

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
May 21, 2020  
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm, via Zoom teleconference**

If you are using a computer to join the meeting please click [this link](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89675733636)<sup>1</sup>. 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 896 7573 3636 when prompted. If participating by phone only, you will not be able to see presentations or other participants. The teleconference will begin 10 minutes before the meeting is scheduled to begin for those who may need assistance or orientation to the technology.

<b>1. Call to Order</b>
<b>2. Approval of Agenda</b>
<b>3. Introduction of Guests and Staff</b>
<b>4. Public Comment-</b> 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.
<b>5. Consent Agenda</b> The Board of Directors approves: <b>5.1.</b> April 16, 2019 Draft Regular Meeting Minutes The Board of Directors receives into record: <b>5.2.</b> Notification of contract with Restoration Design Group, Inc for planning and design work on the Backfield Floodplain Enhancement and Flood Friendly Farm Project, Butano Creek. <b>5.3.</b> May 2020 California Landscape Stewardship Network’s Green Stimulus Recommendations for Governor Newsom’s Economic Task Force. <b>5.4.</b> May 7, 2020 Together Bay Area letter to the State Legislature supporting the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Climate Resilience, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020 (AB 3256 – Garcia) <b>5.5.</b> May 11, 2020 NOAA Fisheries Featured Story Video: <i>Celebrating Our Work to Save Endangered Species, Species in the Spotlight: Central California Coast Cobo Salmon</i> <b>5.6.</b> May 12, 2020 NOAA Fisheries Featured Story: <i>Butano Creek Restoration Reopens Habitat for Salmon in California</i>
<b>6. Regular Agenda</b> <b>6.1.</b> Board will consider Resolution 2020-2: San Mateo Resource Conservation District as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) regarding the Butano Farms San Francisco Garter Snake Habitat Enhancement Project Approving the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Adopting the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. <b>6.2.</b> Board will consider Resolution 2020-3: Approving Funds from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network’s Santa Clara/Santa Cruz Vegetation Mapping and Landscape Database Project. <b>6.3.</b> Board will consider contracting with Ecological Concerns, Inc. for integrated pest management for the control of two invasive plants on private properties. <b>6.4.</b> Board will discuss Fiscal Year 2021 draft budget. <b>6.5.</b> Diversity, Equity and Inclusion <b>6.6.</b> Executive Director’s report <b>6.7.</b> NRCS report <b>6.8.</b> Directors’ reports
<b>7. Adjourn Meeting</b> The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be June 18, 2020.

*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.*

<sup>1</sup> <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89675733636>

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
May 21, 2020  
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm  
via Zoom teleconference**

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

RCD staff present: Kellyx Nelson, Lau Hodges, Amy Kaeser, Joe Issel, Dylan Skybrook (Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network)

NRCS staff present: Jim Howard

Guests present: Brook Vinnedge, Ron Sturgeon

**1. Call to Order**

Kossy called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Reynolds 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**

- Nelson requested the April 16, 2020 minutes be pulled from consent as they had not been finalized in time to notice.
- Glauthier moved to approve the consent agenda as amended, Reynolds seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. Regular Agenda**

**6.1 Board will consider Resolution 2020-2: San Mateo Resource Conservation District as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) regarding the Butano Farms San Francisco Garter Snake Habitat Enhancement Project Approving the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Adopting the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.**

- Kaeser presented about the project and CEQA process (see attached).
- **ACTION:** Glauthier moved to approve Resolution 2020-2, Etherton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**6.2 Board will consider Resolution 2020-3: Approving Funds from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network's Santa Clara/Santa Cruz Vegetation Mapping and Landscape Database Project.**

- Skybrook and Nelson explained the resolution.
- **ACTION:** Etherton noted the date was wrong on the resolution and moved to approve Resolution 2020-3 as amended with the corrected date, Glauthier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**6.3 Board will consider contracting with Ecological Concerns, Inc. for integrated pest management for the control of two invasive plants on private properties.**

- Nelson described the project and reviewed the selection process that was in the associated memorandum.
- Issel noted that Ecological Concerns, Inc. had the most relevant experience.
- There was discussion about duration of funding for ongoing treatments and the shift from a focus on eradication to control.
- Glauthier moved to contract with Ecological Concerns, Inc. for integrated pest management for the control of two invasive plants on private properties, Etherton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**6.4 Board will discuss Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) draft budget.**

- Nelson explained the process by which staff and the Finance Committee developed the proposed budget, reviewed and discussed variances from the prior fiscal year (budgeted and projected actual) and discussed anticipated impacts of the recession for Fiscal Years '20, '21, '22 and beyond.
- The RCD had been able to make the full budgeted allotment to the Operating Reserve in FY20 and the goal was still to have enough in the account to cover 6 months of operations.
- Etherton asked if the Water Quality's Budget reflected one or two positions; Hodges confirmed it reflected one.
- Nelson noted no Cost of Living Adjustment had been budgeted for FY21. She did not plan to cut any positions but did plan on making some targeted, individual salary adjustments.
- Kossy asked about the RCD's rent and whether Nelson planned to keep the same size office space; Nelson confirmed that rent increased each year and she was currently planning to keep the same size office.
- Glauthier stated that the RCD's cash and income position were strong, and it was reasonable to think the RCD could keep staff employed for 1/1.5 years.

