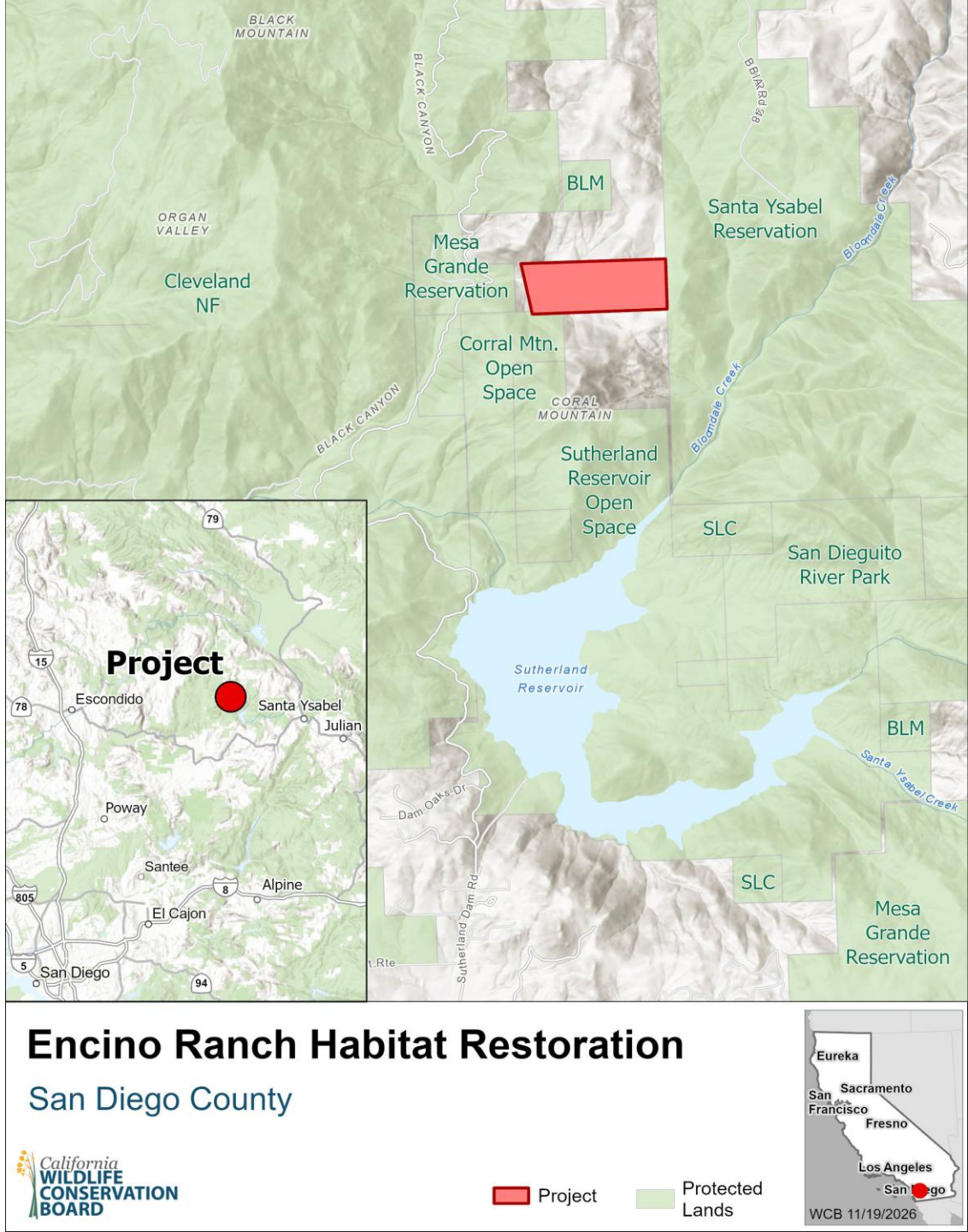
- San Dieguito River Valley Land Conservancy (applicant)
- 59± acre fee acquisition
- Purchase price $423,600
- WCB request $423,600
- Protects critical coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats that support threatened species, including coastal California gnatcatcher, and strengthens wildlife corridors



Credit: WCB

Encino Ranch Habitat Restoration

- Encino Conservancy (applicant)
- WCB request $445,000 (total project cost $477,232)
- Approximately 51 acres of southern coast live oak woodland, Engelmann oak woodland, native grassland, and pollinator habitats will be restored or enhanced increasing wildfire and climate resiliency



Credit: WCB

San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 11 (Parfrey)

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife acquisition
- 31± acre fee acquisition
- Purchase price $150,000
- WCB request $150,000
- Expand the existing San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area for the protection of native shrub vegetation, Stephen's kangaroo rat, and the golden eagle



Credit: WCB

San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 12 (Corner)

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife acquisition
- 77± acre fee acquisition
- Purchase price $560,000
- WCB request $560,000
- Expand the existing San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area for the protection of native shrub vegetation, Stephen's kangaroo rat, and the golden eagle



Credit: WCB

San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 13 (Schaarsmith)

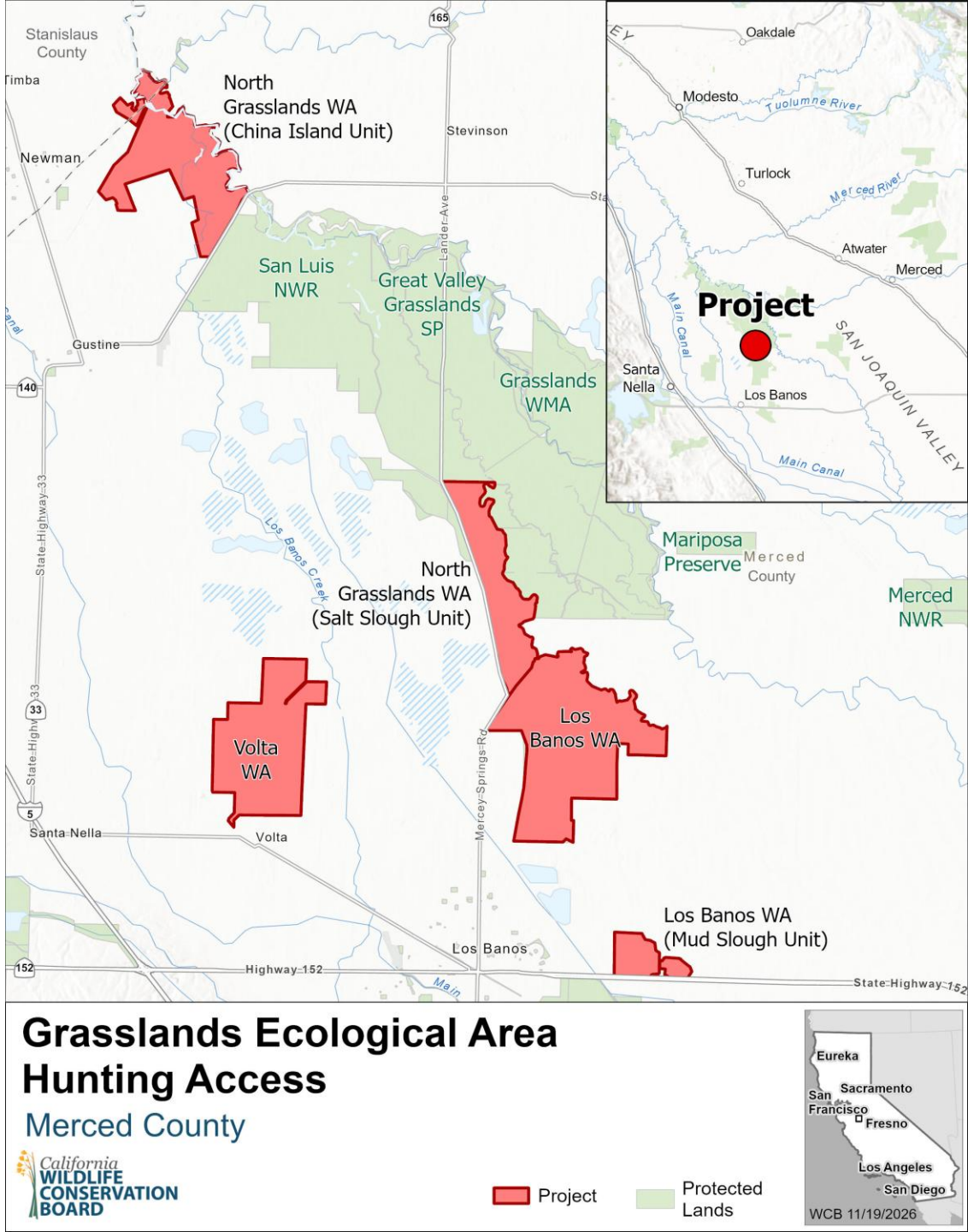
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife acquisition
- 58± acre fee acquisition
- Purchase price $245,000
- WCB request $245,000
- Expand the existing San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area for the protection of native shrub vegetation, Stephen's kangaroo rat, and the golden eagle



Credit: WCB

Grasslands Ecological Area Hunting Access

- California Waterfowl Association (applicant)
- WCB request $542,000 (total project cost $542,000)
- Project will improve public access, accessibility, and recreational experience at three state-owned wildlife areas within the Grasslands Ecological Area



Credit: WCB



California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Consent Items 6-19, Motion

