

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

March 26, 2020

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Via Zoom Teleconference

Directors present: Barbara Kossy, Jim Reynolds, TJ Glauthier, Adrienne Etherton

RCD staff present: Kellyx Nelson, Lau Hodges, Sara Polgar, Amy Kaeser, Sheena Sidhu, Dylan Skybrook (Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network)

NRCS staff present: Jim Howard

Guests Present: Ron Sturgeon, Dave Olson, Brian McBride

1. Call to Order

Kossy called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Glauthier moved to approve the agenda, Etherton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Introductions of Guests and Staff

All in attendance introduced themselves.

4. Public Comment

None

5. Consent Agenda

- Etherton corrected the February 20, 2020 draft meeting minutes, item 6.1, to say the City of Brisbane's Bay Lands Development Plan had just released a Notice of Preparation not an Environmental Impact Report.
- Reynolds moved to approve the consent agenda as amended, Glauthier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Regular Agenda

6.1 Discussion of COVID-19 planning and impacts on operations

- Nelson noted the following impacts:
 1. Uncertainty in the fiscal year 2021 (FY21) budget planning
 2. Significant work interruptions due to sheltering in place. Many on staff are not able to do all their work remotely. Some staff are largely field-based. Some work depends on contractors in the field.
 3. Some work not moving forward while being sensitive not to be "tone deaf" in light of other immediate priorities people have now
 4. Many project timelines already have a narrow window for construction, vegetation surveys, mapping and permit deadlines.

5. Some landowners are not allowing people on their property.
 6. Discussion of potential long-term and ripple effects.
 7. Uncertainty about being able to bring on new hires.
 8. Delays in pending funding contracts.
 9. Challenges securing supplies for some field work.
 10. Concerns the State of California may delay payments on bond funded projects similar to 2009.
 11. Various in-person and field-based staff trainings are canceled, some have implications for certifications or approvals needed for planned upcoming work.
 12. Concerns about the diverse impact the pandemic was having on farmers and farm workers such as food security.
- Nelson explained what proactive steps the RCD was taking to mitigate the impacts:
 1. Holding RCD Board Meetings remotely.
 2. Asking staff to resubmit their FY21 Budgets.
 3. Planning for the worst-case financial scenario.
 4. A weekly COVID-19 staff meeting has been added in addition to the regular weekly staff meeting.
 5. Worked with attorneys to include language in contracts allowing for electronic signatures.
 6. Working on streamlining check signing.
 7. Running financial statements weekly.
 8. Individual staff are tracking and reporting on different sources of information to help navigate the deluge of information.
 9. Looking at the interaction between COVID-19 and other emergency preparedness.
 10. Looking at disproportionate effects through the lens of diversity, equity & inclusion, e.g. those who might take health risks for income needs or whose struggle with food security has worsened, and consider the RCD's role in that.
 - Kossy reported on a human resources webinar about the new emergency family medical leave laws that was hosted by California Special Districts Association (CSDA). Her take away was that the laws were changing hour by hour and that CSDA is working with attorneys that the RCD can ask questions of.
 - There was discussion about the RCD's efforts since 2008 to build an operating reserve and diversify revenues. Nelson said that her priorities, in order, were:
 1. Ensure that staff are physically and emotionally safe.
 2. Ensure that staff keep their employment. She was reconsidering the planned new hires and thinking instead to cross train current staff who may have gaps in their employment.
 - There was discussion about the different definitions and interpretations of "essential services" and how RCD staff were using State and County guidance to develop internal criteria.

- Kossy reported on a Together Bay Area webinar she participated in regarding how to safely pass tools while in the field. Sturgeon stated that it was not just about keeping a six foot radius around staff working in the field but what they touched as well.
- Etherton asked if the RCD had considered setting up accounts for tracking incurred expenses and staff time spent on COVID-19 in case reimbursement funding became available.
- Nelson reported that relief funds so far were structured for non-profits and businesses. The RCD had written a letter to Senators Feinstein and Harris and to Representative Speier requesting federal assistance for RCDs.
- There was discussion about whether the RCD needed a teleworking policy, whether there were any new liability issues to staff teleworking, and potential implications regarding public records requests. Etherton noted that she was working on a teleworking policy for a different municipality and would share it.
- Nelson expressed gratitude for how supportive and helpful the Board had been. The Finance Committee was engaging in the financial implications and planning. Kossy had been participating in webinars to get information for the RCD. Kossy, Glauthier and Nelson were working to get Hodges the ability to sign checks. In general she felt that the Board was showing care for staff.

6.2 Director's Report

- Reynolds reported that the Butano channel project was a howling success, there had been no road flooding, and he welcomed all to stop by and view it from his property.
- Kossy reported that she had been attending lots of Zoom meetings and was impressed at much everything continued to move forward.

6.3 NRCS Report (see attached)

6.4 Presentation about Old Haul Road: Dark Gulch Crossing Stabilization Project in Pescadero Creek County Park by Sara Polgar, Conservation Program Specialist (see attached)

There was discussion regarding use of the road for County Parks operations and emergency response, CalFire, and a few private residences; whether or not this project would be deemed an essential service; budget impacts of COVID-19 on the project to ensure staff safety in the field; how the crew will be sheltering in place on site; and how this project fit into the broader watershed restoration context.

6.5 Board will consider contracting with L.D. Giacomini Enterprises, Inc. for construction of Old Haul Road: Dark Gulch Crossing Stabilization Project.

Glauthier moved to contract with L.D. Giacomini Enterprises, Inc. for the construction of Old Haul Road: Dark Gulch Stabilization Project, Etherton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6.6 Board will consider contracting with Tim Best, Certified Engineering Geologist, as Project engineer to provide engineering oversight during construction of Old Haul Road: Dark Gulch Crossing Stabilization Project.

Etherton moved to contract with Tim Best, Certified Engineering Geologist, as Project engineer to provide engineering oversight during construction of Old Haul Road: Dark Gulch Crossing Stabilization Project, Glauthier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6.7 Board will consider contracting with Haro, Kasunich & Associates, Inc. for geotechnical monitoring and testing during construction of Old Haul Road: Dark Gulch Crossing Stabilization Project.

Glauthier moved to contract with Haro, Kasunich & Associates, Inc. for geotechnical monitoring and testing during construction of Old Haul Road: Dark Gulch Crossing Stabilization Project, Etherton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6.8 Board will consider approval of ten qualified contractors as eligible for contracts to support creek habitat enhancement projects.

- There was discussion about how this approach helped ensure that the RCD was fair and transparent and accountable while also ensuring access to a high-quality team and being nimble with riparian repair projects.
- Glauthier moved to approve the ten qualified contractors as eligible for contracts to support creek habitat enhancement projects, Reynolds seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6.9 Board will consider Resolution 2020-1: Approving the Grant Funds from the State Coastal Conservancy for the Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network's Santa Clara/Santa Cruz Vegetation Mapping and Landscape Database Project.

- Skybrook explained that this was a funding requirement from the Coastal Conservancy.
- Etherton move to approve Resolution 2020-1: Approving the Grant Funds from the State Coastal Conservancy for the Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network's Santa Clara/Santa Cruz Vegetation Mapping and Landscape Database Project, Glauthier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6.10 Board will consider contracting with UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences for Pescadero Marsh Restoration and Resiliency Project.

- Nelson explained this was a subaward and did not go through a competitive bid process.
- Glauthier moved to contract with UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences for Pescadero Marsh Restoration and Resiliency Project, Etherton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7 Adjourn Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors**March 26, 2020****4:00 pm – 6:00 pm****via Zoom teleconference**

If you are using a computer to connect (this is option that will enable viewing presentations and other participants), please click here: <https://zoom.us/j/281860192>. A computer video camera is not required to participate. If you do not have access to a computer or internet during this meeting, or if your computer does not have audio, you can call in by phone: (669) 900-6833 and enter the meeting ID: 281 860 192 when prompted.