**6.5 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)**

- Directors discussed what about moved them about DEI. Discussion included:
  - the RCD's effectiveness lies in the variety of organizations with which it collaborates
  - diversity of RCD staff and Board
  - diversity is not an option but a mandate
  - diversity is a strength and an asset to problem solving
  - the RCD could improve upon cultural diversity
- Sturgeon agreed with a lot of what the Directors said and noted that he would like to see a high school or college aged board member.
- Nelson noted the following steps staff had taken:
  1. Assessed and revised employee recruitment strategies;
  2. Increased minority and women owned businesses on the contractor list;
  3. Considered access to food and childcare as a factor enabling more diverse participation in public outreach meetings;
  4. Hosting interns from Puente de la Costa Sur and providing this summer's intern with a laptop to work remotely.
  5. Added DEI as a standing item on both staff and board meetings.
  6. Incorporated consideration of DEI into the COVID-19 Field Policy.
  7. Helping to build a network for someone on staff who felt marginalized.

## **6.6 Executive Director's Report (Kellyx Nelson)**

- COVID-19:
  1. Thanked Kaeser for her work leading the COVID-19 Team.
  2. Several projects had been postponed to FY '22.
  3. RCD sent a message to targeted audiences regarding where and why we would be working and what precautions we are taking.
- Programs and project updates:
  1. Agricultural and Climate team wrapping up their Urban Agriculture Technical Assistance Program. Healthy Soils Program is not currently included in the state budget.
  2. Water Quality Program will remove the fats, oils and grease from Pillar Point Harbor stormline this summer and is working on the Total Daily Maximum Load proposed for Pillar Point Harbor and Frenchmens Creek.
  3. Erosion and Sediment Program broke ground at Dark Gulch stream crossing and is providing assistance for the TMDL in Pescadero. Nelson showed videos from the Dark Gulch project site.
  4. Due to CoVID-19 the Habitat Enhancement Program pushed back most of its construction from FY21 to FY22.

5. Forest Health and Fire Resilience program moving forward with chipping program and fuel load reduction projects.

### **6.7 NRCS report (Jim Howard)**

- NRCS was moving full throttle ahead on the first big batch of Farm Bill Projects and several counties had seen less applications funded.
- There was enough money in the Regional Conservation Partnership Program to fund a grazing lands application.
- COVID-19 stimulus package money is coming to the USDA.
- NRCS was trying to figure out how to get offices back open. Howard was working closely with the RCD to devise a plan.

### **6.8 Directors' Reports**

- Glauthier reviewed the RCD's FY21 Budget and felt good about the way it was shaping up. He had been attending the San Mateo County Harbor District's meetings and speaking with commissioners. He hopes they approve funding for the continued water quality partnership.
- Etherton reported that Sustainable San Mateo County Awards had a new date and it was expected to be a virtual event.
- Kossy reported that her work on the California Invasive Plants Facebook page had allowed her to connect people on landscape level project.
- Reynolds reported that the Butano Dredge Project was a success and he appreciated the RCD's work on it.

## **7 Adjourn Meeting**

Kossy adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

## Memorandum

Date: May 21, 2020  
To: Board of Directors  
From: Kellyx Nelson  
Re: Notification of contract with Restoration Design Group, Inc for planning and design work on the Backfield Floodplain Enhancement and Flood Friendly Farm Project, Butano Creek

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RCD staff notifies the board of a contract for an amount not to exceed \$59,800 with Restoration Design Group, Inc (RDG) to provide planning support and designs for the Backfield Floodplain Enhancement and Flood Friendly Farm Project, Butano Creek. The project is located within and next to Butano Creek in Pescadero, CA.

The project seeks to create 2-3 acres of low floodplain that will provide winter habitat for salmonids and an additional 4-5 acres of transitional floodplain. The low floodplain will provide habitat for a suite of aquatic species, provide sediment storage and reduce erosion from the creek banks that had become unnaturally steep over time. The transitional (higher) floodplain will provide significant sediment storage benefits and be a local pilot for flood friendly farming practices. The flood friendly farm field will flood occasionally during winter storms, while being farmed the rest of the year.

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 recommended 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.

On March 19, 2020 the Board approved RCD staff's recommendation to approve the ten qualified contractors (individuals, firms or teams) as eligible for contracts to support planning, design, and implementation of creek habitat enhancement. RDG is one of these approved contractors and was chosen by RCD staff for the proposed project due to their experience with similar projects, availability, cost-effectiveness, and strong recommendations.