North Coast Range Fen Conservation Area (Woodcock)
Credit: WCB



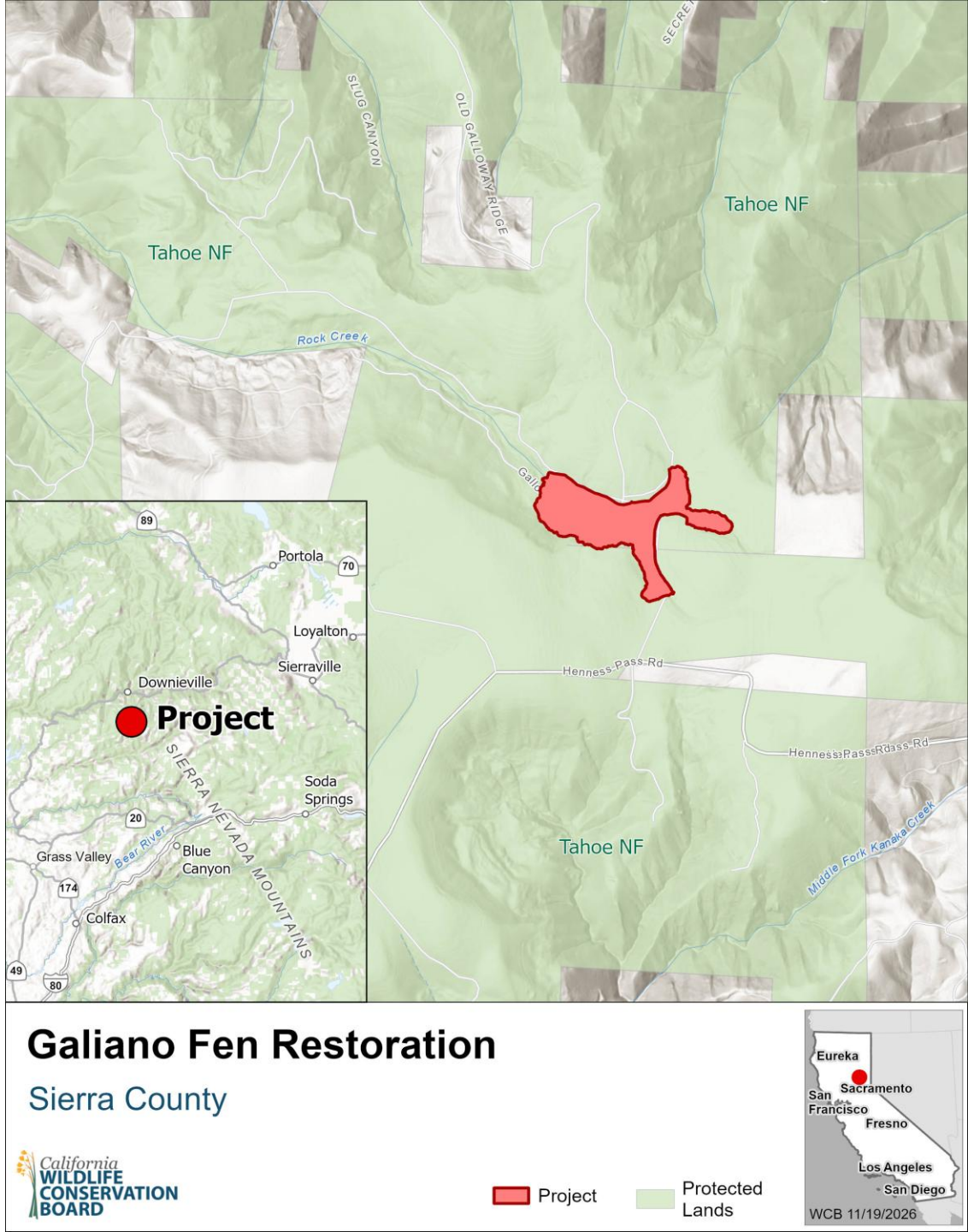
California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Presented Items 20-30

San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 11 (Parfrey)
Credit: Angela M. Acosta

Galiano Fen Restoration

- South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) (applicant)
- WCB request $2,622,000 (total project cost $2,857,225)



Credit: WCB





Galiano Fen Restoration

Slide 2

Implementation project on 64 acres:

- Wet meadow
- Fen
- Lost meadow
- Upland

Top: Incised channel in lost meadow habitat
Credit: SYRCL

Bottom: Mining pond
Credit: WCB

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Galiano Fen Restoration

Slide 3

- Stream channel restoration
- Road and relic mining features
- Conifer removal-upland and lost meadow
- Cattle exclusion fencing and/or virtual fencing







Left: Lost meadow habitat
Right: Road through meadow
Bottom: Incised/erosive meadow channel
Credit: WCB

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Galiano Fen Restoration

Slide 4

Outcomes:

- Restoration and preservation of fen habitat
- Increased carbon sequestration, climate resilience, and biodiversity

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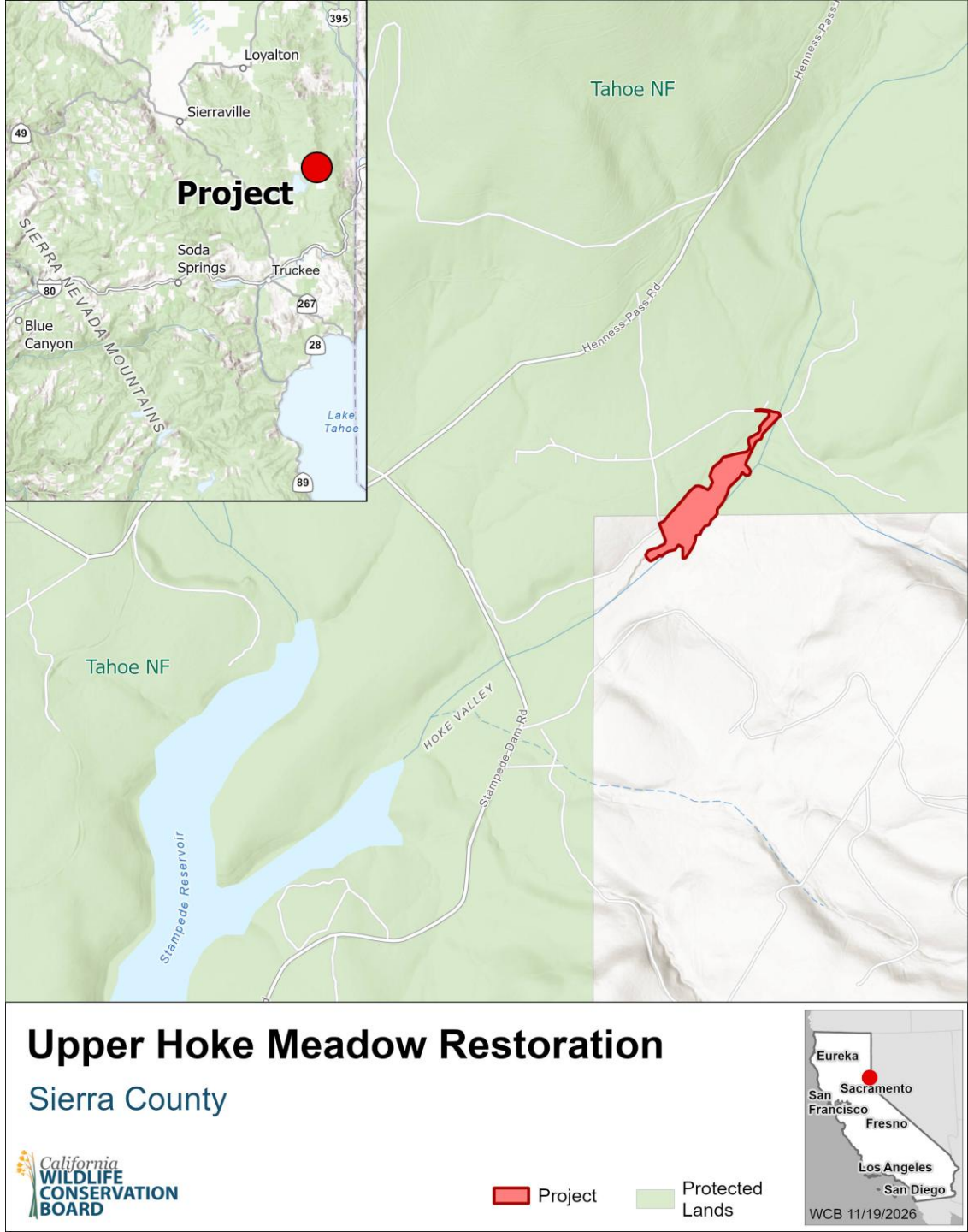
Conifer encroachment in fen
Credit: WCB

Upper Hoke Meadow Restoration

- Truckee River Watershed Council (applicant)
- WCB request $1,724,000 (total project cost $1,742,800)



Credit: WCB







Upper Hoke Meadow Restoration

Slide 2

- 35 acres wet meadow habitat
- WCB previously funded Lower Hoke restoration project
- Channel fill, in channel roughness, channel plug, and floodplain grading

Incised channel (left), dry meadow conditions (middle), utility pipeline through meadow (right)
Credit: WCB

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Upper Hoke Meadow Restoration

Slide 3

Outcomes:

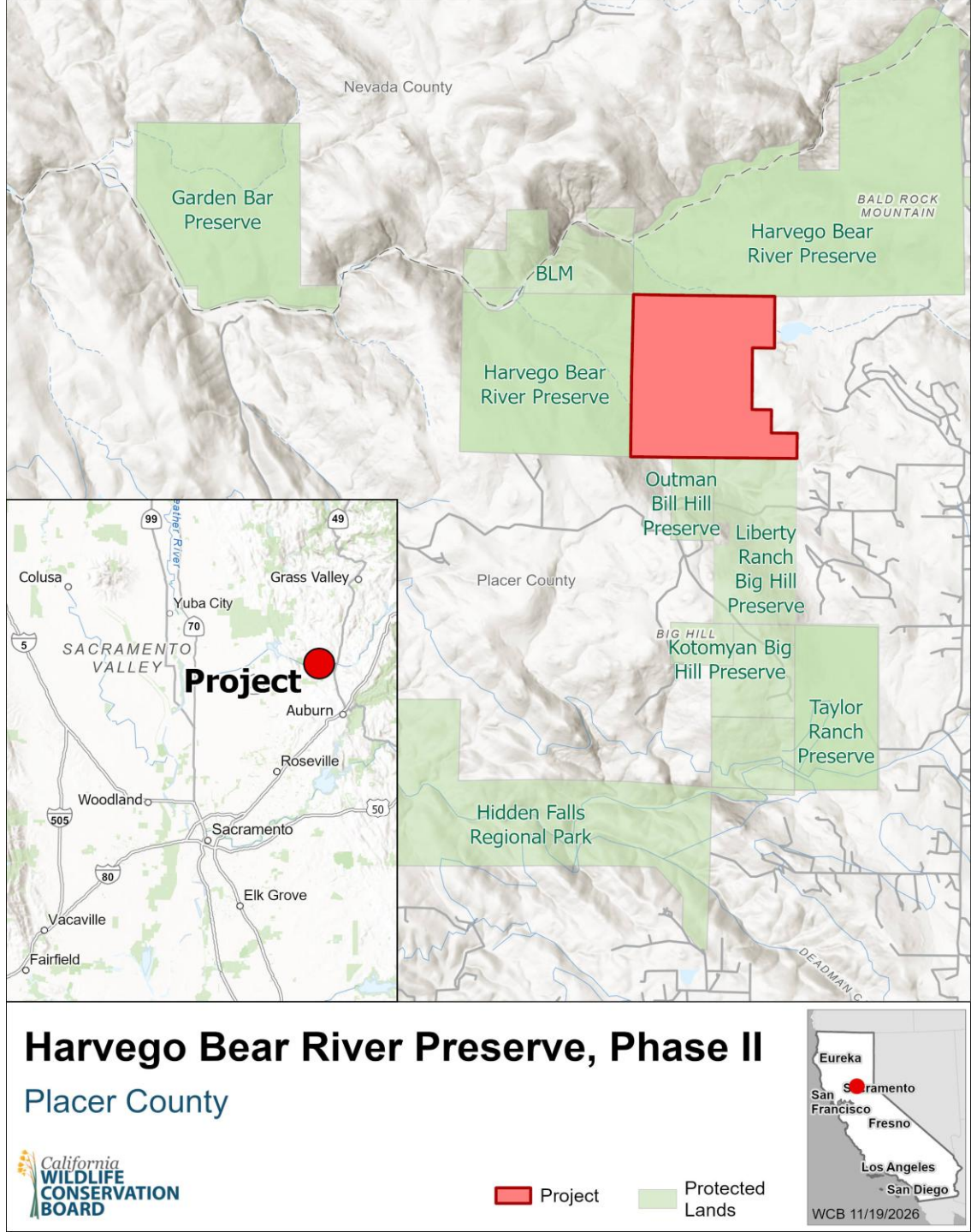
- Builds upon prior success and funding investments
- Contributes to regional restoration priorities
- Increases climate resilience, habitat quality, and biodiversity

Inset floodplain
Credit: WCB

California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Harvego Bear River Preserve, Phase II

- Placer Land Trust (applicant)
- 525± acre fee acquisition
- Purchase price $8,000,000
- WCB request $5,200,000



Credit: WCB

Harvego Bear River Preserve, Phase II

Slide 2

Looking northeast across the central pond



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Credit: Placer Land Trust

Harvego Bear River Preserve, Phase II

Slide 3

Property is predominantly characterized by gently rolling oak woodlands with two perennial ponds.



California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Credit: Placer Land Trust



Harvego Bear River Preserve, Phase II

Slide 4

Property supports an abundance of wildlife including deer, turkeys, and pigs.

Credit: Placer Land Trust

California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Harvego Bear River Preserve, Phase II

Slide 5

View of the Property looking northwest

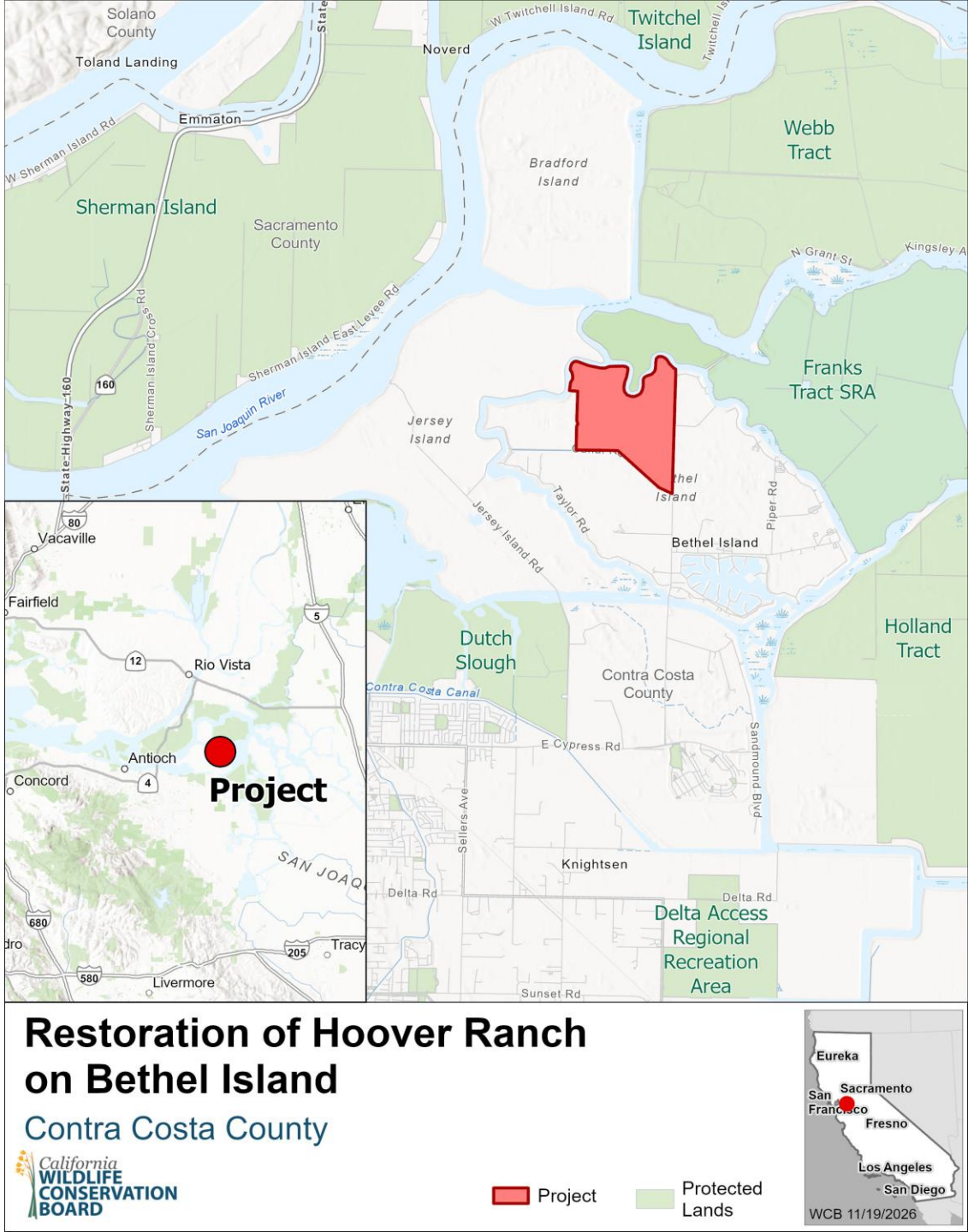


Credit: Placer Land Trust

California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Restoration of Hoover Ranch on Bethel Island

- John Muir Land Trust (applicant)
- WCB request $1,659,000 (total project cost $2,409,625)



Credit: WCB

Restoration of Hoover Ranch on Bethel Island

Slide 2



California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Hoover Ranch
Credit: John Muir Land Trust







Restoration of Hoover Ranch on Bethel Island

Slide 3

- Former freshwater marsh, riparian woodland, and inland dune habitat, degraded by agricultural use
- Progressive exposure of drained peat soils will continue to emit carbon dioxide
- Reduced ground and surface water has increased the risk of levee failure
- Limited access to habitat-sensitive open space for residents and nearby communities

Left: Sunset from levee on Bethel Island
Right: Cattle egret on cow
Bottom: Sandhill cranes in corn fields
Credit: John Muir Land Trust

California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD



Restoration of Hoover Ranch on Bethel Island

Slide 4

Key project elements:

- Technical assessments, permitting activities, and full restoration design
- Tribal engagement and planning for habitat-sensitive access to open space

Brings the site to a shovel-ready state for:

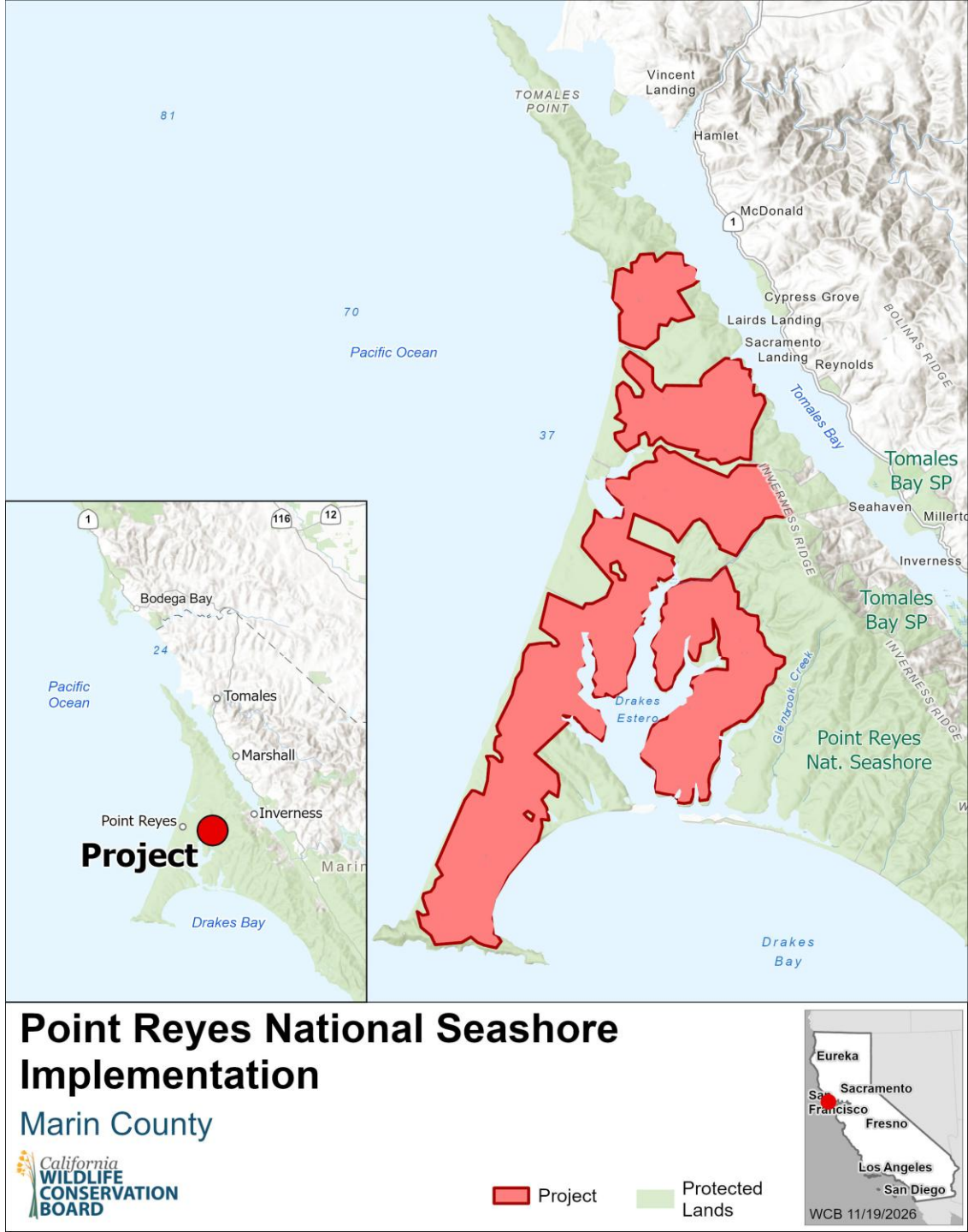
- Restoration of 500 acres of managed wetlands and riparian woodland habitat
- Levee stabilization and repair
- Rewetting of exposed peat soils, halting of site subsidence, and avoiding further CO_2 emissions

