

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
November 19, 2020

EXPLORE THE COAST GRANT ROUND – 2020-2021

Project No. 20-038-01

Project Manager: Virgilio Cuasay, Shalini Kannan, Emely Lopez

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse up to \$695,000 to nonprofit organizations and public agencies for 21 projects that facilitate and enhance the public’s opportunities to explore the California coast. Participants are drawn from throughout the State and will visit coastal locations from Del Norte County south to San Diego County.

LOCATION: Statewide (See Exhibit 1)

PROGRAM CATEGORY: Public Access, San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy, and Coastal Education

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [ETC Region Map](#)

Exhibit 2: [Advisory Board Members](#)

Exhibit 3: [Project Letters](#)

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 31119, 31160-31165 and 31400-31410 of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed six hundred ninety-five thousand dollars (\$695,000) to 21 nonprofit organizations and public agencies for 21 projects that facilitate and enhance the public’s opportunities to explore the California coast. The projects described in the accompanying staff report may be modified to protect the health of participants during the COVID-19 pandemic so long as the modified projects promote this goal of facilitating and enhancing the public’s opportunities to explore the California coast. The 21 nonprofit organizations and public agencies are as follows (presented in alphabetical order):

- Big Sur Land Trust: Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to provide approximately 300 youth from Monterey County with an overnight summer camp experience along the Big Sur coast.

- Camp Phoenix: Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to provide a 3-week, overnight summer immersion program for approximately 105 low-income Oakland youth along the San Mateo County coast.
- City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department: Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to provide an eight-month program of coastal activities from Santa Cruz to Santa Barbara for approximately 105 at-risk and low-income teens from the City of Santa Maria.
- City Surf Project: Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to provide surfing programs, at no or low-cost, to approximately 280 youth from Title 1 schools and underserved communities from San Francisco and the broader Bay Area.
- Community Initiatives (Fiscal Sponsor for Latino Outdoors): Forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) to provide a 5-month program, accessible to approximately 55 youth including low-income participants, English learners, Native American and immigrant high school and undergraduate youth of color, to explore various activities along the San Diego County coast.
- Environmental Traveling Companions: Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to provide kayak adventures on San Francisco and Tomales Bay for approximately 840 under-resourced youth and people with disabilities from through the Bay Area.
- Fathers & Families of San Joaquin: Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to provide healing retreats to the Monterey Bay coast for approximately 65 Stockton residents that are systems-impacted youth, formerly incarcerated individuals, victims of violence, and their respective families.
- Friends of the Dunes (Fiscal Sponsor for Tolowa Dunes Stewards): Forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) to provide coastal field trips that highlight the Tolowa coast in Del Norte County for about 1,100 participants from local and tribal groups and youth from across the state.
- LandPaths: Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to provide approximately 420 low-income and English learner youth and their families coastal trips to explore and help steward the Sonoma County coast.
- Nature Collective: Forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) to provide approximately 810 participants, including students from Title 1 elementary schools in the Escondido Union School District and their families opportunities to explore a variety of northern San Diego County coastal environments.
- Ocean Discovery Institute: Forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) to provide coastal fields trips and ocean science education to approximately 1,800 3rd through 5th grade public school students in the community of City Heights in San Diego.
- Outdoor Outreach: Forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) to provide coastal trips to introduce approximately 400 vulnerable and disadvantaged youth in San Diego to activities such as kayaking, paddle boarding, surfing, biking, hiking, and tide-pooling.