# California Landscape Stewardship Network

[www.calandscapestewardshipnetwork.org](http://www.calandscapestewardshipnetwork.org)

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**Green Stimulus Recommendations for  
Governor Newsom's Economic Task Force  
May 2020**





# Green Stimulus Recommendations

The California Landscape Stewardship Network's participants – representing more than 200 organizations – span the state, and work on a variety of **green infrastructure, restoration and stewardship, and nature-based climate adaptation and mitigation** projects.

We can support the implementation of a Green Stimulus vision and statewide goals by advancing **shovel-ready, high-impact projects that will put people to work and move California towards economic and climatic stability.**

**Investment in our business models, regional partnerships, and projects** is needed to catalyze economic growth and climate adaptation.



# What's Needed

1. **Prioritize an integrated climate adaptation and economic development approach** that supports vulnerable and chronically under-resourced community needs.
2. **Invest in a green workforce** – early data collection at the regional level\* reveals that **economic stimulus and workforce development, focused on nature-based solutions** to climate change risks and green infrastructure projects, can address the layered crises we face today.
3. **Leverage and support strong regional collaboratives** which can amplify state resources and are working cross-boundary and at a landscape scale.

\* [\*Bay Area Lands, People, and Economy: A Snapshot Report of Green Stimulus Opportunities\*](#)



# What's Needed

4. **Advance innovative approaches** – in an era of dramatic economic uncertainty, it's also necessary for the state to **find opportunities to work more cost-effectively and efficiently** through initiatives like *Cutting Green Tape*.
5. **Consider the relevance and value of working and agricultural lands, parks, trails, and public lands** during the current crisis, and include them in the state's effort to address emergency funding needs.
6. **Advance a multi-benefit stimulus investment in nature-based solutions** that will provide for people, nature, and the economy.





# Five Guiding Principles

Our recommendations to government leadership for achieving the vision of an integrated climate adaptation and economic development approach are organized around five principles:

**Guiding Principle 1 - Equity:** Focus on addressing equity in the context of the pandemic and economic crises.

**Guiding Principle 2 - Regional Partnerships:** Leverage existing regional and cross-jurisdictional collaborations to support strategic investments in nature-based solutions across the state.

**Guiding Principle 3 - Investment:** Identify and retain targeted investments in the state budget to ensure that California lands are accessible, cared for, and protected. Consider advancing an economic stimulus bond which would help create a pathway to economic stability and ecological resiliency.

**Guiding Principle 4 - Innovation:** Catalyze innovative initiatives like *Cutting Green Tape*, which can increase momentum towards climate change goals now, while realizing cost and operational efficiencies.

**Guiding Principle 5 - Action:** Integrate climate adaptation goals with an economic development approach. Through fund support, leveraged financing, and partnerships, encourage holistic resilience to climate change through targeted workforce and economic development around climate adaptation solutions.





# Specific Statewide Recommendations

**Green investments that sustain basic needs for land stewardship** during the COVID-19 crisis, support equity and inclusion, and align with local and state planning to address climate change should be prioritized.

1. Promote and support **regional climate adaptation programs and projects that provide multiple benefits** across sectors.
2. Prioritize investment in **projects that will immediately generate new jobs, preserve existing jobs**, and advance the state's strategic climate change goals.
3. Prioritize green infrastructure, outdoor recreation, and natural resource protection and restoration **investments in communities of color and low-income communities**, which are most disproportionately impacted by climate change threats and the pandemic crisis.
4. Use the best **available science to inform decision-making** and promote the role that climate smart agriculture and nature-based climate solutions play in meeting the state's climate adaptation and mitigation goals.
5. Focus investment on **capital projects for urban residents and rural residents that increase sustainable public access and the vitality of natural lands**.



# Statewide Recommendations cont'd

6. Invest in **capital projects that maintain public safety, promote environmental and public health, and protect populations from climate risks**, including reducing wildfire threats through vegetation management and ecological restoration; building resiliency into agricultural lands and food systems; and addressing sea level rise through green infrastructure and wetland restoration projects.
7. Focus **workforce development programs on under-resourced populations and communities of color**, coordinating with community leaders, labor organizations, and local agency officials so that the proposals best reflect the needs of communities and available worker pools.
8. Maintain momentum on ***Cutting Green Tape* to increase the pace and scale of restoration projects** that will lead to more jobs, and a reduction in costs to the state by addressing climate change impacts.
9. Leverage **capital investment with flexible funding sources**, including private capital and Prop 68 Community Access funding, to support planning projects and programming, both of which support jobs across sectors, including nonprofits and agencies.