1. Call to Order**2. Approval of Agenda****3. Introduction of Guests and Staff****4. Public Comment-** The Board will hear comments on items that are not on the agenda. The Board cannot act on an item unless it is an emergency as defined under Government Code Sec. 54954.2.**5. Consent Agenda**

The Board of Directors approves:

5.1. February 20, 2019 Draft Regular Meeting Minutes

5.2. March 5, 2020 Draft Special Meeting Minutes

The Board of Directors receives into record:

5.3. October 9, 2019 *Amah Mutsum Land Trust Awarded State Funding for Stewardship of Quiroste Valley Cultural Preserve*

5.4. January 2020 News from TomKat Ranch: *Profiles in Land and Management: Benefits of Regenerative Ranching*

5.5. March 9, 2020 *Cutting Green Tape Initiative* project description

6. Regular Agenda

6.1. Discussion of COVID-19 planning and impacts in operations

6.2. Directors' reports

6.3. NRCS report

6.4. Presentation about Old Haul Road: Dark Gulch Crossing Stabilization Project in Pescadero Creek County Park by Sara Polgar, Conservation Program Specialist

6.5. Board will consider contracting with L.D. Giacomini Enterprises, Inc. for construction of Old Haul Road: Dark Gulch Crossing Stabilization Project.

6.6. Board will consider contracting with Tim Best, Certified Engineering Geologist, as Project engineer to provide engineering oversight during construction of Old Haul Road: Dark Gulch Crossing Stabilization Project.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">6.7. Board will consider contracting with Haro, Kasunich & Associates, Inc. for geotechnical monitoring and testing during construction of Old Haul Road: Dark Gulch Crossing Stabilization Project.6.8. Board will consider approval of ten qualified contractors as eligible for contracts to support creek habitat enhancement projects.6.9. Board will consider Resolution 2020-1: Approving the Grant Funds from the State Coastal Conservancy for the Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network's Santa Clara/Santa Cruz Vegetation Mapping and Landscape Database Project.6.10. Board will consider contracting with UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences for Pescadero Marsh Restoration and Resiliency Project. |
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7. Adjourn Meeting

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be April 16, 2020.
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Public records that relate to any item on the open session agenda for a regular board meeting are available for public inspection. Those records that are distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting are available for public inspection at the same time they are distributed to all members, or a majority of the members of the Board.

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2518

Introduced by Assembly Member Wood

February 19, 2020

An act to add Chapter 6.6 (commencing with Section 1660) to Division 2 of the Fish and Game Code, relating to fish and wildlife.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2518, as introduced, Wood. Voluntary stream restoration landowner liability.

Existing law prohibits an entity from substantially diverting or obstructing the natural flow of, or substantially changing or using any material from the bed, channel, or bank of, any river, stream, or lake, or from depositing certain material where it may pass into any river, stream, or lake, without first notifying the Department of Fish and Wildlife of that project, and entering into a lake or streambed alteration agreement if required by the department to protect fish and wildlife resources.

Existing law authorizes a habitat restoration or enhancement project proponent to submit a written request for approval of the project to the Director of Fish and Wildlife. Existing law requires the director to approve the project if the written request includes certain information, as specified, and provides for an alternate authorization process by the State Water Resources Control Board.

This bill would exempt a landowner who voluntarily allows land to be used for such a project to restore fish and wildlife habitat from civil liability for property damage or personal injury resulting from the project if the project is funded, at least in part, by a state or federal agency that promotes or encourages riparian habitat restoration, unless the property

damage or personal injury is caused by willful, intentional, or reckless conduct of the landowner or by a design, construction, operation, or maintenance activity performed by the landowner.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 6.6 (commencing with Section 1660) is added to Division 2 of the Fish and Game Code, to read:

CHAPTER 6.6. VOLUNTARY STREAM RESTORATION LANDOWNER
LIABILITY

1660. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), a landowner who voluntarily allows land to be used for a project to restore fish and wildlife habitat shall not be held civilly liable for property damage or personal injury resulting from the project if the project meets both of the following requirements:

(1) The project is authorized pursuant to Section 1602, 1652, or 1653.

(2) The project is funded, at least in part, by a state or federal agency that promotes or encourages riparian habitat restoration.

(b) The limitation on civil liability described in subdivision (a) shall not apply to either of the following circumstances:

(1) The property damage or personal injury is caused by willful, intentional, or reckless conduct by the landowner.

(2) The property damage or personal injury is caused by a design, construction, operation, or maintenance activity performed by the landowner.

Cutting Green Tape Initiative

March 9, 2020

California, an international leader on tackling climate change, can also lead on improving environmental conservation, maintaining biodiversity, and building resiliency by increasing the pace, scale, and quality, of environmental restoration and stewardship. This requires enabling environmentally beneficial projects to happen more quickly and cost effectively across the state.

The Cutting Green Tape initiative will expedite and improve environmental conservation and restoration projects by improving planning and permitting of these projects, expediting their review and approval, enabling financial incentives and implementation support, and improving cross-jurisdictional collaboration.

A White Paper outlining how to achieve these objectives will be released by the Natural Resources Agency and key environmental partners during the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day in late April.

The Challenge

California faces grave environmental threats that require bold, immediate action. As our state continues to experience unprecedented environmental change, momentum is building to remove barriers to the essential work of restoring, enhancing, and preserving our natural resources and ecological systems.

California faces three important environmental challenges:

- Climate change: California lost 3% of its landmass in wildfires over the last few years, and faces historic drought, flooding, increased temperatures, coastal erosion, sea-level rise, and other impacts to human health, the economy, and ecosystems.
- Biodiversity crisis: A global hotspot for biological diversity, California is home to more species and ecosystems than anywhere else in our nation. While this biodiversity sustains our health, economy, cultures, and way of life, it is also disappearing at one of the highest rates in the country. Habitat degradation and climate change put our state at grave risk.

- Access and equity: Many Californians do not get to experience and appreciate the natural riches of California and may not ever if we do not protect them for current and future generations.

Currently, we are not restoring and managing our natural resources at a scale and pace sufficient to address these challenges. Environmentally beneficial projects continue to be important to deliver across the state, including stream restoration, floodplain habitat expansion, and reforestation. Currently, these projects can take years to deliver and one-third of the overall project budget can be spent on the planning and permitting of these projects alone.

A significant impediment is that laws and regulations which are essential and effective tools to protect the environment from harmful activities are less suited for environmentally beneficial actions. In fact, they often have the unintended consequence of limiting the amount of environmental restoration that gets done. Projects are often evaluated in terms of risk management- considering their potential impacts- with few tools to consider their long-term benefits or the risk of inaction. The focus on avoiding potential impacts rather than incentivizing environmental improvement projects results in fewer and smaller actions being taken at a slower pace and a greater expense.

An urgent need exists to shift the focus from avoiding risk of action to an imperative to take action. This involves "cutting green tape," reforming outdated governmental processes or requirements in a way that will enable environmentally beneficial work to happen more quickly, simply, and cost-effectively. The idea that environmental permitting is a barrier to environmental improvements is widely accepted and there is a strong desire for reform among conservation practitioners and advocates.

The Opportunity

Nested within these grave challenges is an invitation to be transformative and drive durable change to increase environmentally beneficial restoration. California, an international leader on tackling climate change and other intractable problems, can also lead on biodiversity, conservation, and resiliency by increasing the pace, scale, quality, and quantity of environmental restoration and stewardship. This requires increasing permitting effectiveness, expediting review and approval, providing financial incentives and funding implementation, improving cross-jurisdictional collaboration, and other appropriate actions.

Cutting Green Tape is an initiative to catalyze new solutions to protect and sustain our natural resources by fostering broad systems change. It will identify and advance significant, measurable actions in the next three years and beyond to:

- create efficiencies in permitting and regulatory compliance for environmentally beneficial projects;
- maintain commitments to California's environmental regulatory safeguards; and
- allow for state agencies to maintain fidelity to statutory requirements while more easily permitting efforts that seek to build resilience.