Cattle egret in field on Hoover Ranch
Credit: John Muir Land Trust

California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Point Reyes National Seashore Implementation

- The Nature Conservancy (applicant)
- WCB request $7,293,128 (total project cost $7,293,128)



Credit: WCB

Point Reyes National Seashore Implementation

Slide 2



Western dog violet, the obligate food of the endemic Myrtle's silverspot butterfly
Credit: WCB

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Point Reyes National Seashore Implementation

Slide 3

Purpose:

- Remove physical fencing
- Establish virtual fencing system
- Create mobile watering system

Physical fencing across the grasslands of Point Reyes
Credit: WCB

California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD



Point Reyes National Seashore Implementation

Slide 4

Flexibility to move cattle will:

- Preserve coastal prairies
- Reduce invasive species
- Maintain biodiversity
- Aide native grazing mammal like tule elk and mule deer

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Mule deer in Point Reyes
Credit: WCB

Golden Gate Fields

- Trust for Public Land (applicant) and East Bay Regional Parks District (grantee)
- 162± acre fee acquisition
- Purchase price $175,000,000
- WCB request $53,000,000



Credit: WCB

Golden Gate Fields

Slide 2



Figure shows the current extent of development and location of major features
Credit: AECOM

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Golden Gate Fields

Slide 3

Representative habitats include the Buchanan Marsh (left), deep bay (middle), and Codornices Creek (right)

Credit: Tamara Spoken/Yovino Young (left and middle) and AECOM (right)

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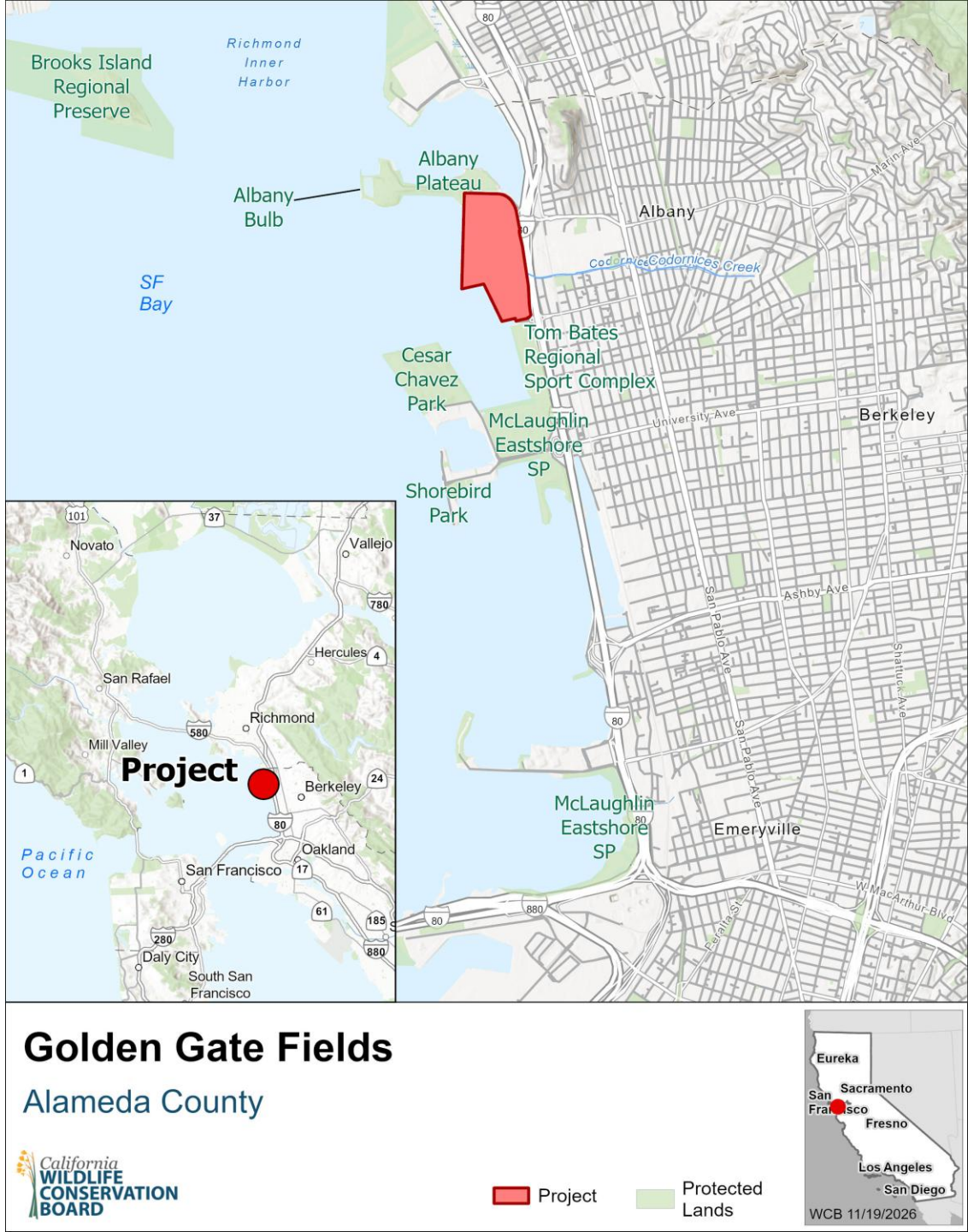
Golden Gate Fields

Slide 4

Golden Gate Fields is located within an existing park and open space preserve system.



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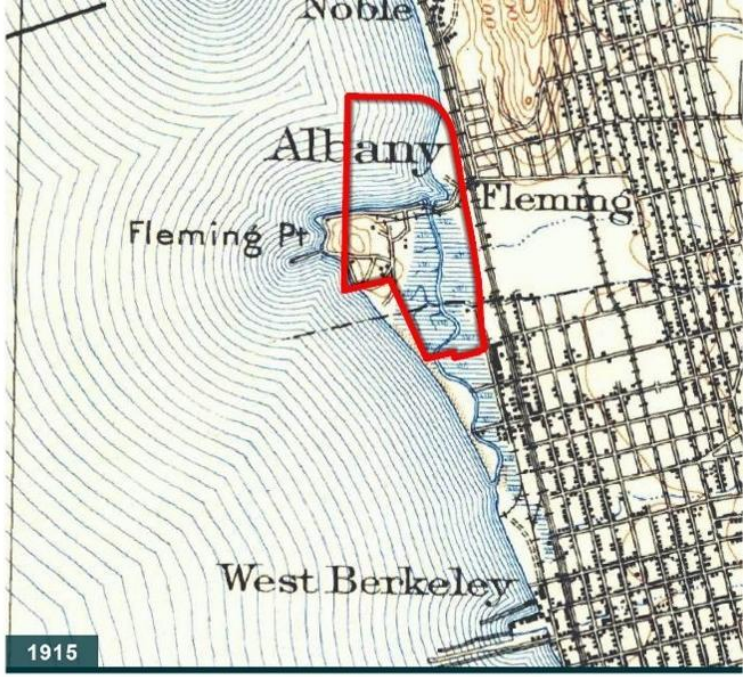
Credit: WCB

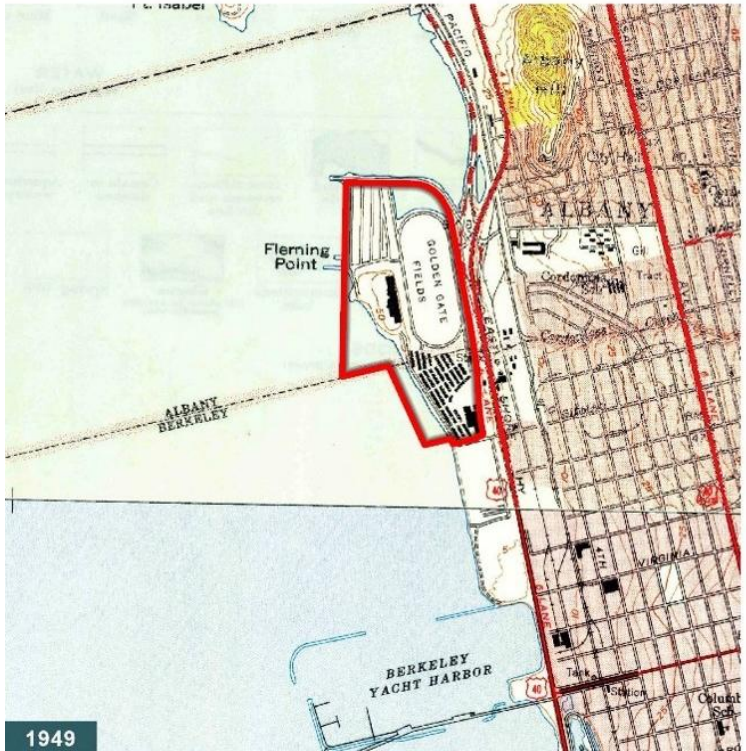
Golden Gate Fields

Slide 5

Historic maps showing progression from natural conditions to fully developed Golden Gate Fields site









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Credit: AECOM

Golden Gate Fields

Slide 6

Coastal habitats threatened by potential development at Golden Gate Fields include beaches, dunes, and prairie.