# Contact



**Sharon Farrell**

Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy  
Coordinator, CA Landscape Stewardship Network

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**Kellyx Nelson**

California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

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**Shelana deSilva**

TOGETHER Bay Area

[shelana@togetherbayarea.org](mailto:shelana@togetherbayarea.org)





May 7, 2020

The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker of the Assembly  
The Honorable Philip Ting, Bay Area Caucus Chair  
The Honorable Members of the Bay Area Caucus  
The Honorable Eduardo Garcia  
The Honorable Richard Bloom  
The Honorable Robert Bonta  
The Honorable Laura Friedman  
The Honorable Cristina Garcia  
The Honorable Kevin Mullin  
The Honorable Eloise Reyes  
The Honorable Jim Wood  
The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman  
The Honorable Robert Rivas

**RE: Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Climate Resilience, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020 (AB 3256 – Garcia) – SUPPORT**

Dear Honorable Members of the State Legislature:

The TOGETHER Bay Area coalition of 56 public agencies, Tribes, and nonprofits is pleased to share our support for AB 3256, and to provide our priorities for climate resilience during these evolving and challenging times. The Bay Area is home to nearly eight million people or 20 percent of the state’s population, and features world-class parks and recreational amenities, an incredible diversity of wildlife and habitats, working farms and ranches, and urban waterfronts and wetland habitats. Our region is uniquely beautiful and of great economic significance to the state and globally. These facts stand in sharp relief today, within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and related economic crisis. Like so many, our member entities, listed below, are facing numerous operational and financial challenges. And, **these challenges reveal the direct linkages between equitably accessible public lands, healthy working lands and farms, natural resource management, and public health and job opportunities.** We believe that strategic investment in green infrastructure projects and nature-based solutions to today’s challenges can simultaneously:

- 1) Create jobs,
- 2) Fight climate change, and
- 3) Improve equity indicators related to human health, socioeconomics, and community resilience to crisis.

Earlier in the year, TOGETHER Bay Area expressed strong support for a unified, inclusive set of recommendations that would lead to bold investments in our region and across the state. We did so in partnership with the State Coastal Conservancy and San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, to take a watershed-based approach to building resilience and equity here in the Bay Area — from the hills and ridgelines to the Bay shoreline. All of those recommendations, which are summarized below, are still very important to us. However, we know the Legislature’s attention and priorities have had to shift in response to the unprecedented public health and economic crises.



We therefore have shifted *our* focus to outline a vision **that supports climate resilience actions, focuses on improving equity indicators, and puts people to work**. In support of this vision, we [recently produced a report](#) which reveals that **critical services – such as ensuring safe public access to nature during shelter in place orders, and vegetation management for wildfire prevention – can sustain and increase regional job opportunities**.

Our recommendations are aligned with this vision. Our top two priorities for AB 3256 are as follows:

- **Prioritize statewide funding that supports climate resilience actions and puts people to work.**
- **Ensure eligibility for the Bay Area’s most marginalized communities, who are most vulnerable to climate change impacts.** Use Under-Resourced Communities (PRC 71130(g)) to determine eligibility for struggling communities, and use the Cal OES's definition and analysis methodology of "vulnerable population/community" used in their State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

And as amendments are considered, we would like to share our broader priorities:

- **Include no less than \$800 million for State Coastal Conservancy programs statewide.** The State Coastal Conservancy serves as a long time, important partner to our members, the Restoration Authority, and numerous regional stakeholders, in implementing climate adaptation projects with multiple benefits for, in particular, our most underserved communities. Looking beyond the region, the consequences of climate change, such as coastal flooding and sea level rise, disproportionately impact 80 percent of California’s population that live and work within 30 miles of the coast. Adequate funding for the State Coastal Conservancy’s programs statewide is simply a must for a climate resilience bond that hopes to achieve its goals.
- **Include a minimum of \$200 million for the State Coastal Conservancy’s Bay Area Program.** Our region is densely populated and yet serves as a biodiversity hotspot. We face some of the direst climate change-related impacts, including wildfires that threaten lives, property, and habitat; sea level rise scenarios threatening many miles of shoreline and critical infrastructure; and the urban heat island effect, which disproportionately impacts the most underserved among us. The Bay Area Program provides funding for the protection of the most critical remaining wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors; climate smart agriculture projects; support for resilient working landscapes; promotion of wildfire resilience for our lands and communities; use of natural and green infrastructure methods where appropriate; assurance of eligibility for the Bay Area’s underserved communities; increased and equitable outdoor access including regional trails; use of natural trail materials; and a focus on active transportation. This program answers many needs, especially in the context of a bond seeking to build climate resilience and equity into our landscapes and communities. And it has been woefully underfunded in the past.
- **We support the Restoration Authority’s request for \$500 million in the bond.** This funding will be highly leveraged with local Measure AA dollars and federal funds, and will support shovel-ready, science-driven projects that will help the region buy time to adapt to the conditions of sea level rise. This funding is also directly accessible to many of our members for priority shoreline projects that will protect habitat and provide public access.
- **Make \$800 million available to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)** for habitat protection (fee and conservation easements), restoration, and enhancement. These funds will be distributed by the WCB through competitive grants and contracts.