Cutting Green Tape Initiative

On December 18, 2019, the Secretary of Natural Resources and partners launched Cutting Green Tape, an initiative to increase permitting and other efficiencies for environmentally beneficial projects. Though anchored in the Natural Resources Agency, Cutting Green Tape is an interagency effort with support of Secretary Blumenfeld, Secretary Ross, and Water Board Chair Esquivel. Another key partner in the initiative has been the California Landscape Stewardship: a cross-boundary, landscape scale land stewardship collaborative comprised of local, state and federal agencies, non-profits, academic institutions, private landowners, and more.

The initiative includes five visionary and progressive action-oriented roundtables between December 2019 and April 2020 that cumulatively bring together over 150 leaders across the state from environmental conservation and other NGOs; large landowner groups; public and private land managers; local, state, and federal government agencies; tribes; water utilities; working lands; and others in the private sector. These individuals bring knowledge, insights, experiences, innovative ideas, considerable time, and resources to advance a reform agenda that will yield beneficial natural resource outcomes that build on strong existing work in state agencies and departments.

The process will culminate by Earth Day, April 22, with a set of recommendations for improving permitting and other efficiencies to increase the effectiveness, quality, and quantity of environmental restoration in California. The recommendations will be tangible, discrete, and time-bound and will include specific tactics and mechanisms to advance those recommendations as well as a list of actions the Secretary is committed to taking. Beyond Earth Day, we will have the opportunity to keep the momentum going towards broad systems change, creating new government models to dynamically meet the challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change, and build a resilient California.

Root Down Farm

Adaptive planned multi-species grazing and native hedgerow/
tree planting to improve soil health and productivity, increase
profits, and secure favorable conservation leases.

*“I want to show people that meat comes
from living creatures and has a direct
impact on the health of our planet and
how we treat those animals and the land
really matters.”*

—DEDE BOIES



In 2014, Dede Boies started Root Down Farm in one of the most expensive counties in the United States. While finding affordable land and housing and starting a new business was a substantial challenge, her unwavering commitment to growing the best food she could for her customers in a way that also improves the health of the land helped Root Down Farm not just survive but grow. From an ambitious lease with a local conservation trust that recognizes and rewards the ecosystem services of her adaptively grazed livestock and conservation practices to premium prices from customers who support nutrient-dense and lovingly raised products, Dede's work at Root Down Farm is a powerful example of a young and innovative farmer using regenerative practices to create meaningful opportunities for her business as well as ecosystem services and nutritious food for her community.

THE RANCH

Root Down Farm is a pasture-based poultry and pig farm located in the coastal town of Pescadero, California near San Francisco and Silicon Valley. Started and managed by Dede Boies, Root Down Farm leases 62 acres of land from the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), using 15 acres for its own production and subleasing the rest to regenerative farmers and ranchers in the area.

Dede developed her passion for agriculture while working on farms in Hawaii and New Zealand through the World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF) program. In 2008, she moved to Pescadero to apprentice on local organic farms and livestock operations and gather knowledge and experience on how to steward and work with the area's unique ecosystem. In 2014, she began Root Down Farm with the mission to "humanely raise the healthiest animals possible, while working within [the] ecosystem to responsibly steward the land and improve soil health."

REGENERATIVE PRACTICES

Root Down Farm uses a number of regenerative practices to help care for its land and animals while growing a sustainable business. All 62 acres of the farm are certified organic by California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) and Dede works closely with the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to identify and implement beneficial conservation practices including cross fencing, infrastructure to store water during the wet season and enable planned grazing, and native oaks and hedgerows to support wildlife and promote soil health.

The farm's primary land management tool is adaptive planned grazing. In 2018, Root Down Farm raised approximately 1,600 ducks and chickens, 150 turkeys, and 65 pigs on its pastures. The animals are moved around the land in mini-migrations that give them animals fresh diverse feed and fertilize the fields and cycle nutrients. To achieve these goals, pigs are moved to fresh grass once a week and the poultry and their mobile coops are moved



HIGHLIGHTS

27

EVENTS

In 2018, Root Down Farm hosted 27 educational gatherings on the ranch. These free events included guided tours, food/farming workshops, and social gatherings intended to help connect and teach customers and neighbors about the farm and their local food system.

2×

PRODUCTION

From 2017 to 2018, rapidly growing demand and improved land health on the farm allowed Root Down Farm to nearly double production and hire its first full-time employee.

\$47,000

IN PROJECT
GRANTS

Since beginning the farm in 2014, Root Down Farm has worked closely with the NRCS and has been awarded around \$47,000 in project grants to improve the farm's impact on the surrounding ecosystem and watershed. These projects, including off-season water storage, improved water infrastructure efficiency, cross fencing, and native tree planting have also increased the productivity and resilience of the farm.

"Running the farm has taught me a lot about the food system and farming and I want to share that with people. Everyday food choices have a big impact on communities and the world. People have a lot more power than they think to shape the future."

—DEDE BOIES



every other day. This frequent movement distributes manure, improves animal health, prevents overgrazing, and provides long recovery periods that help establish deep-rooted perennial plant communities.

Another tool Root Down Farm employs to improve land health is its carefully chosen sub-leases. As Root Down Farm is relatively new and still growing, Dede uses just 15 of the 62 acres she leases. Instead of growing at an uncomfortable pace or facing financial or ecological costs of leaving areas unmanaged, she has built good working relationships with local regenerative operations who can help steward the whole of her land. These partners include organic herb and vegetable growers as well as a local grass-fed beef ranch that seasonally grazes parts of her rangelands based on a collaborative grazing plan.

SEEING THE BENEFITS

Root Down Farm has seen a wide range of benefits from its regenerative management. As Dede's fields have become more diverse and the soil healthier, forage growth has improved and her growing season has lengthened. Additionally, overall animal health and performance has improved by continuously

moving animals away from manure and onto fresh grass. The meat quality that has resulted has earned Root Down Farm a valuable reputation for humane, nutrient-dense, and delicious food that is rewarded with premium prices from enthusiastic and loyal customers.

The farm's regenerative practices have also been essential to securing an affordable lease in the expensive San Francisco Bay Area. Dede worked closely with POST, a land trust that protects open space and farms in and around Silicon Valley, to develop a lease to reward the ecosystem services (e.g. beautiful open space, wildlife habitat, soil health, etc.) her regenerative management provides with a reduced lease rate.

As Root Down Farm continues to grow, Dede has begun working with Kitchen Table Advisors (KTA), a local non-profit that provides farm advisory services, to strengthen her business fundamentals and clarify her vision for the future. She hopes to continue her work to care for the land and raise healthy food but she is also beginning looking for opportunities through tours, on-farm workshops, and speaking engagements to be a source of inspiration and education for her community and the next generation of farmers and ranchers. ■



The Profiles in Land and Management Series features the work of innovative ranchers and land managers who are achieving economic and ecological benefits on working lands.

This project is supported by TomKat Ranch, the McKnight Foundation, the Globetrotter Foundation, and Armonia LLC, and by the hardworking agencies, land managers, and ranchers that generously shared their stories and time.