Left: Albany Beach
Right: Coastal Dunes east of Albany Beach
Bottom: Coastal Terrace Prairie at nearby UC Richmond Field Station
Credit: AECOM

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Golden Gate Fields

Slide 7

Restoration challenges include soil contamination, elevation of the Property, nature of fill material, undersized culverts, and the volume of hardscape

Credit: AECOM (left and middle) and Tamara Spokane/Yovino Young (right)

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Golden Gate Fields

Slide 8

Board approval and the grant agreement condition that grant funds will not be disbursed into escrow until all documents for all transactions are final and approved by WCB and all parties.

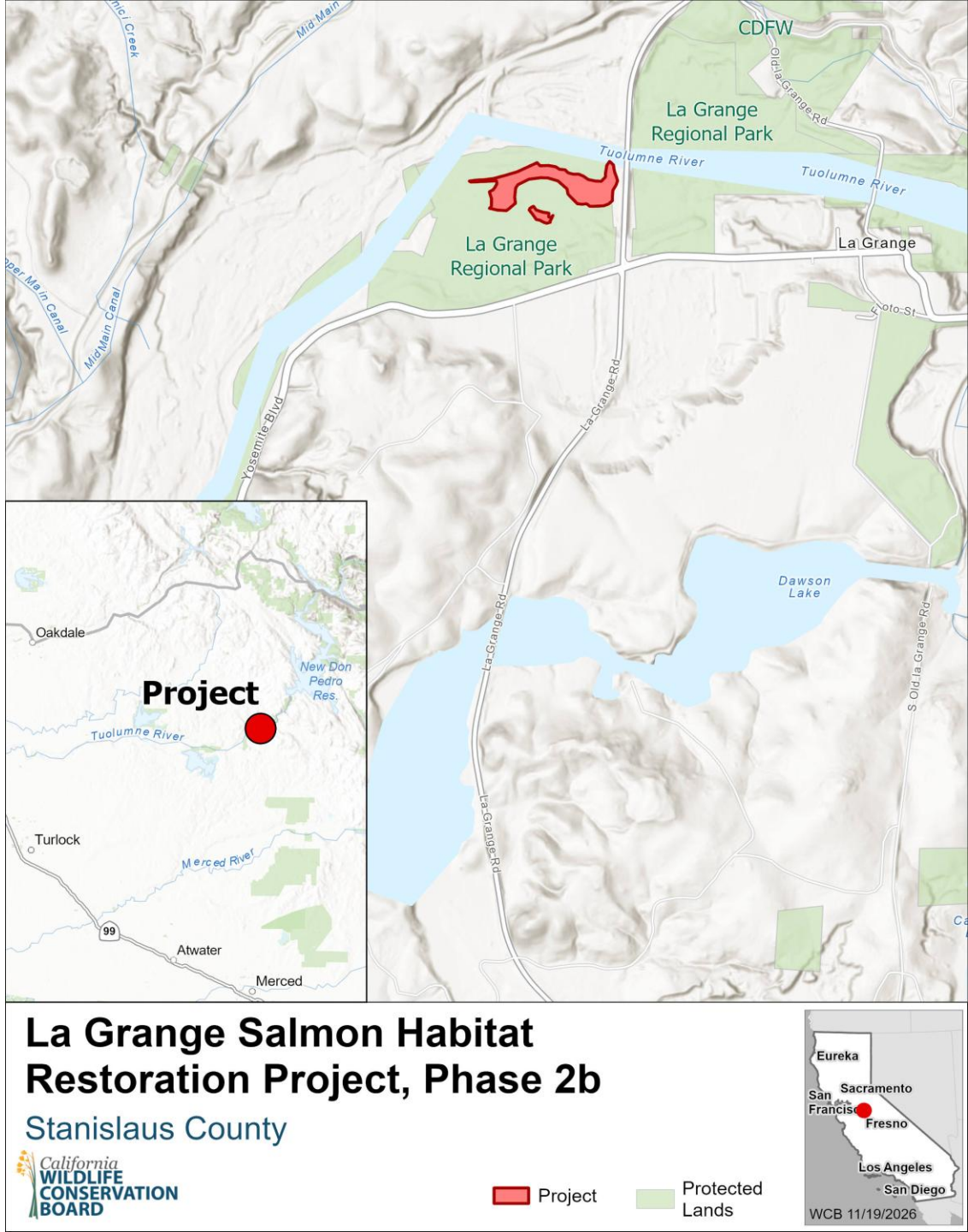
- Options and purchase and sale agreements
- Assignment and assumption agreements
- Escrow instructions
- Closing statements
- Environmental Conditions Agreement
- Post-Closing Operating Agreement
  - Timing for demolition permits to be determined

Overlooking Golden Gate Fields racetrack to San Francisco Bay
Credit: AECOM

California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

La Grange Salmonid Habitat Restoration, Phase 2b

- The Yosemite Rivers Alliance (applicant)
- WCB request $3,391,000 (total project cost $7,776,360)



Credit: WCB

La Grange Salmonid Habitat Restoration Phase 2b

Slide 2

Background:

- Historically, the Tuolumne River supported Chinook salmon, steelhead, and other native fish
- Gold mining and borrow extraction impacted the river
    - Overly straight and simplified channel
    - Reduced habitat value for salmonids



Tuolumne River within the project area
Credit: Yosemite Rivers Alliance

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La Grange Salmonid Habitat Restoration Phase 2b

Slide 3

Purpose:

- Create approximately 0.75 miles of new side channel and restore 20 acres of floodplain
- New features will meet the spawning and rearing needs of special status species:
  - Fall-run Chinook salmon
  - Spring-run Chinook salmon
  - Steelhead
  - Pacific lamprey

Reconnected floodplain from an earlier phase and similar to the habitat proposed by this project
Credit: WCB

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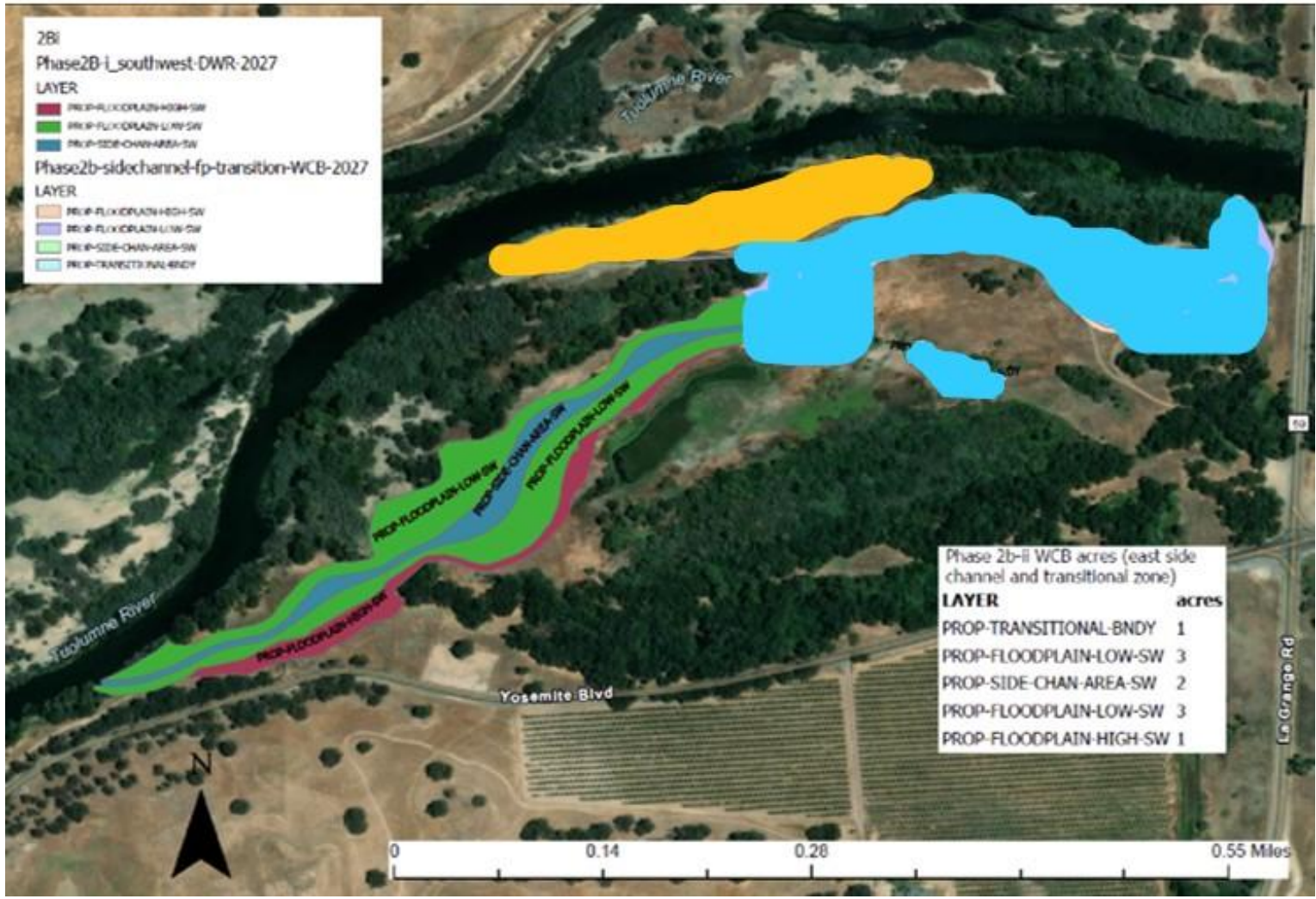
La Grange Salmonid Habitat Restoration Phase 2b