- **Include no less than \$200 million to the Department of Conservation (DOC)** for protection and restoration of farmland and rangelands, including the acquisition of fee title or easements, for small and medium sized farms.
- To promote public awareness about climate change and inspire stewardship and investment in our natural resources, be sure to **include at least \$75 million for active transportation projects; \$50 million for natural surface recreational trails; and at least \$100 million to the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) for the State Recreational Trails Program and public access projects** that promote climate awareness and regional trail connections.
- **Make at least \$10 million available to the Department of Food and Agriculture** for deposit into the Invasive Species Account, for the purposes of funding invasive species projects and activities recommended by the Invasive Species Council of California.

TOGETHER Bay Area stands in partnership with government leaders to create transformational, enduring economic changes that effectively respond to the crises we face today. We thank you for your consideration of these priorities shared by a unified Bay Area.

Sincerely,

Shelana deSilva  
Political Director

Encl.

List of 56 TOGETHER Bay Area public agencies, Indigenous Tribes, and nonprofits



## TOGETHER Bay Area Founding Members

The following 56 nonprofits, public agencies, and Indigenous Tribes in the 10-county San Francisco Bay Area are Founding Members

### Alameda County

Resource Conservation District\*  
Amah Mutsun Land Trust\*  
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council\*  
Bull Valley Agricultural Center  
California Invasive Plant Council\* (Cal-IPC)  
California Mountain Biking Coalition\*  
City of American Canyon  
Claremont Canyon Conservancy\*  
Coastside Land Trust\*  
East Bay Regional Park District  
East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy  
Friends of Five Creeks  
Golden Hour Restoration Institute\*  
Grassroots Ecology\*  
Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria  
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County  
LandPaths\*  
Mare Island Heritage Trust  
Marin Agricultural Land Trust  
Marin County Parks\*  
Marin County Bicycle Coalition\*  
Marin Municipal Water District  
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District\*  
Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz\*  
Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District  
National Park Service – Golden Gate  
National Recreation Area\*  
National Park Service – Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front NHP\*

### Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation

Paula Lane Action Network (PLAN)  
Peninsula Open Space Trust\*  
Pie Ranch\*  
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy\*  
River Otter Ecology Project\*  
San Francisco Bay Trail\*  
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission\*  
San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department\*  
San Mateo County Parks\*  
San Mateo County Parks Foundation  
San Mateo Resource Conservation District\*  
Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department\*  
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority\*  
Save Mount Diablo\*  
Save the Redwoods League\*  
Sempervirens Fund  
Solano Land Trust\*  
Sonoma Ag and Open Space District\*  
Sonoma County Regional Parks\*  
Sonoma Land Trust  
Student Conservation Association (SCA)  
Sustainable Agriculture Education (SAGE)  
The Field Semester\*  
The Nature Conservancy  
Urban Bird Foundation\*  
Valley Water  
YES Nature to Neighborhoods  
Youth Outside

\*Indicates Keystone Members, who have pledged 3 years of membership. This demonstrates their commitment to regional collaboration, and allows the coalition to make long-term plans with ongoing participation and support from its members.

## RESOLUTION 2020-2

**San Mateo Resource Conservation District as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) regarding the Butano Farms San Francisco Garter Snake Habitat Enhancement Project Approving the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Adopting the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

**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 Butano Farms San Francisco Garter Snake Habitat Enhancement Project (Proposed Project) is intended to enhance 65 acres of upland and wetland habitat in coastal San Mateo County for the Federally and State Endangered San Francisco garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*) and the Federally Threatened and State Species of Special Concern California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*). The proposed project provides mitigation for biological impacts associated with Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) Line 101 Inline Inspection and Upgrade, and Lomita Park Station Rebuild Project in the City of Millbrae, San Mateo County. PG&E provided financial contribution to the San Mateo Resource Conservation District for management of land with emphasis on management for San Francisco garter snake. Enhancement and restoration activities are consistent with the recovery actions outlined in the federal San Francisco Garter Snake Recovery Plan, and aim to increase forage, shelter, and breeding habitat for California red-legged frog, the primary prey for San Francisco garter snake, and increase basking, forage and prey habitat for San Francisco garter snake;

**WHEREAS**, San Mateo Resource Conservation District and Vinnedge Environmental Consulting prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) to provide a transparent and comprehensive evaluation of the Proposed Project. San Mateo Resource Conservation District has prepared this resolution to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.). San Mateo Resource Conservation District is a “lead agency” under CEQA;

**WHEREAS**, consistent with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, a mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP), has been prepared by Vinnedge Environmental Consulting for the San Mateo Resource Conservation District for the Proposed Project (Exhibit A). (See Pub. Resources Code, § 21081.6, subd. (a)(1); CEQA Guidelines, § 15097.) San Mateo Resource Conservation District will use the MMRP to track compliance with best management practices

and mitigation measures imposed by San Mateo Resource Conservation District and the MMRP will remain available for public review during the compliance period;