NRCS Year in Review 2019



USDA Restructuring

Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC)

"implement programs designed to mitigate the significant risks of farming"

- **Farm Services Agency (FSA)**

"commodity, lending and disaster programs"

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**

"conservation and technical assistance"

- **Risk Management Agency (RMS)**

"crop insurance"



Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool (CART)



Conservation Desktop



NRCS Programs

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- 2015 - 8 new contracts, \$435,282
- 2016 - 4 new contracts, \$452,952
- 2017 - 4 new contracts, \$241,615
- 2018 - 6 new contracts, \$361,109
- 2019 - 4 new contracts, \$532,876



NRCS Programs

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

2015 - "Bay Area Partnership Promoting Climate Beneficial Practices for Environmental Enhancement and Resiliency of Working Lands." Finalized in 2019

- Technical Assistance Funding to SMRCD - \$196,000
- 2 EQIP contracts - \$263,379

2017 - "San Mateo Coast Farmland, Water, and Wildlife"

- Technical Assistance Funding to SMRCD - \$45,000
- EQIP contract funds available - \$180,000 (\$25,196 contracted)
- Agricultural Lands Easement (ALE) funds available - \$2,500,000



NRCS Contribution Agreements with SMRCD

50/50 match - conservation technical assistance to mutual customers, farmers, ranchers, private land owners, to get conservation on the ground (conservation planning, water conservation, water quality, soil health, wildlife habitat enhancement, etc.)

- 2015 - \$40,000 + \$35,000 extension = \$75,000

Finalized in 2018

- 2017 - \$25,000 + \$50,000 extension = \$75,000

Expires 9/30/20 (extension requested)

Approximately \$50,000 remaining



Other ongoing NRCS activities

- New applications for NRCS financial assistance programs
- Existing EQIP contract management
- Farm Bill Programs development
- Technical assistance
- Highly Erodible Lands determinations
- Education and Outreach
- USDA permitting process for commercial hemp production
- Coastal Commission consistency determination process development
- Vehicle management
- USDA Local Registration Authority services
- San Mateo Food System Alliance
- CA NRCS Mentoring Program
- Acting District Conservationist for other NRCS offices
- Job Approval Authority for other NRCS offices

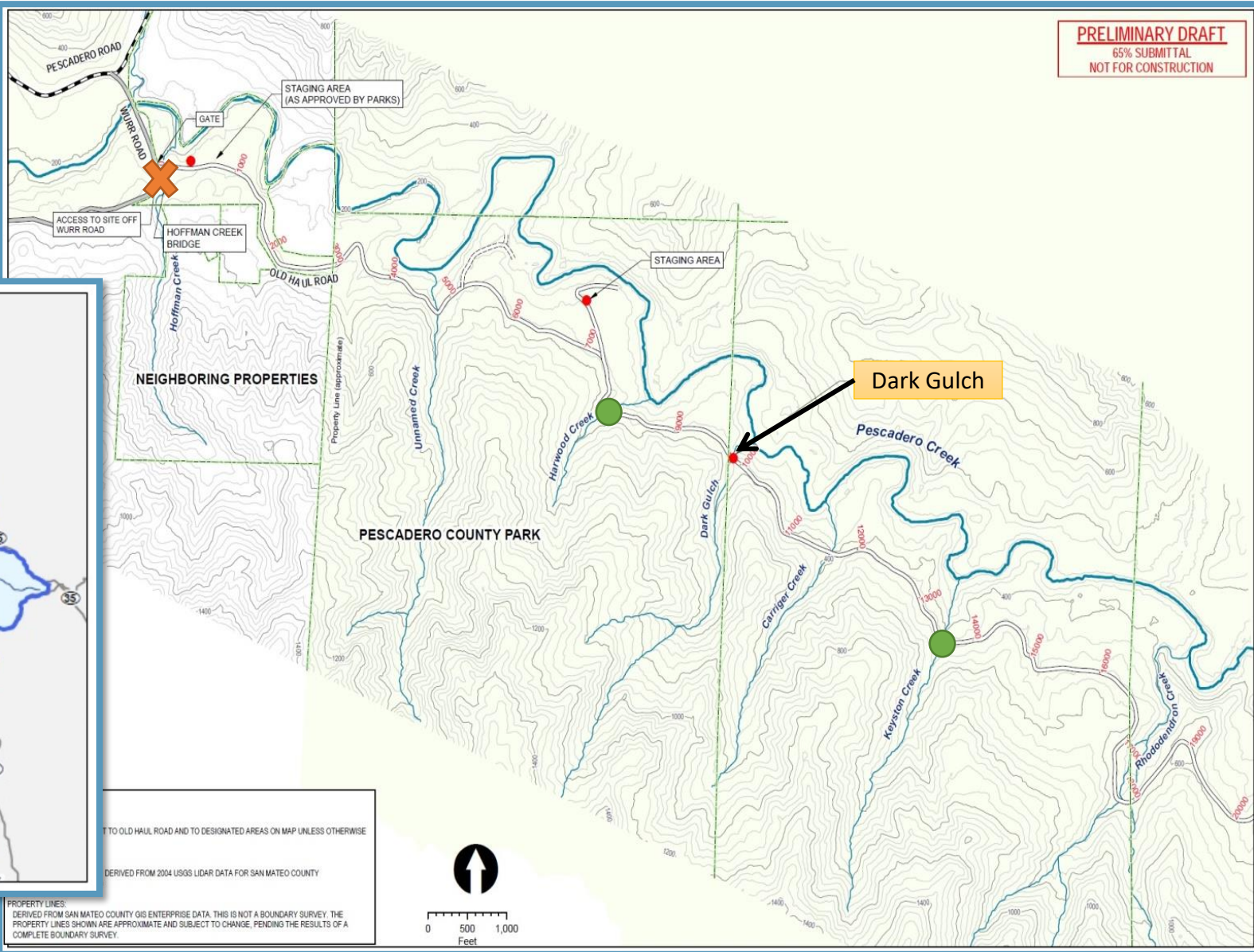
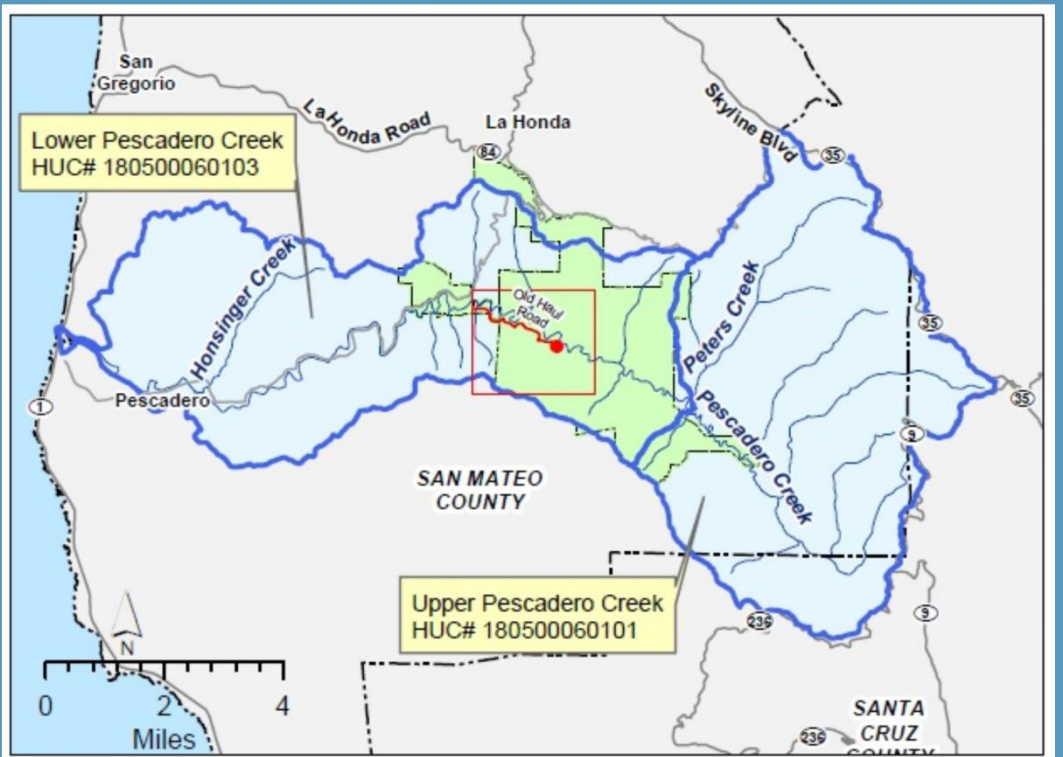