- Outward Bound Adventures Inc.: Twelve thousand three hundred dollars (\$12,300) to provide a five-day, four-night excursion to California’s central coast for approximately 25 youth from the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians Tribe.
- Santa Monica Conservancy: Twenty-nine thousand two hundred dollars (\$29,200) to take approximately 15 underserved youth from the City of San Bernardino on an 11-day expedition to learn about coastal ecology and the history of people of color along the coast from Monterey Bay to Santa Monica Bay.
- Sierra Club Foundation (Fiscal Sponsor for Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors): Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to provide approximately 26 trips for approximately 1,000 students, parents, and teachers from Title 1 schools in Los Angeles County to parks, beaches, and wetlands along the coast from Pt. Mugu State Beach in Ventura County down to Crystal Cove State Park in Orange County.
- Social Good Fund (Fiscal Sponsor for Brown Girl Surf): Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to offer a surfing and ocean education project along the San Mateo Coast for approximately 100 underserved women and girls, primarily from Alameda and other Bay Area Counties.
- Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation: Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to provide an integrated recreation, education, and leadership coastal experience for approximately 130 Sonoma County youth.
- STOKED Mentoring Inc.: Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to provide mentorship through ocean sports at Los Angeles County beaches to approximately 280 low-income, high needs youth, primarily from the MacArthur Park neighborhood of Los Angeles, and their families.
- Ventana Wildlife Society: Thirty-four thousand eight hundred dollars (\$34,800) to offer a nature prescription program at coastal locations throughout Monterey to approximately 200 participants from migrant farm-working families in East Salinas as a strategy to combat childhood obesity, anxiety, and stress.
- Waterside Workshops: Thirty-three thousand seven hundred dollars (\$33,700) to provide approximately 50 low-income East Bay youth outdoor recreational experiences in their own community and trips to coastal and bayfront sites in San Mateo, Marin, and Sonoma Counties.
- YES Nature to Neighborhoods: Thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to engage approximately 145 under-represented Richmond teens in marine, coastal, and bay conservation and experiential education. The environmental education and leadership development program includes outings to locations in Contra Costa and Marin counties.

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

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

4. Any other applicable agreements determined necessary for the project by the Conservancy's Executive Officer.

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

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

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapters 3, 4.5 and 9 of Division 21 (Sections 31000 *et seq.*) of the Public Resources Code, regarding undertaking educational projects relating to coastal resources (Ch. 3), the resource and recreational goals in the San Francisco Bay Area (Chapter 4.5), and the establishment of a system of public accessways to and along the California coast (Chapter 9).
 2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
 3. The proposed nonprofit organization grantees are nonprofit organizations organized under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.
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PROJECT SUMMARY:

The proposed authorization is to provide up to \$695,000 to nonprofit organizations and public agencies for 21 projects that facilitate and enhance the public's opportunities to explore the coast of California under the Conservancy's Explore the Coast (ETC) grant program.

The purpose of the ETC grant program is to provide coastal experiences for people and communities who face challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast (ETC Priority Communities). ETC Priority Communities include, but are not limited to, lower-income individuals and households, people with disabilities, people of color, immigrant communities, and foster youth. ETC projects must also meet one or more of the following priorities: Provides an enjoyable experience at the coast; Reduces economic, physical, operational, or societal barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast; or Inspires an ongoing coastal resource stewardship ethic through active learning and interactive activities.

The ETC grant program includes projects that enhance visitors' ability to learn about natural, recreational, cultural, and historic resources of the California and San Francisco Bay shorelines. A wide range of activities are eligible for ETC grants including transportation for underserved communities to the coast for a variety of experiences, and educational events and programming. The ETC grants program solicitation was released in February 2020 and was widely distributed.

Each year, the Coastal Conservancy allocates hundreds of thousands of dollars through the Explore the Coast grant program to connect underserved communities to the coast. In recommending projects to the Conservancy, staff aim to equitably distribute this funding and maximize the impact of every dollar spent. To better achieve these aims, Conservancy staff created an Explore the Coast Advisory Board composed of seven members who have extensive

experience working on equity for underserved communities (Exhibit 2). The Advisory Board advises staff on the application process, application review, and ongoing management of the grant program. The Advisory Board’s participation with staff in the review and selection of projects advances equity by giving the communities served by the program an opportunity to provide direct input on their needs and the types of projects that will best serve their needs.

By the April 30, 2020 submission deadline, the Conservancy received 114 project proposals, requesting over \$4.5 million in Conservancy funding. Applications were initially reviewed by staff and then 54 applications were forwarded to the Advisory Board. Each application was reviewed by at least two Advisory Board members. On August 6 and 14, the Advisory Board participated in meetings by Zoom to discuss the applications and provide recommendations to staff. Following this meeting staff finalized the list of recommended projects.

Of the 114 proposed projects submitted, 21 are recommended for funding under this grant round. In making its funding recommendation, staff considered each project’s needs, its overall benefits, the extent of competing demands for funds, and the input from the Advisory Board.