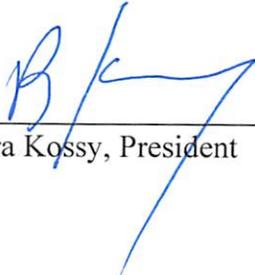
**WHEREAS**, San Mateo Resource Conservation District's Board of Directors (Board) hereby finds and declares that they have reviewed and considered the MND together with the comments received during the public review process in evaluating the Proposed Project, that the MND is an accurate and objective statement that fully complies with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, and that the MND reflects the independent judgment and analysis of San Mateo Resource Conservation District and Vinnedge Environmental Consulting. The Board further finds and declares that considering the record as whole, there is no substantial evidence that the Proposed Project will have a significant effect on the environment, that no new significant impacts as defined by State CEQA Guidelines section 15073.5 have been identified after circulation of the MND, and that recirculation of the MND is therefore not required. On behalf of San Mateo Resource Conservation District, the Board approves the MND;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21081.6, the Board, on behalf of San Mateo Resource Conservation District, hereby adopts the MMRP attached to this Resolution as Exhibit A;

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

1. The Board finds that the approval and implementation of the Proposed Project is critical to recovery efforts for the endangered San Francisco garter snake and threatened California red-legged frog. Based on the entire record before San Mateo Resource Conservation District, including all written and oral evidence presented to San Mateo Resource Conservation District, the Board hereby approves the Butano Farms San Francisco Garter Snake Habitat Enhancement Project, with all the best management practices and mitigation measures in the MMRP as set forth in this document.
2. The Board is the custodian of the records of the proceedings on which this decision is based. Records are located at the San Mateo Resource Conservation District offices located at 80 Stone Pine Road, Suite 100, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019.
3. The Board directs San Mateo Resource Conservation District staff to prepare and file a Notice of Determination with the Office of Planning and Research as soon as practicable and no later than five (5) working days after the date of Proposed Project approval as set forth immediately below.

**ADOPTED** at the May 2020 of the Board of Directors of the San Mateo Resource Conservation District on May 21, 2020.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Kossy, President

5/21/20  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Butano Farms San Francisco Garter Snake Habitat Enhancement Project CEQA Process



Lead Agency: San Mateo Resource Conservation District

May 21, 2020



# Outline

1. Brief Project Summary
2. Location
3. Objectives
4. Habitat Enhancement Activities
5. Project Timeline
6. CEQA Process



# Summary

- Improve habitat conditions for San Francisco garter snake and California red-legged frog
- Part of regional recovery effort
- Mitigation for PG&E