Slide 4

- The project will add to the Phase 2a work that was funded by WCB in February of 2026

- The project will add into other restoration projects completed or planned along this reach of the Tuolumne River

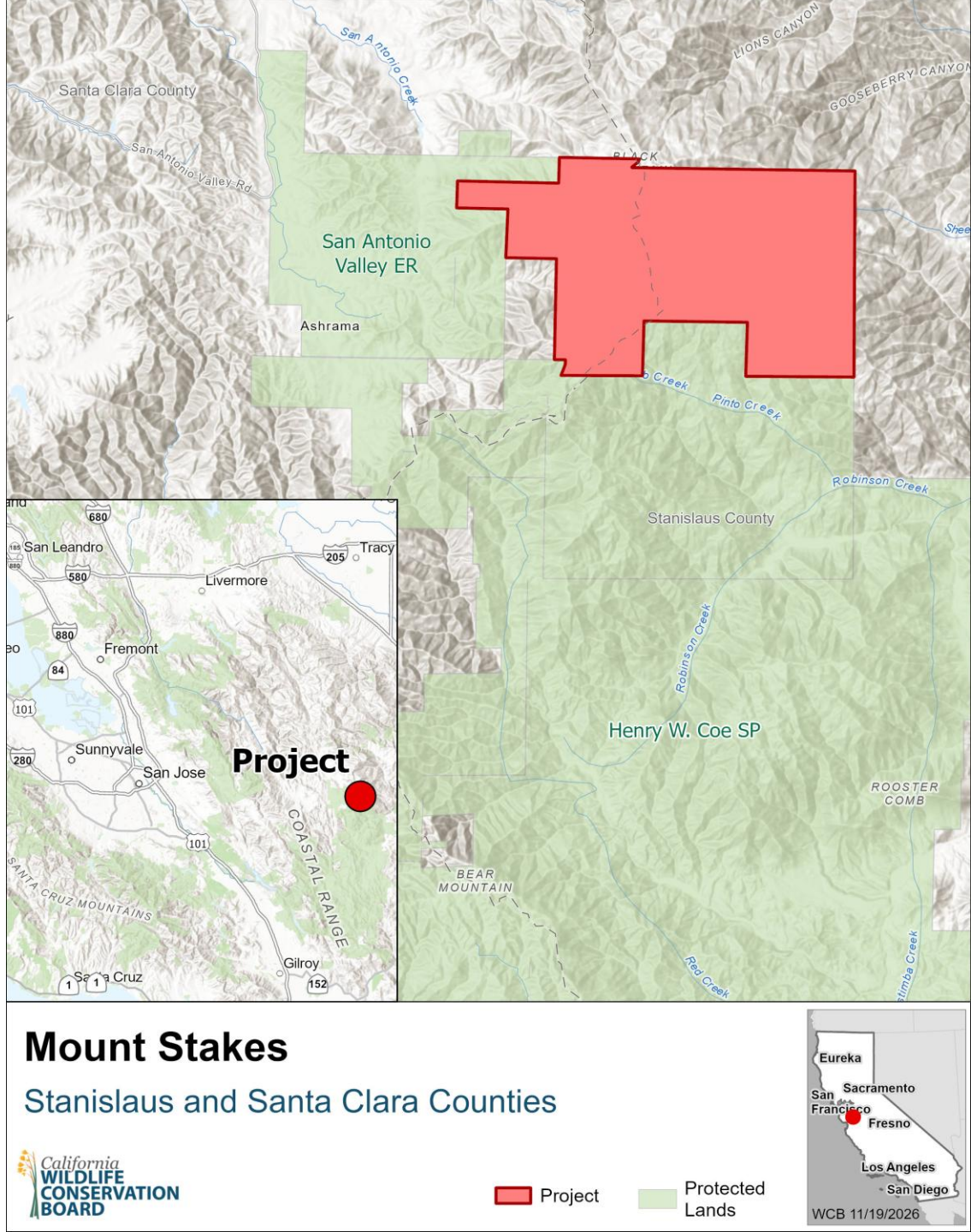


Map showing Phase 2a (yellow) and Phase 2b (light blue)
Credit: Yosemite Rivers Alliance

California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Mount Stakes

- The Nature Conservancy (applicant)
- 3,856± acre fee acquisition
- Fair market value $2,890,000
- WCB request $2,675,000



Credit: WCB

Mount Stakes

Slide 2



Looking across the Property from the top of Mount Stakes
Credit: Nicole Galvez

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California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Mount Stakes

Slide 3

California poppies
Credit: California State Parks





Mount Stakes

Slide 4

Threatened and endangered species, such as those photographed on the neighboring Henry Coe State Park, are likely present at Mount Stakes.

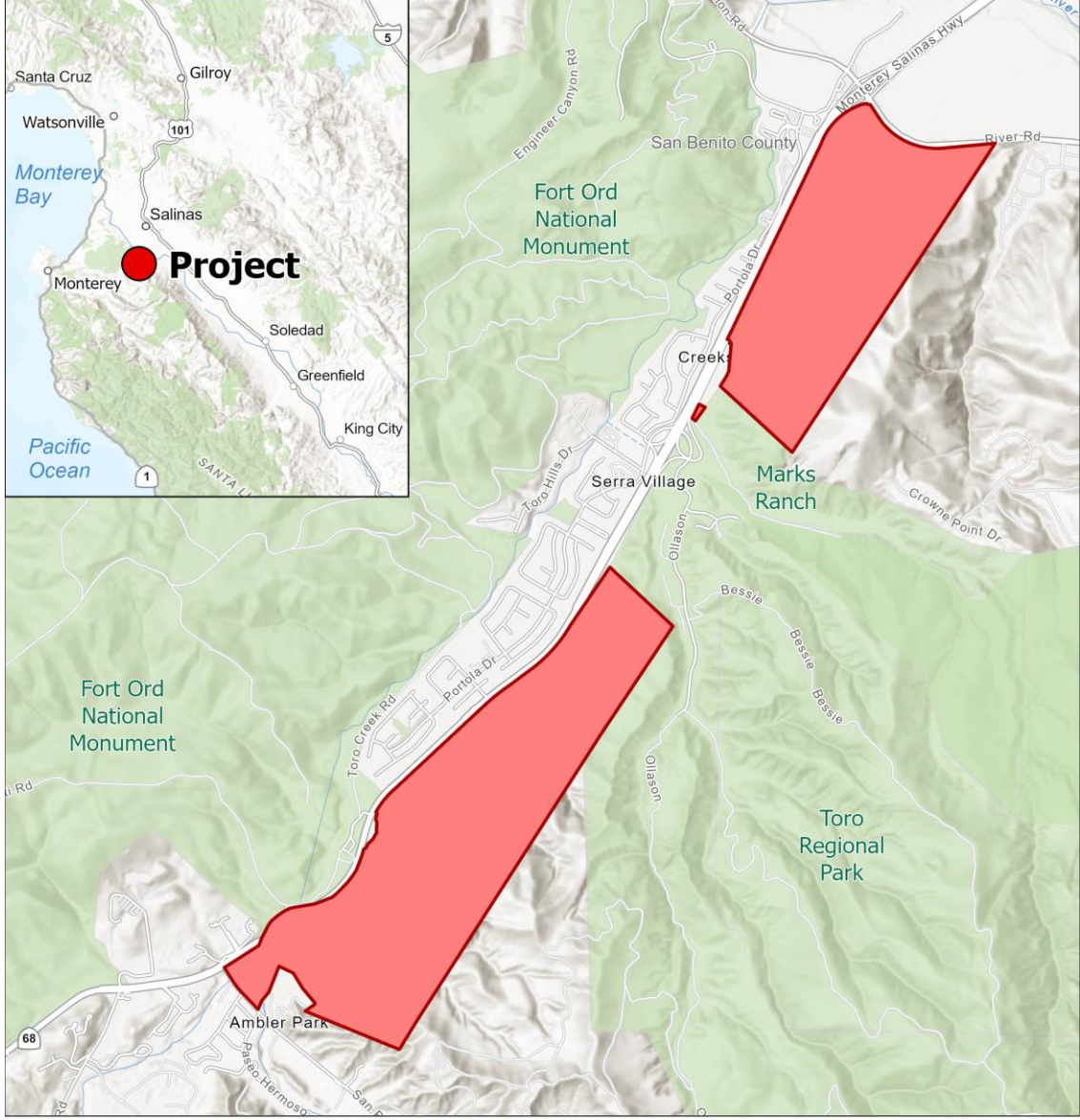
Top: Western pond turtle
Credit: California State Parks

Bottom: Giant garter snake
Credit: California State Parks

California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Ferrini Ranch

- Big Sur Land Trust (applicant)
- 868± acre fee acquisition
- Purchase price $15,000,000
- WCB request $12,500,000



Credit: WCB



Ferrini Ranch

Slide 2

View from Ferrini Ranch facing Fort Ord National Monument across Highway 68

Credit: WCB

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Ferrini Ranch

Slide 3

Existing highway undercrossing providing wildlife connectivity.

Top: Highway 68 undercrossing
Bottom: Highway 68 bridge
Credit: WCB

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Ferrini Ranch

Slide 4

The Property habitats are predominantly oak woodland, savanna, and grassland.