Staff estimates that the proposed 2020-2021 ETC grant program will engage over 8,000 people through the proposed fieldtrip projects. Of these 8,000, project partners estimate that the program will serve over 7,500 low-income Californians, 6,800 people of color, approximately 3,000 people for whom English is not their first language, and at least 400 people with disabilities.

Most of the proposed projects involve group transportation and activities that may need to be modified to protect the health of participants during the COVID-19 pandemic. Potential changes could include limiting certain activities, reducing participant numbers, switching to alternate forms of transportation, and others. Modifications would be implemented in order to allow for better social distancing between participants. Given the evolving nature of community conditions and related public health recommendations, it is not possible at this time to identify those modifications for proposed projects that will be carried out in 2021 or 2022.

Staff recommends funding the following 21 projects for the 2020-2021 ETC grants program. The projects are arranged alphabetically by grantee. Each individual project summary includes the grantee; project name; recommended funding amount; geographic region of the participants; a brief project description; and information on the consistency of the proposed project with the Conservancy’s proposed funding source, its enabling legislation, and its Strategic Plan. In addition, each project summary provides relevant information for project compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

BIG SUR LAND TRUST

\$20,000

Youth Outdoor Programs: Overnight Summer Camps at Glen Deven Ranch

Central Coast

The Big Sur Land Trust will offer overnight summer camp experiences for approximately 300 youth at their Glen Deven Ranch along the Big Sur coast. The program will primarily serve low-income, Latinx youth ages 12-18 from the Salinas Valley and from other cities in Monterey County. During the three days and two nights at the ranch, activities include guided hikes to

learn about coastal ecology and the connections between human and natural communities, composing music and lyrics inspired by the Big Sur coast to then perform for their peers, producing drawings and sketches inspired by coastal ecosystems, participating in solo exploration and reflection, and "Way of Council": a practice of listening, learning, and thinking from the heart and as a community. At its core, these camps are about learning, possibility, creativity, discovering one's passions, and expanding one's sense of what it means to really belong. The program builds the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts, inspires new young leaders who advocate for themselves and their communities' needs, and encourages youth to develop a deeper connection to nature, peers, community, and self.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Funds because it involves environmental education as described above.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing youth with overnight camp experiences along the Big Sur coast.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing overnight camp experiences and environmental education along the Big Sur Coast.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

CAMP PHOENIX

\$35,000

Camp and the Coast

Bay Area

Camp Phoenix provides a 3-week, overnight summer immersion program for low-income Oakland youth that blends the joyful fun of sleepaway camp with exploratory, culturally relevant outdoor environmental education. For many youth, Camp Phoenix means academic environmental learning, but it also means access to many "firsts:" the first time seeing the ocean; the first time sleeping under the stars; the first time reading a novel under redwood trees; the first time picking berries to make ice cream; and the first time analyzing data from banana slugs. Through mindful outdoor discovery, environmental education, social emotional learning and personal growth, Camp Phoenix empowers youth to develop their leadership by deepening their sense of community agency and advocacy. After the summer camp experience, youth stay connected by attending year-round weekend nature excursions with Camp Phoenix.

The Camp and the Coast Project focuses on the coast-centered environmental education components of the year-round and summer programs.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Año Nuevo State Park, Pescadero State Beach, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Point Reyes National Seashore, and Half Moon Bay State Beach.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences for low-income youth.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing nature exploration and environmental education experiences at the coast for low-income youth.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

CITY OF SANTA MARIA RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

\$35,000

Teen Treks to the Coast

Central Coast

Teen Treks to the Coast is an eight-month program of coastal activities for at-risk and low-income teens residing in the City of Santa Maria who have limited access to the coast. The program will include activities focused primarily on enjoying the coast such as kayaking and beach recreation days, as well as activities with more of an educational component such as docent hikes at coastal bluffs and tide pools. At least one trip will include an overnight excursion. The City intends to recruit volunteers from nearby university marine biology and ecology departments to help provide the educational components of the program and to provide role-model and mentorship opportunities for the youth. The City will also provide each participant with a summer regional transit pass to encourage independent travel to the coast thereby reducing an economic and logistical barrier to accessing the coast for the teens.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Aquarium of the Pacific, Pine Avenue Pier, Bayshore Beach, Venice Beach, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Santa Cruz Boardwalk, Montana de Oro State Park, Pismo Pier, Pismo Preserve, Morro Rock Beach, Point Sal State Beach, and Stearns Wharf.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 3, Section 31119: Education Projects and Programs because the project will provide education related to the enjoyment of coastal resources for low-income youth.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources with coastal excursions that include environmental education programming for low-income teens.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