Old Haul Road: Dark Gulch Crossing Stabilization Project

Sara Polgar, Project Manager



Project Location

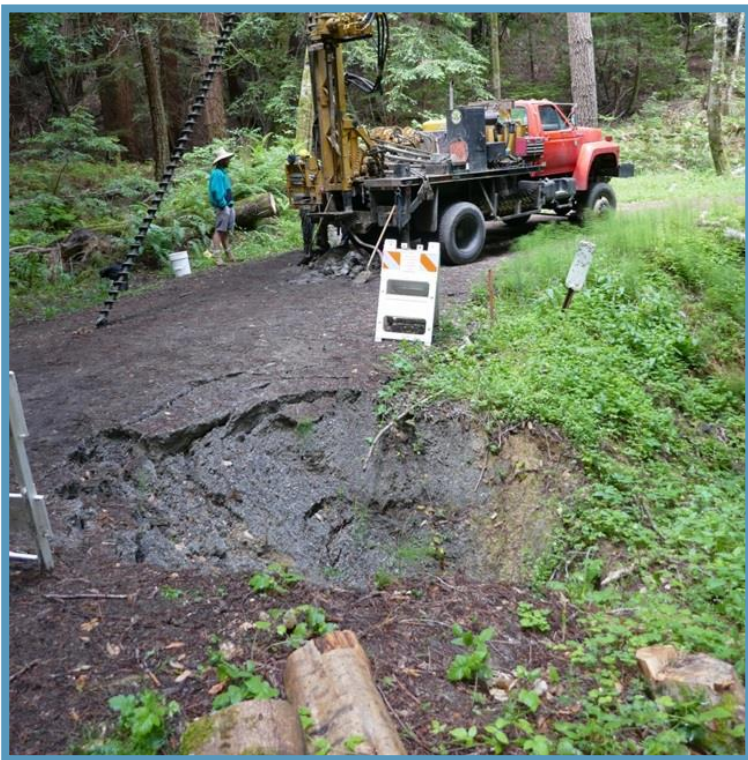




Crib log, or “Humbolt,” creek crossing on Old Haul Road.
Note the men sitting on top of the crossing.
Photo: Santa Cruz Lumber Company (1943)



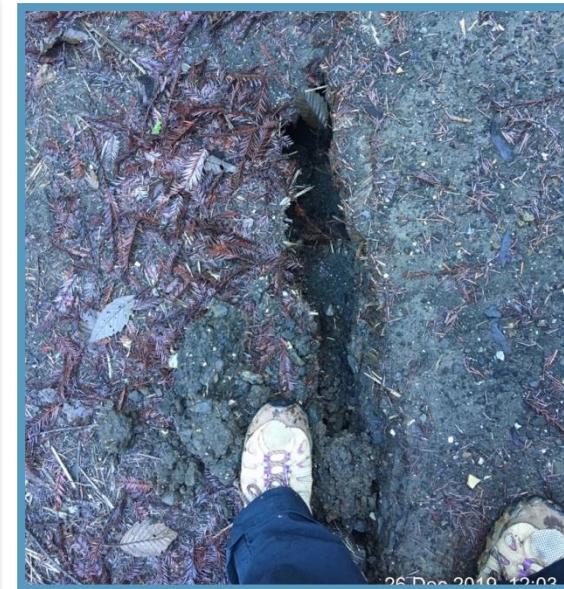
Example of large fill embankment at a
creek crossing.
Photo: Jack Gison (1947)



Harwood Creek crossing (2017)

Crossing failure (views from the road)

Dark Gulch crossing
(2015, left. 2019, right)



Dark Gulch (2015)



Crossing failure
(views from below)

Dark Gulch (2020)

← →

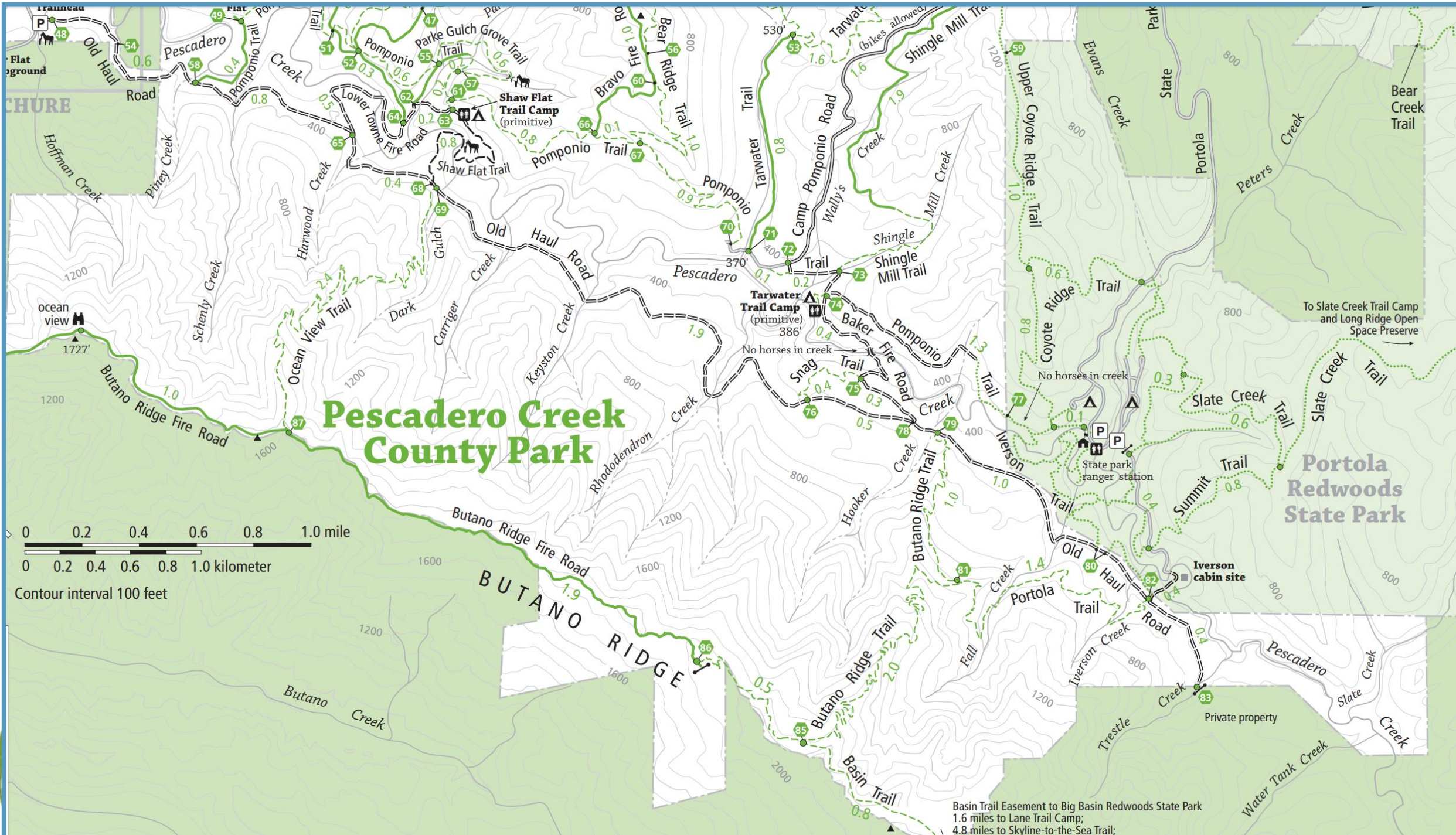
Take from
same spot.