Left: Facing southwest
Right: Facing southeast
Bottom: Facing north
Credit: WCB

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Ferrini Ranch

Slide 5

View facing northeast
Credit: WCB

Ferrini Ranch

Slide 6



Looking north from the Property with Salinas in the background
Credit: WCB

California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Laguna Coast Wilderness Park Restoration

- Laguna Canyon Foundation (applicant)
- WCB request $1,945,000 (total project cost $2,350,000)



Credit: WCB



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Laguna Coast Wilderness Park Restoration

Slide 2

Laguna Canyon
Credit: Laguna Canyon Foundation







Laguna Coast Wilderness Park Restoration

Slide 3

- Converted to non-native annual grassland by livestock grazing
- Displacement of native flora and a reduction in the quality of wildlife habitat

Project site dominated by nonnative plant species
Credit: Laguna Canyon Foundation

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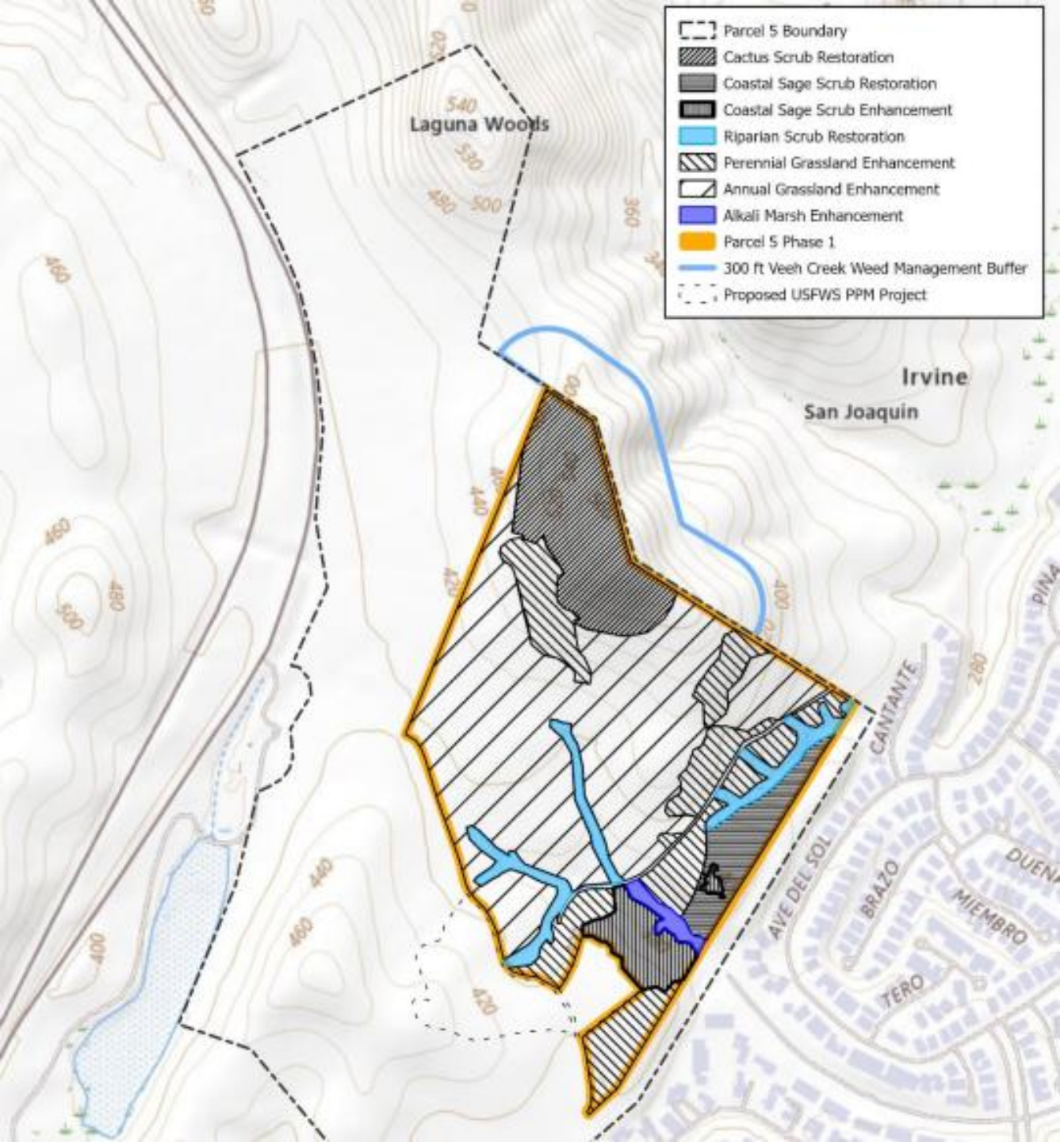

Laguna Coast Wilderness Park Restoration

Slide 4

Key project elements:

- Removing non-native plants
- Installing native plants originated from local sources
- Restoring 14 acres: 3 acres of coastal sage scrub, 8 acres of cactus scrub, and 3 acres of riparian scrub
- Enhancement of 57 acres of annual and perennial grasslands, sage scrub, and riparian habitats
- Providing an opportunity for community participation

Project site map
Credit: Laguna Canyon Foundation

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Laguna Coast Wilderness Park Restoration

Slide 5

Project benefits:

- 71 acres of key habitat for coastal sage scrub, cactus scrub, and grassland-obligate species
- Increased climate resiliency
- Habitat for endemic pollinators
- Prevention soil erosion
- Increase in carbon sequestration





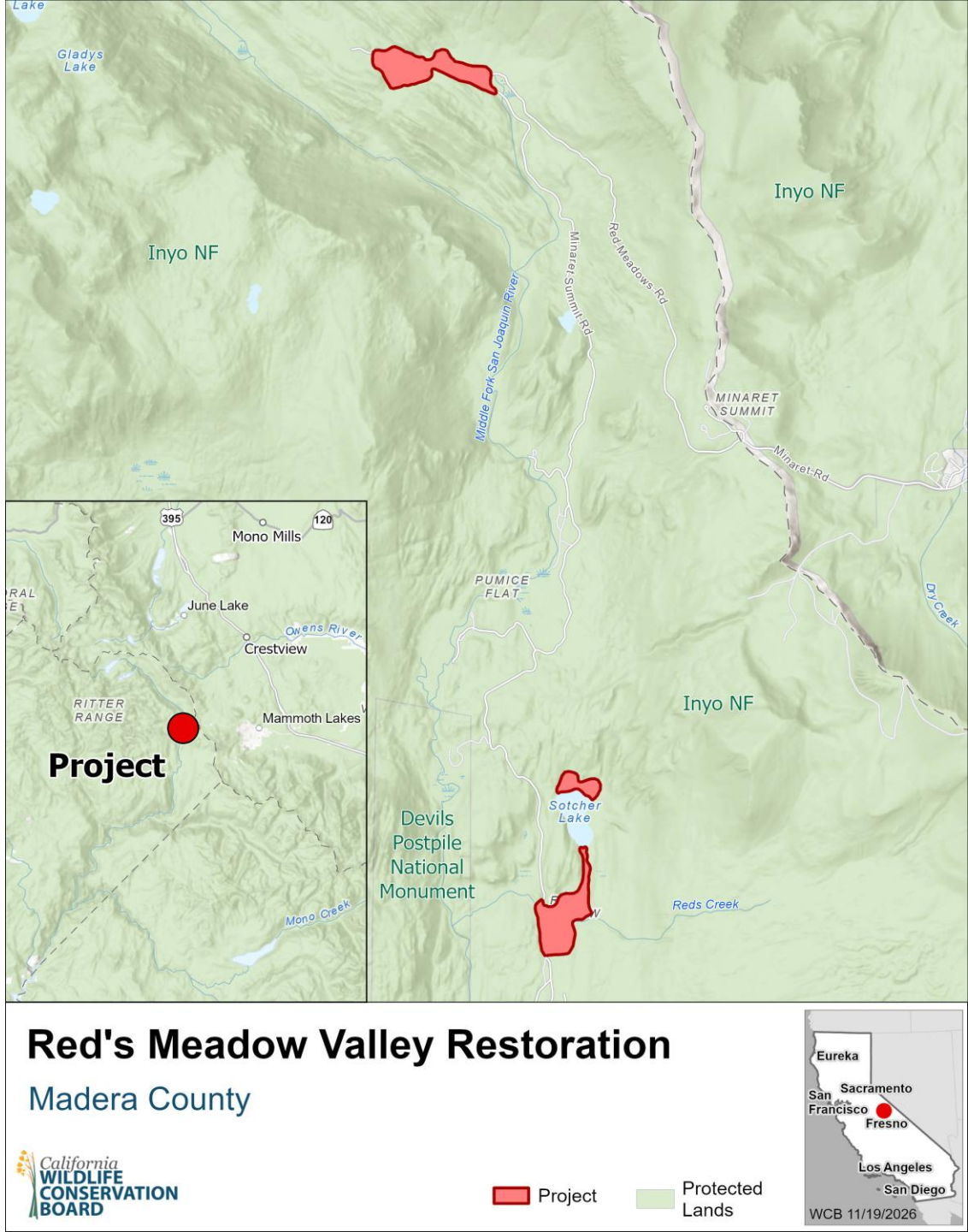


Left: Pacific pocket mouse
Right: Coastal California gnatcatcher
Bottom: Coastal cactus wren
Credit: USFWS

California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Red's Meadow Valley Restoration

- John Muir Trail Wilderness Conservancy (applicant)
- WCB request $2,676,000 (total project cost $6,064,000)



Credit: WCB







Red's Meadow Valley Restoration

Slide 2

Current conditions:

- Several meadows along valley flood
- Extensive historic land use (indigenous use/tending, pack stations, and U.S. Forest Service campgrounds)
- Incised meadow channels, encroached aspen stands, and recreation infrastructure within meadow habitat

Left: Incised channel Red's Meadow
Right: Incised channel Red's Meadow
Bottom: Socher Lake
Credit: WCB

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Red's Meadow Valley Restoration

Slide 3

- Low tech processed based restoration
- Recreation infrastructure removal/restoration
- Exclusionary fencing around spring mound fens

Socher Lake aspen (left), spring mound fen (middle), and campsite to be removed (right)
Credit: WCB

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Red's Meadow Valley Restoration

Slide 4

Outcomes:

- Removal of infrastructure from meadows
- Fen habitat preservation
- Increased ecosystem function
- Increased climate resilience, wildfire resilience, and biodiversity

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Agnew Meadow
Credit: WCB



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Item 31. Revision to Delegation of Authority Policy for Grant Augmentation Amendments