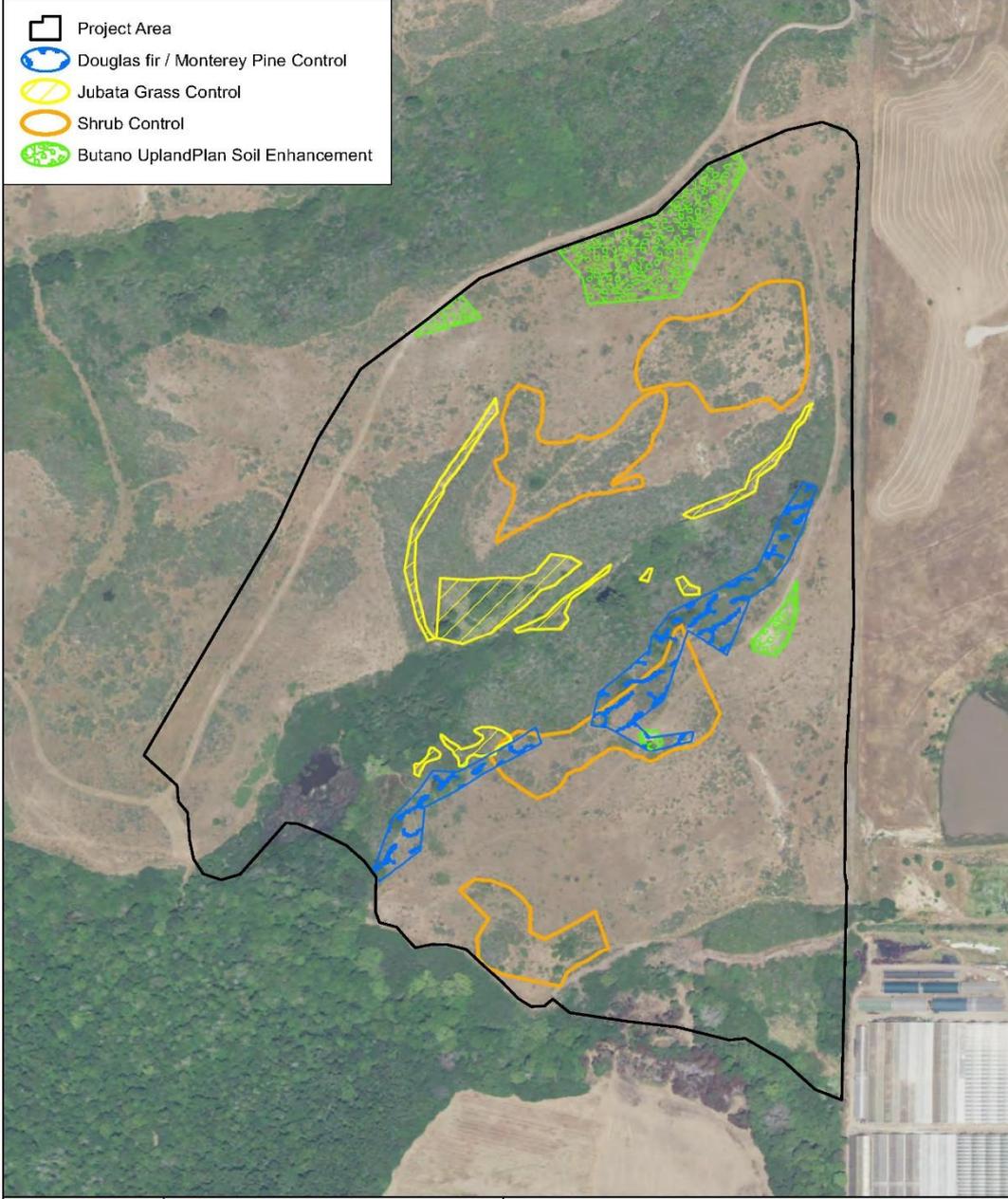
# Project Location

# Objectives

1. Create and protect shallow open bench habitat
2. Maintain at least 25% open water habitat
3. Maintain 25-50% cover of emergent vegetation
4. Protect pond water quality
5. Control and/or eradicate invasive species
6. Reduce woody encroachment into grassland



-  Project Area
-  Douglas fir / Monterey Pine Control
-  Jubata Grass Control
-  Shrub Control
-  Butano Upland Plan Soil Enhancement