← Looking
up to the
road

Looking →
down to
Dark Gulch
Creek

← note:
Crib logs &
erosion





Pescadero Creek County Park

Portola Redwoods State Park

Basin Trail Easement to Big Basin Redwoods State Park
1.6 miles to Lane Trail Camp;
4.8 miles to Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail;

Road to construction:

- Road assessment to ID priorities (2015)
- Sediment reduction plan and review/selection of treatment alternatives (2016-2017) – IWRP
 - Evaluation of crossing sites (mapping, geomorphic analyses)
- Development of designs & specifications and species protection measures (2017-2018)
- Construction: Stabilization of Harwood & Keyston Creeks Crossings (Fall 2018)



OLD HAUL ROAD 2017 EROSION AND SEDIMENT REDUCTION PLAN:

Pescadero Creek County Park
San Mateo County, CA



June 2017

Prepared for:

San Mateo County Resource Conservation District
625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

SMCRCD- OLDHAULROAD-SRP-688

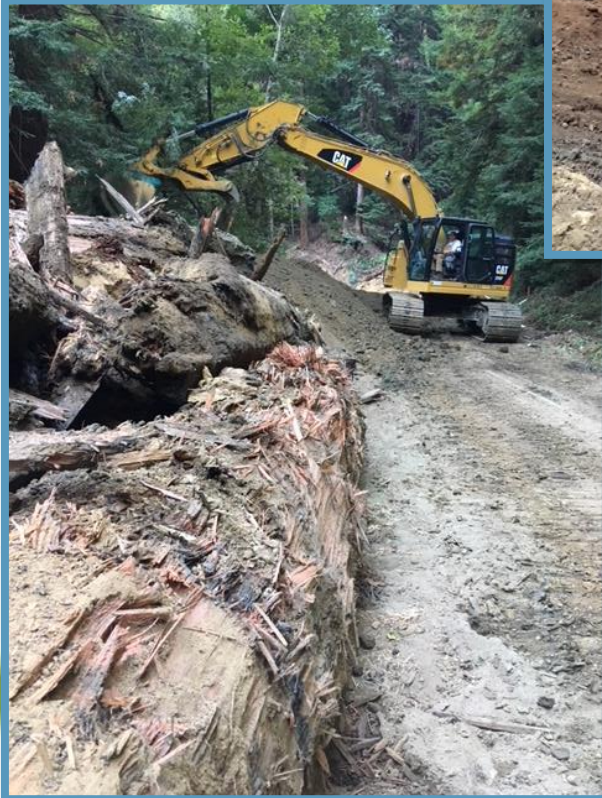


TIMOTHY C. BEST, CEG
ENGINEERING GEOLOGY AND HYDROLOGY

1002 Columbia Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • Tel (831) 425-5832 • Fax: (831) 425-5830 • e-mail: timbest@coastgeo.com

Construction

1. Remove the crossing material



3. Rebuild the crossing with engineered fill



2. Install a culvert pipe to convey storm flows

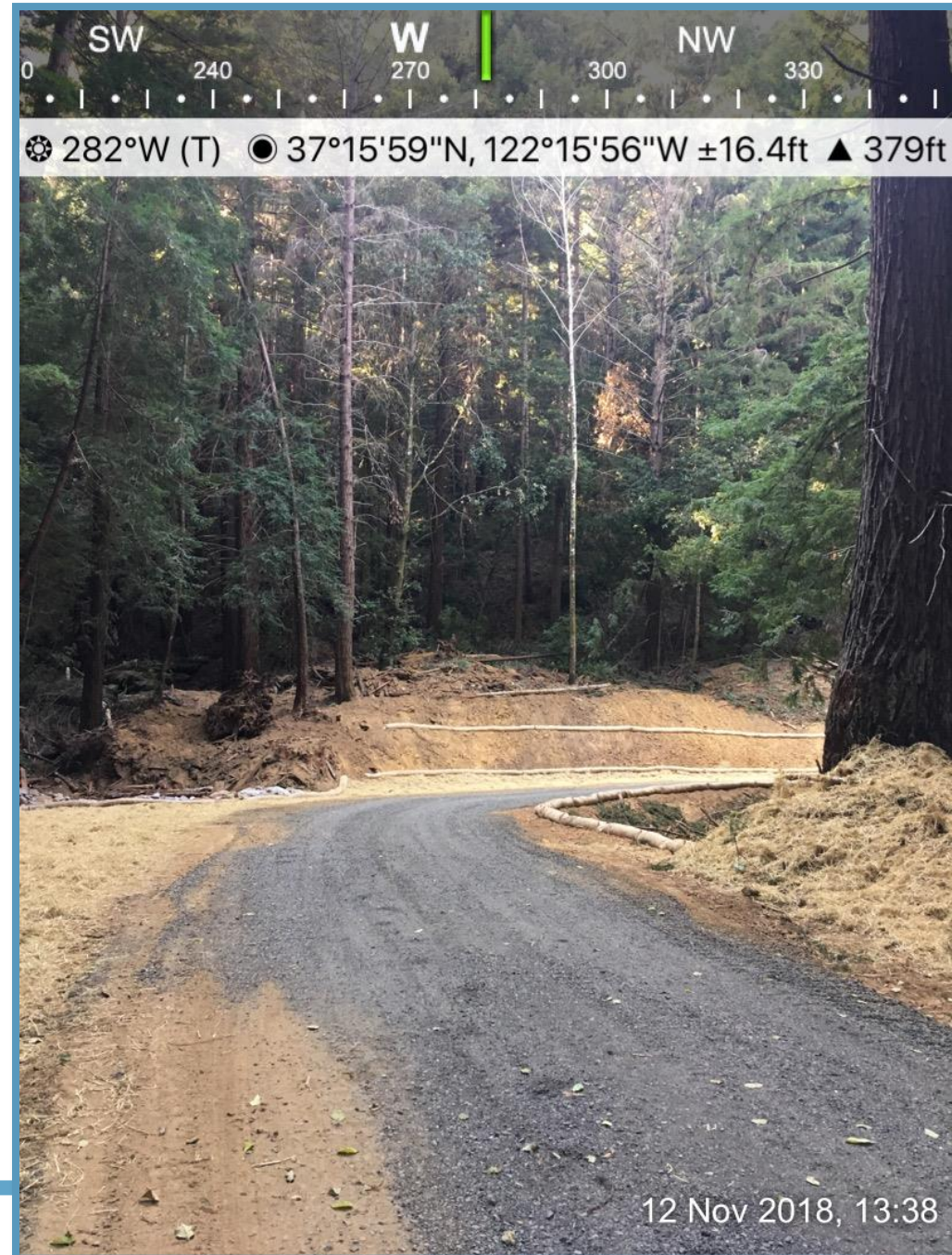




Pre construction:
Harwood Creek crossing (2017)

Construction outcomes

Post construction:
Harwood Creek crossing
(Nov. 2018)



Dark Gulch Crossing Stabilization Project

- Team:
 - Sara Polgar (Project Manager)
 - Hannah Ormshaw (County Parks Lead)
 - Tim Best, CEG (Project Engineer)
 - Geotechnical Engineering: Haro, Kasunich & Associates
 - Construction Contractor: Giacomini Enterprises
- Construction: May(?) - October 2020!



OLD HAUL ROAD 2017 EROSION AND SEDIMENT REDUCTION PLAN:

Pescadero Creek County Park
San Mateo County, CA



June 2017

Prepared for:

San Mateo County Resource Conservation District
625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

SMCRCD- OLDHAULROAD-SRP-688



TIMOTHY C. BEST, CEG
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Memorandum

Date: March 19, 2020
To: Board of Directors
From: Kellyx Nelson
Re: Recommendation to contract with L.D. Giacomini Enterprises, Inc. for construction of Old Haul Road: Dark Gulch Crossing Stabilization Project in Pescadero Creek County Park

RCD staff recommends contracting with L.D. Giacomini Enterprises, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$2,131,277 to stabilize a large failing creek crossing, install a culvert on Old Haul Road at Dark Gulch, a tributary to Pescadero Creek, and make drainage improvements along two miles of Old Haul Road. All work will take place in Pescadero Creek County Park in Loma Mar.