CITY SURF PROJECT

\$35,000

City Surf Project

Bay Area

City Surf Project (CSP) offers a variety of surfing programs, at no or low-cost, to youth from Title 1 schools and underserved communities. Through its programs, CSP works to provide equitable access to the ocean and the benefits of outdoor recreation to youth who have not traditionally seen their identities represented in outdoor spaces. Their programs include weekly surfing during the school year that includes both surf instruction and environmental education, 1-day surf clinics, a summer camp, and a surf instructor leadership training program. 80% of the youth served by CSP have never been to the ocean before and most have limited or no swimming skills. CSP’s positive reinforcement-focused curriculum encourages youth to identify their own benchmarks for success - with one hundred percent of our students participating, getting in the water, and catching a wave. The nature of City Surf Project’s programs also provides meaningful play for overscheduled, stressed, and media-saturated youth to decompress, have fun, be in present their bodies and interact with nature. Through surfing, CSP helps to increase students’ personal connection to themselves and to the ocean.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Pacifica State Beach, Half Moon Bay State Beach, San Francisco’s Ocean Beach, various beaches in Santa Cruz, Crissy Field West Bluff, and Bolinas Beach.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing lower-income students with surfing lessons and a stronger connection to the ocean.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by bringing students, many of whom have never seen the ocean, to the ocean and teaching concepts of ocean stewardship.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES (FISCAL SPONSOR FOR LATINO OUTDOORS)

\$40,000

¡Vamos A La Costa! (Let's Go to the Coast!)

South Coast

Latino Outdoors will offer two cohorts a 5-month program to explore various activities on the coast. The program will be accessible to youth including low-income participants, English learners, and Native and immigrant high school and undergraduate youth of color. Each cohort will be guided by five Latino Outdoor leaders. Participants will have the opportunity to try various recreational activities such as: kayaking, snorkeling, surfing, stand-up paddle boarding, and boogie boarding. They will also see and interact with coastal wildlife at the Living Coast Discovery Center in Chula Vista, at the Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography and more. Participants will have a chance to see how a passion for the coast can turn into a career by engaging with ecologists, marine biologists, and marine scientists from the Living Coast Discovery Center and Scripps Institution of Oceanography who come from similar background as the participants and can inspire them to become professional coastal and marine stewards.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of La Jolla Shores Beach, Scripps Beach, Mission Bay, The Living Coast Discovery Center, and Birch Aquarium at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences accessible to low-income youth of color.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRAVELING COMPANIONS

\$35,000

AccessAbility – ETC Bay Kayak Adventures

Bay Area

Through their AccessAbility program, Environmental Traveling Companions will provide access to the northern California coast for under-resourced youth and people with disabilities, through kayaking adventures on San Francisco or Tomales bay. ETC participants learn paddling and navigation techniques and are outfitted with paddling gear and adaptive equipment as needed. Using resources like tactile maps, laminated natural history cards, and lunchtime conservation activities, ETC will highlight marine ecosystems, the cultural and human history of the bays, and the plant and animal life that participants encounter during their kayaking adventures. After lunch, participants take part in educational and team-building games and a beach cleanup. On overnight trips, participants also participate in guided hikes, sensory awareness, and reflective activities, and learn about issues impacting California’s coasts, such as climate change and ocean acidification. ETC encourages return visits to the coast by sharing resources such as SF Bay Area Water Trail Accessibility Maps, Wheelchair Rider’s Guide, and information on accessing beach wheelchairs. ETC’s AccessAbility program inspires joyful connections to the coast; empowers participants with new knowledge of kayaking skills and estuarine ecosystems; and fosters a stewardship ethos for Bay Area beaches and estuaries.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Funds because it involves environmental education as described above.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing kayaking adventures in Tomales Bay. The proposed project is also consistent with Chapter 4.5: San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Sections 31162(a) and (d) because it improves public access to the bay and coast by engaging people with disabilities and under-resourced youth in kayaking adventures.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 2, Objective A:** The proposed project will expand or enhance opportunities for access for people with disabilities to the coast by providing adaptive kayaking adventures.
- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by bringing program participants on kayaking adventures and teaching about issues impacting California’s coast and the importance of stewardship.
- **Goal 13, Objective L:** The project expands opportunities for barrier-free access to natural areas in the San Francisco Bay Area.

- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

FATHERS & FAMILIES OF SAN JOAQUIN

\$35,000

Coastal Access for Stockton Trauma Healing and Renewal

San Joaquin Valley

Fathers and Families of San Joaquin (FFSJ) will offer healing retreats to the coast for their participants, Stockton residents who are youth that impacted by the criminal justice system, formerly incarcerated individuals, victims of violence, and their respective families. Many of the people that FFSJ works with have never seen the ocean before. FFSJ focuses on helping participants recover from trauma to support the social, cultural, emotional, and economic renewal of the most vulnerable families in Stockton and the San Joaquin Valley. The coastal retreats will make use of the intangible healing powers of nature and the ocean to facilitate this work. Participants will also learn about environmental stewardship of natural resources, take part in culturally-rooted healing practices led by indigenous spiritual elders, and gain a deeper understanding of indigenous plants and a deeper connection to the natural world. Participants will also take part in a coastal cleanup activity.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Funds because it involves environmental education as described above.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

FRIENDS OF THE DUNES (FISCAL SPONSOR FOR TOLOWA DUNES STEWARDS)

\$40,000

Reweaving the Fabric: Threading Indigenous Stories into Coastal Exploration

Statewide

Tolowa Dunes Stewards (TDS) will provide a variety of fun and educational field trips that highlight the Tolowa Coast for both local tribal groups and youth from across the state. In partnership with north coast tribes and tribal affiliated groups, TDS will design and facilitate eight culturally focused activities for local tribal youth and families who face a variety of socioeconomic barriers to accessing their aboriginal territory. Groups participate in enjoyable activities that reconnect participants with their coastal heritage, such as native plant identification, hiking to Big Dune Mountain, and kayaking California’s largest coastal lagoon. The other part of the project involves partnering with Sierra Service Project, a Sacramento based non-profit providing service to low-income communities, to host 700-800 participants from across the state for two summer seasons, most of whom lack economic or physical access to coastal environments. Groups learn about the area’s biodiversity and indigenous culture and history, then participate in a restoration focused coastal field trip.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Lake Earl Wildlife Center, Lake Earl Wildlife Area and Tolowa Dunes State Park. The proposed project is also consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Funds because it involves environmental education as described above.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by connecting local youth, tribal youth, and families to the coast to learn about coastal native history, identify native plants, kayak, and hike.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by connecting tribal youth, local youth, and families to coastal native habitat.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use. The coastal restoration field trips will involve removing invasive species and planting natives. These activities are also categorically exempt under Title 14 CCR Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) because they are landscaping activities that do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

LANDPATHS

\$35,000

Vamos Afuera

North Coast, Bay Area

This grant will fund three of LandPaths’ programs, including “Inspired Forward,” “TrekSonoma,” and “Vamos Afuera,” which will engage approximately 420 community members in exploring and stewarding the Sonoma County coast—many for the first time. Through Inspired Forward, approximately 100 teens will visit the coast as part of their high school biology class, or through various student groups. They’ll partake in a combination of coastal explorations including tide pooling, coastal hikes and paddles, and hands on science. TrekSonoma takes six families on a three-day, two-night trek beginning and ending at Shell Beach. Vamos Afuera involves family paddles for groups of 16 on the Russian River, and groups of up to 50 take a two-day, one-night coastal camping trip. These programs will serve approximately 240 low-income or otherwise underserved individuals, increasing their knowledge of the Sonoma Coast’s natural history and how they can access and steward it.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Sonoma Coast State Park, Point Reyes National Sea Shore, and Gualala Regional Park. The proposed project is also consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Funds because it involves environmental education as described above.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