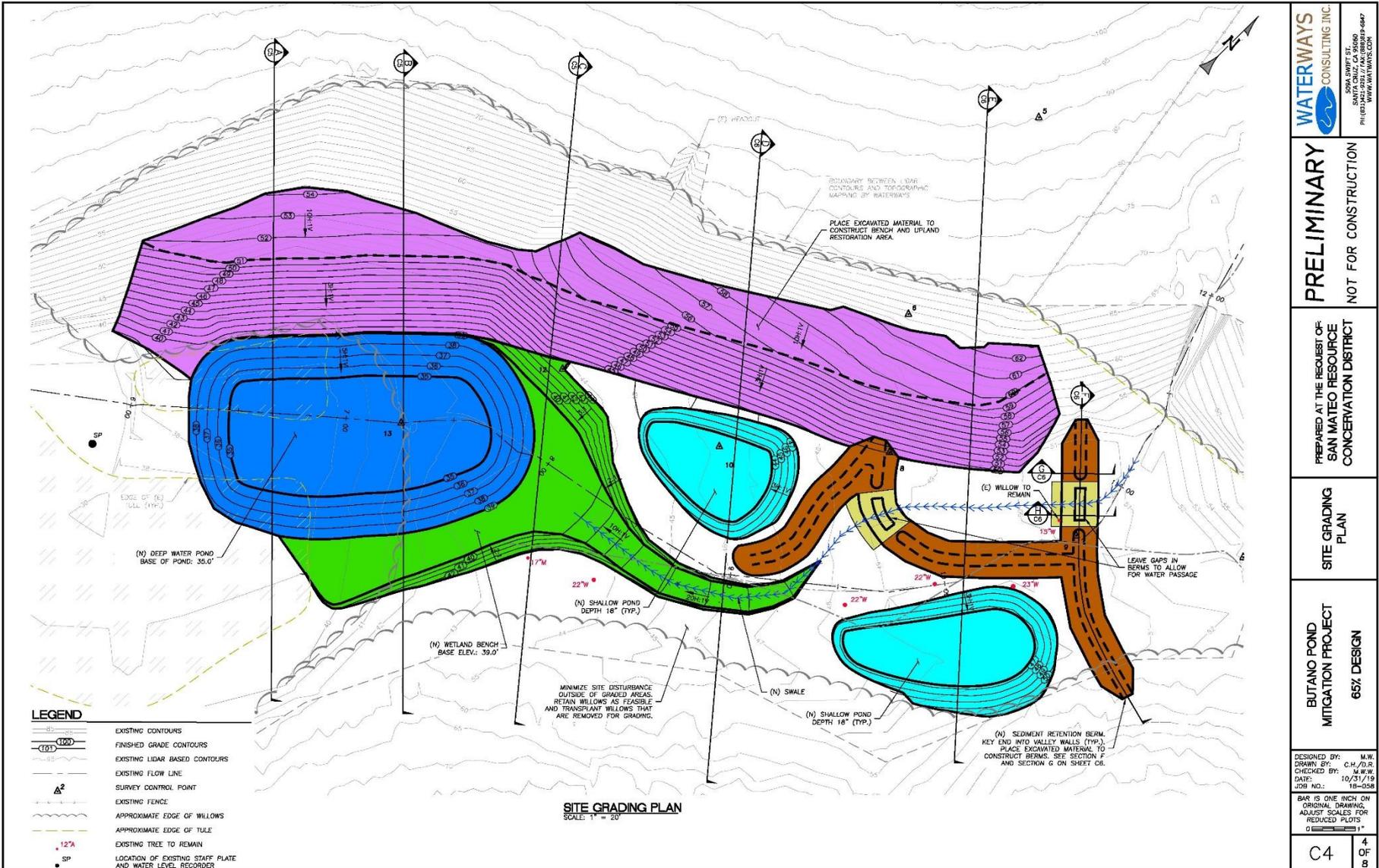
# Upland Habitat Enhancement Activities

**FIGURE 4 - UPLAND HABITAT ENHANCEMENT**

Butano Farms - San Francisco  
Garter Snake Habitat Enhancement Project

San Mateo County, CA

# Pond Habitat Enhancement Activities



**WATERWAYS CONSULTING INC.**  
3004 SWIFT ST.  
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060  
PH: (408) 291-4687  
WWW.WATERWAYS.COM

**PRELIMINARY**  
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

PREPARED AT THE REQUEST OF  
**SAN MATEO RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**SITE GRADING  
PLAN**

**BUTANO POND  
MITIGATION PROJECT**  
65% DESIGN

C4  
4 OF 8

# Project Timeline



## **PLANNING**

Spring-Summer 2020

*Complete CEQA, complete 100% designs and specs, obtain permits*

## **CONTRACTOR SELECTION**

Fall-Winter 2020

*Bid Process and Contracting*

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

Summer-Fall 2021

*Habitat enhancement actions*

## **MONITORING AND MAINTENANCE**

2021-2051

*30 years of monitoring and maintenance*



## California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):

- Disclosure to public and decision-makers the significant environmental effects of proposed activities.
- Identify ways to avoid/reduce potentially harmful effects.
- Consideration of alternatives and application of feasible mitigation (if necessary).
- Public disclosure of agency decision making and reasons for approval if there are significant effects.

# CEQA Process



**Publish  
IS/MND and  
Notice of  
Intent**  
March 2020

**30 Day Public  
Review Period**  
March – April  
2020

**Consider Public  
Comments on  
IS/MND**  
April – May  
2020

**SMRCD Board  
Considers  
IS/MND and  
MMRP**  
May 2020

**File NOD**  
May 2020

# Questions and Guest



*Welcome Brook Vinnedge, Vinnedge Environmental Consulting*



**RESOLUTION 2020-3  
APPROVING FUNDS FROM THE  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE 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 California Department of Fish and Wildlife has encumbered \$150,000 for the Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network, as a project of the San Mateo Resource Conservation District, to engage in a vegetation mapping and landscape database project in Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Counties;

**Whereas**, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife requires a resolution from the governing body of the grant recipient authorizing its designee to sign a financial assistance agreement, and any amendments thereto;

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

1. Approves the award of grant funding from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
2. Acknowledges it will have sufficient funds to complete the project.
3. Agrees to be bound by all terms and conditions of the grant agreement.
4. Authorizes the following named officer 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 comply with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's grant requirements: Kellyx Nelson
5. Agrees that there are no conflicts of interest for member 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 May 14, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Kossy, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## Memorandum

Date: May 15, 2020  
To: Board of Directors  
From: Kellyx Nelson  
Re: Recommendation to contract with Ecological Concerns, Inc. for integrated pest management for the control of two invasive plants on private properties

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RCD staff recommends contracting with Ecological Concerns, Inc. for a three year contract to implement integrated pest management for the control of *Brachypodium sylvaticum* and *Carex pendula* to preserve riparian and forest habitat on private and public lands.

Work will take place on approximately 60 public and private properties in San Mateo County. The first year of the contract will be for an amount not to exceed \$47,021, funded by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. The amount of funding for the subsequent two years is not yet known.

This project will improve conditions in the Santa Cruz mountains for the benefit of riparian and forest habitat. The current limited range of the two target species provides the RCD an opportunity to prevent new invasions further into the bioregion and California.

A Request for Bids was distributed to five contractors on April 6, 2020. Two bid packages were received, both of which were complete and received by deadline. Based on the bid packages and information from references, RCD staff determined that both firms were qualified and capable. The bids were similar in terms of cost, the firms' capacity, and excellent references. To identify the bid and firm that would be the best fit for the project, the RCD looked at each firm's experience with the program target species.

After reviewing this information, RCD staff recommends Ecological Concerns, Inc. to complete this project based on the firm's deep experience with the area as well as the target species for treatment.