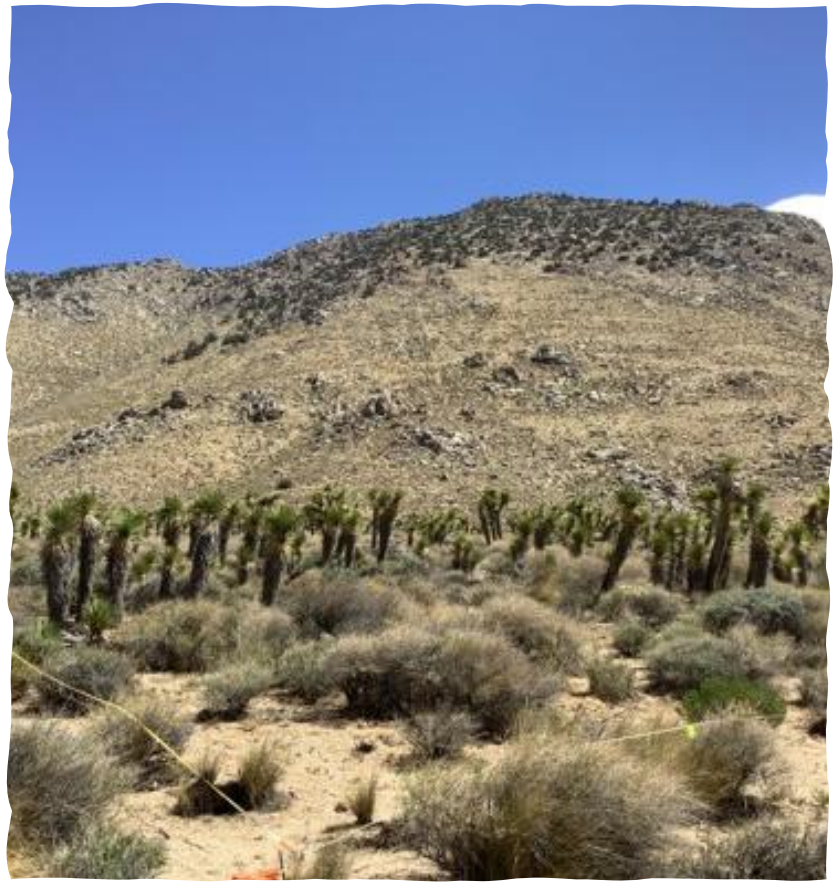
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Improvements
Credit: WCB

Revision to Delegation of Authority Policy for Grant Augmentation Amendments

Slide 1

Current policy (approved February 2024) under Executive Director has delegated authority to:

- Approve augmentation requests up to $300,000
- Utilize up to $1 million for augmentations without Board
- Projects that include herbicide use must be approved by the Board
- ED provides annual accounting of projects authorized under the delegation



Joshua Tree Conservation Coalition and Monitoring - Augmentation
Credit: Mojave Land Trust

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Revision to Delegation of Authority Policy for Grant Augmentation Amendments

Slide 2

Analysis:

- Since February 2024, 37 approved augmentations averaged $529,000
- 16 of 37 projects fell within the current $300,000 administrative approval limit
- $1 million annual cap exhausted before year-end
- Primary cost drivers:
  - Rising material costs
  - Tariffs
  - Additional required studies and permits
  - Drought-related irrigation needs



Los Angeles River Habitat Enhancement, Augmentation
Credit: The Nature Conservancy

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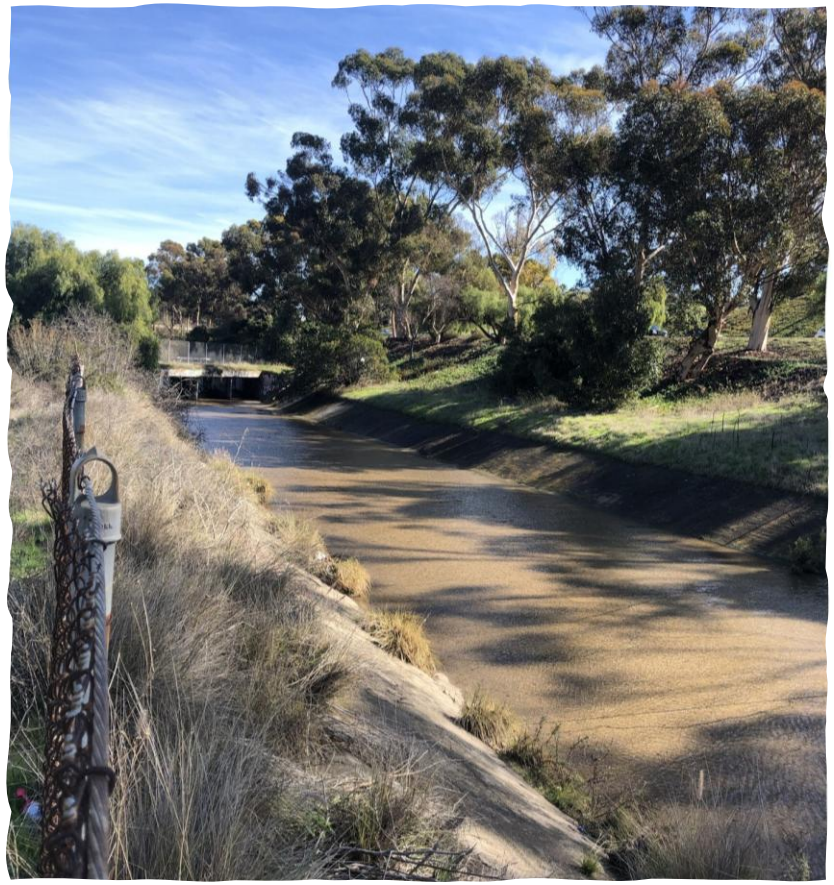
Revision to Delegation of Authority Policy for Grant Augmentation Amendments

Slide 3



Recommendation:

- Approve delegation of augmentation authorization to the Executive Director for requests up to $500,000
- Remove the yearly augmentation total limit of $1 million
- Report the augmentations approved under this policy in each quarterly Board Meeting Full Agenda

Chollas Creek at Federal Boulevard Riparian Restoration, Augmentation
Credit: WCB

California WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Proposed 2027 Board Meeting Dates

- Thursday, February 25, 2027
- Thursday, May 27, 2027
- Thursday, August 26, 2027
- Wednesday, November 17, 2027



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Calvi Ranch Public Access Planning
Credit: LandPaths



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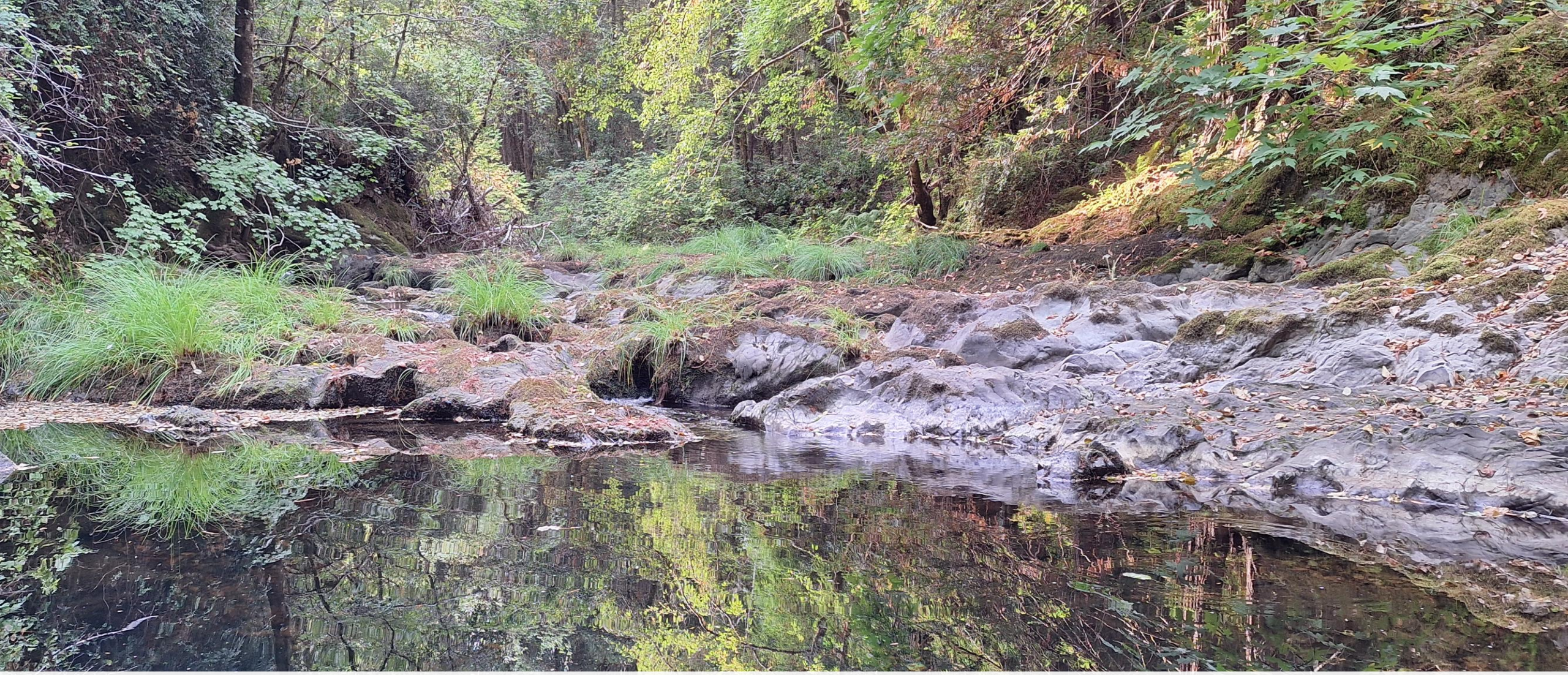
Item 33. Public Forum for Items not on the Agenda

Indian Joe Springs Ecological Reserve Easement Exchange
Credit: WCB



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Meeting Adjourned
Next Board Meeting, February 25, 2027

Mattole Headwaters Habitat Enhancement
Credit: WCB