This project will prevent chronic and future soil erosion and sedimentation, and will improve habitat conditions and water quality in the Pescadero-Butano watershed for the benefit of native fish and other riparian species. Stabilizing the crossing will also significantly reduce the current risk of a catastrophic road failure, resulting in safer access for recreation, administrative and emergency purposes for San Mateo County Parks Department (Parks) and CAL FIRE. This project will be funded by Parks (75%) and the State Water Resources Control Board through a U.S. EPA Clean Water Act section 319 grant for the 2019 Nonpoint Source Grant Program (25%).

A Request for Bids was distributed to eight contractors on January 17, 2020. Five contractors attended the pre-bid tour on January 29, 2020. Attendance at the pre-bid tour was not mandatory, but strongly recommended. Four bid packages were received, which were complete and received by deadline. Two of the four had attended the pre-bid meeting. The bid amounts were \$4,274,565; \$2,888,900; \$2,131,276; and \$1,995,300.

The two lower bids were from firms that were also determined by RCD staff and partners to be the most qualified, and were also the two bidding firms that had attended the pre-bid tour. Based on the bid packages and information from references, RCD staff and project partners determined that both firms were highly qualified and capable. The bids were similar in terms of cost and the firms' capacity, experience, and excellent references. To identify the bid and firm that would be the best fit for the project, both bidders were asked the same questions to provide additional information regarding their planned equipment and crew and approach for construction (overall and for certain key tasks) for the project; a high-level construction schedule; and additional details about a similar project that they had completed.

After reviewing this information, project partners and RCD staff each recommended L.D. Giacomini Enterprises Inc. to complete this project based on the firm's:

- larger capacity in terms of equipment and crew which is better suited to the scope and scale of the project; and
- proposed construction approach and schedule which appear better able to accommodate foreseeable issues with excavation and fill placement that may occur with this project.

Memorandum

Date: March 19, 2020

To: Board of Directors

From: Kellyx Nelson

Re: Recommendation to contract with Tim Best, Certified Engineering Geologist, as Project Engineer to provide engineering oversight of construction of Old Haul Road: Dark Gulch Crossing Stabilization Project, Pescadero Creek County Park, Loma Mar

RCD staff recommends contracting with Tim Best, (CA Certified Engineering Geologist (No. 1682), CA Professional Geologist (No. 5277), and Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (No. 4353), for an amount not to exceed \$60,000 to be Project Engineer providing engineering oversight of construction of a project on Old Haul Road to stabilize a large failing creek crossing, install a culvert on Old Haul Road at Dark Gulch, a tributary to Pescadero Creek, and make drainage improvements along two miles of Old Haul Road at Dark Gulch. The project is located in Pescadero Creek County Park in Loma Mar.

This project will prevent chronic and future soil erosion and sedimentation, and will improve habitat conditions and water quality in the Pescadero-Butano watershed for the benefit of native fish and other riparian species. Stabilizing the crossing will also significantly reduce the current risk of a catastrophic road failure, resulting in safer access for recreation, administrative and emergency purposes for San Mateo County Parks Department (Parks) and CAL FIRE. This project will be funded by Parks (75%) and the State Water Resources Control Board through a U.S. EPA Clean Water Act section 319 grant for the 2019 Nonpoint Source Grant Program (25%).

Development of the engineering approach for stabilizing the Dark Gulch crossing was uniquely challenging due to the size and characteristics of the creek crossing: 70 feet deep with very steep slopes and more than 37,000 cubic yards (enough to bury a football field six feet deep) of unstable material including large decaying logs. It required the expertise of an engineering geologist (Project Engineer) with experience with this type of project and site conditions, supported by a geotechnical engineer with similar experience. Tim Best was Project Engineer. He directed the geotechnical testing and analysis of the existing crossing, and developed and evaluated multiple design alternatives and construction approaches for reconstructing the crossing in a manner that would meet safety, environmental, and access requirements. He then prepared detailed designs, plan sets, and technical specifications for the preferred alternative

of removing the unstable crossing material, installing a large-capacity culvert and reconstructing a smaller, stable crossing.

Oversight of construction by the Project Engineer is necessary to ensure that the construction process and project outcomes meet the rigorous project technical specifications and designs; and to direct and oversee any modifications to specifications required during construction. Note that the Project Engineer provides engineering oversight of the construction contractors' activities, as well as the geotechnical engineering consultants' soils and compaction monitoring and testing work.

The Public Contract Bidding, Vendor and Professional Consultant Selection, and Purchasing Policy adopted by this Board of Directors on March 20, 2014 requires solicitation of formal advertised bids for expenditures exceeding \$50,000. The policy allows exceptions to standard purchasing procedures in some circumstances, including when "services are of a unique type, are of a proprietary nature, or are otherwise of such a required and specific design or construction, or are specifically necessary for purposes of maintaining cost effective system consistency, so as to be available from only one source."

The work proposed meets this criterion because:

- Tim Best is uniquely qualified to provide the services of the type required, having managed and coordinated all engineering tasks for the planning and design of this project.
- In 2018, Tim Best was the project engineer, providing the same engineering planning, design and construction oversight services, for the RCD's successfully completed upgrades of two other crossings on Old Haul Road at Harwood and Keystone Creeks. The Dark Gulch project will benefit from his experience gained in overseeing these other smaller but similar projects at different sites in the same location.

Memorandum

Date: March 19, 2020
To: Board of Directors
From: Kellyx Nelson
Re: Recommendation to contract with Haro, Kasunich & Associates, Inc. for geotechnical monitoring and testing during construction of Old Haul Road: Dark Gulch Crossing Stabilization Project, Pescadero Creek County Park, Loma Mar, CA.

RCD staff recommends contracting with Haro, Kasunich & Associates, Inc., for an amount not to exceed \$90,000 to provide geotechnical monitoring and testing during construction of a project on Old Haul Road to stabilize a large failing creek crossing and install a culvert at Dark Gulch.

The project is located in Pescadero Creek County Park in Loma Mar.

This project will prevent chronic and future soil erosion and sedimentation, and will improve habitat conditions and water quality in the Pescadero-Butano watershed for the benefit of native fish and other riparian species. Stabilizing the crossing will also significantly reduce the current risk of a catastrophic road failure, resulting in safer access for recreation, administrative and emergency purposes for San Mateo County Parks Department (Parks) and CAL FIRE. This project will be funded by Parks (75%) and the State Water Resources Control Board through a U.S. EPA Clean Water Act section 319 grant for the 2019 Nonpoint Source Grant Program (25%).

Development of the engineering approach for stabilizing the Dark Gulch crossing was uniquely challenging due to the size and characteristics of the creek crossing: 70 feet deep with very steep slopes and more than 37,000 cubic yards (enough to bury a football field six feet deep) of unstable material including large decaying logs. Under the direction of the Project Engineer, the Haro, Kasunic & Associates, Inc. served as the geotechnical engineer. They tested and analyzed bore-hole drillings of the existing crossing and assisted the Project Engineer to develop and evaluate multiple design alternatives and construction approaches for reconstructing the crossing in a manner that would meet safety, environmental, and access requirements. The geotechnical engineer also determined the required specifications for excavation (e.g. steepness of cuts) and fill placement (e.g. compaction requirements) which the Project Engineer incorporated into the detailed designs, plan sets, and technical specifications for the preferred alternative: removing the unstable crossing material, installing a large-capacity culvert and reconstructing a smaller, more stable crossing.

Careful monitoring of soil stability during excavation, and testing of soil compaction during the crossing reconstruction are essential to ensure safety during construction and ensure that technical specifications of the crossing design are met. Note that technical aspects of the geotechnical engineer's role in the project will be directed by the Project Engineer.

The Public Contract Bidding, Vendor and Professional Consultant Selection, and Purchasing Policy adopted by this Board of Directors on March 20, 2014 requires solicitation of formal advertised bids for expenditures exceeding \$50,000. The policy allows exceptions to standard purchasing procedures in some circumstances, including when "services are of a unique type, are of a proprietary nature, or are otherwise of such a required and specific design or construction, or are specifically necessary for purposes of maintaining cost effective system consistency, so as to be available from only one source."

The work proposed meets this criterion because:

- Haro, Kasunich & Associates, Inc. is uniquely qualified to provide the services of the type required, having provided all geotechnical engineering services for the planning and design of this project.
- In 2018, Haro, Kasunich & Associates, Inc. provided the construction geotechnical monitoring and testing services for the RCD's recent successfully completed upgrades of two other crossings on Old Haul Road at Harwood and Keystone Creeks. The Dark Gulch project will benefit from Haro, Kasunich & Associates' experience gained in these smaller but similar projects at different sites in the same location.

Memorandum

Date: March 19, 2020
To: Board of Directors
From: Kellyx Nelson
Re: Recommendation for Approval of Ten Qualified Contractors as Eligible for Contracts to Support Creek Habitat Enhancement Projects

RCD staff recommends approval of the following ten qualified contractors (individuals, firms or teams) as eligible for contracts to support planning, design, and implementation of creek habitat enhancement projects:

1. Balance Hydrologics with Dudek
2. FlowWest
3. Mike Podlech, Fisheries Biologist
4. North Valley Labor Compliance Services
5. Restoration Design Group with Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting and Grasseti Environmental Consulting
6. Swaim Biological
7. SWCA Environmental Consultants
8. Vaughan Forestry
9. Waterways Consulting with Horizon Water and Environment, CMAG Engineering, and Streeter Group
10. WRA

The RCD's creek enhancement efforts work with landowner and agency partners to remove barriers that prevent fish such as coho salmon and steelhead trout from being able to complete their migration (fish passage projects) and to enhance instream and riparian habitat to provide places for fish to forage, take refuge, rest and spawn. Fish passage projects include removal or remediation of barriers such as dams, culverts, or water diversions. Habitat enhancement projects include installation of natural features in creeks, enhancing off-channel habitat, enhancing floodplain habitat, and more.

Individual contractor selection and scopes of work will be contingent upon funding, permits, willing landowners, emergent opportunities, and other considerations. Current funding for this work is \$60,000 with additional funds being sought. The selected contractors would be on a pre-approved eligible list for potential services of indefinite quantity through February 28, 2023 and does not preclude the procurement of other contractors to support specific creek habitat enhancement projects.

One or more of the qualified contractors will work with RCD staff as needed to support activities related to:

- Project planning, development, and/ or designs
- Technical surveys (e.g. hydrologic, hydraulic, geomorphic, etc.)
- Grant writing

- Permitting and other regulatory compliance
- Implementation oversight (e.g. biological monitoring, engineer oversight, wage/labor compliance, etc.)

On February 18, 2020 the RCD distributed a Request for Qualifications via public website announcement and an email sent to 20 firms and received ten eligible proposals in response. After reviewing all submissions staff recommends them as a portfolio of potential contractors based on their specialized training and experiences related to planning, surveying, designing, funding, permitting, implementation oversight, and/or compliance for environmental projects in the region.

SAN MATEO RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**RESOLUTION 2020-1****APPROVING THE GRANT OF FUNDS FROM THE
STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY
FOR****THE SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS STEWARDSHIP NETWORK'S
SANTA CLARA/SANTA CRUZ VEGETATION MAPPING AND LANDSCAPE DATABASE PROJECT**

Whereas, the San Mateo Resource Conservation District is a Special District organized under Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code with an original petition granted on July 1, 1939;

Whereas, the San Mateo Resource Conservation District is defined in Section 3501 of the Government Code as a public agency;

Whereas, the Legislature of the State of California has established the State Coastal Conservancy ("Conservancy") under Division 21 of the California Public Resources Code, and has authorized the Conservancy to award grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations to implement the provisions of Division 21;

Whereas, the Conservancy awards grants for projects that it determines are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code and with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan and that best achieve the Conservancy's statutory objectives in light of limited funding;

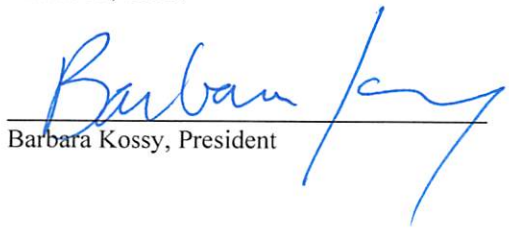
Whereas, at its February 6th, 2020 meeting, the Conservancy adopted a resolution authorizing a grant to the San Mateo Resource Conservation District ("grantee") for the Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network Vegetation Mapping and Landscape Database Project ("the project").

Whereas, the State Coastal Conservancy requires authorization of the grantee's Board to certify through a resolution that it approves the award of Conservancy grant funding and authorizes the execution by a representative of the grantee of a grant agreement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Mateo Resource Conservation District Board of Directors hereby:

1. Approves the award of grant funding from the Conservancy for the project.
2. Acknowledges it will have sufficient funds to complete the project and, if any property is acquired as part of the project to operate and maintain the property, and if any facilities are constructed as a part of the project, to operate and maintain the facilities for a reasonable period, not less than the useful life of the facilities.
3. Agrees to be bound by all terms and conditions of the grant agreement and any other agreement of instrument as may be required by the Conservancy and as may be necessary to fulfill the terms of the grant agreement and to complete the project.
4. Authorizes any of the following named officers or employees of the grantee to act as a representative of the grantee, to negotiate and execute on behalf of the grantee all agreements and instruments necessary to complete the project and to comply with the Conservancy's grant requirements, including without limitation, the grant agreement: Kellyx Nelson.
5. Agrees that there are no conflicts of interest for members of the Board of Directors or staff in submitting this proposal.

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the San Mateo Resource Conservation District on March 19, 2020.


Barbara Kossy, President
Date

Memorandum

Date: March 19, 2019
To: Board of Directors
From: Kellyx Nelson
Re: Recommendation to Contract with UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences for Pescadero Marsh Restoration and Resiliency Project

RCD recommends contracting a subaward to UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences for an amount not to exceed \$200,000 to model current and future conditions in Pescadero Marsh. The scope of work includes model development, calibration, analysis, and reporting.

The Pescadero Marsh Restoration and Resiliency Project will develop an open-source 3D hydrodynamic model for the estuary, a sea-level rise and climate vulnerability assessment for the system, a conceptual understanding of predicted ecological response of Pescadero Marsh to future conditions, preparation of engineering designs for a project to enhance the ecological function of the North Marsh and Pond Complex, and draft an implementation plan for enhancement of Pescadero Marsh.

John Largier, the guiding member of the UC Davis project team, is the foremost expert on the Pescadero Marsh having years of experience gathering data and researching in the marsh. He chaired the Pescadero Lagoon Science Panel, an independent science panel formed by state and federal agencies in early 2013 to evaluate the physical and biological characteristics of the Pescadero lagoon and marsh ecosystem and to consider recommendations regarding future management action. Dr. Largier authored its 2016 final report and is a key member of the Pescadero Technical Roundtable, an advisory body convened by the RCD with participation from a broad range of technical experts. The UC Davis researcher who will be developing the model, Dr. Rusty Holleman, brings the unique experience of having studied the system while conducting graduate work with Dr. Mark Stacey at UC Berkeley (also a member of the Science Panel). He is both an expert in estuarine modeling and the specific model platform that will be used. UC Davis is a trusted public entity and all data and materials will be in the public domain.