NATURE COLLECTIVE

\$40,000

GOIN Coastal

South Coast

GOIN (Get Out In Nature) Coastal will provide students from Title 1 elementary schools in the Escondido Union School District (EUSD), which has an 86% Latinx population, and their families opportunities to explore and experience coastal environments. This grant will fund three parts of the program that will serve approximately 800 participants – GOIN, GOIN 4 Coastal, and Summer Camp. GOIN will provide up to four opportunities for families from the elementary schools to visit the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve and Cardiff State Beach. Each visit will focus on hiking, hands-on restoration, or other family activities, and will conclude with lunch

and games at the beach. GOIN 4 Coastal will engage up to 10 families in a year-long program that will provide them with coastal experiences to unique wetlands in North County, San Diego. The third part of the program offering is three weeks of summer camp for middle school students from Escondido who do not typically have access to the beach. The five-day camp will introduce the students to four distinct watersheds in northern San Diego, concluding with a day of surfing at Cardiff State Beach.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center, Cardiff State Beach, Swami’s Beach, Batiquitos Nature Center, and Torrey Pines State Beach.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

OCEAN DISCOVERY INSTITUTE

\$40,000

Empowering Young People to Connect with Coastal Environments

South Coast

The Ocean Discovery Institute (ODI) will provide coastal fields trips and ocean science education to 3rd through 5th grade public school students in the community of City Heights in San Diego. Third graders will explore the La Jolla Tide Pools and the animals that live there. In 4th grade, students visit La Jolla Cove to learn about the kelp forest located just offshore. They do a solo hike along the coast during which they have a chance to sit and listen to the sounds of the coast, smell the salt water, and use animal identification cards to recognize the different birds soaring overhead. In fifth grade, students go to the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge where they learn about the importance of wetlands. They spend time observing marsh animals from small crabs to the birds of prey soaring above. They are introduced to science tools such as binoculars and hand lenses. Students spend time restoring the marsh by removing invasive plants and trash. Through its programs, ODI strives to help City Heights youth understand that they belong to a coastal environment and to begin seeing the possibility of careers related to marine and wetland science. Part of the sense of belonging happens simply by bringing students to the coast and providing a positive, safe, and engaging experience, as well as building an understanding of coastal ecosystems.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the La Jolla Tide Pools, La Jolla Cove, and San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing field trips to study the coastal environment.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use. The proposed project is also categorically exempt under Title 14 CCR Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) because removing trash and invasive species are landscaping activities that do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

OUTDOOR OUTREACH **\$40,000**

Coastal Adventure Club **South Coast**

Outdoor Outreach will provide coastal recreation programs for approximately 400 vulnerable and disadvantaged youth in San Diego who face barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast. The programs will introduce young people to the coast through kayaking, paddle boarding, surfing, biking, hiking, and tide-pooling. ETC funds will allow Outdoor Outreach to reduce barriers for young people to access and enjoy the coast, including providing transportation, equipment, and guided exploration by instructors who represent the diversity of the participants. Outdoor Outreach provides at-risk youth with a chance to explore their world, challenge themselves, and discover their strengths, and the opportunity to connect with positive peers and mentors who believe in their potential. Outdoor Outreach also provides a pathway to job and leadership opportunities including becoming instructors and peer mentors for other youth in the program.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of multiple State and local beaches in San Diego County, including potentially: Silver Strand State Beach, Batiquitos Lagoon, Pepper Park, Bayshore Bikeway, Cabrillo National Monument, Coronado Central Beach, Coronado Tidelands Park, Imperial Beach, Chula Vista Bayfront Park, La Jolla Shores, Living Coast Discovery Center, Mission Beach, Ocean Beach, Shelter Island Shoreline Park, Sunset Cliffs Natural Park, Border Field State Beach,

Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve, and Waterfront Park.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences for disadvantaged youth.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

OUTWARD BOUND ADVENTURES INC.

\$12,300

Torres Martinez Tribal Youth Otters & Estuaries Expedition

Inland Southern California

Outward Bound Adventures Inc. will collaborate with Tribal Aid for Needy Families to (TANF) to offer a five-day, four-night excursion to California’s central coast for youth from the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians Tribe. Activities will include kayaking in Elkhorn Slough to study the world’s largest sea otter population, a tour of the Monterey Bay Aquarium sea otter rehabilitation facility, viewing the elephant seals at Piedras Blancas State Marine Reserve and exploring Morro Bay to learn about the region’s estuary program. This expedition is developed to increase participants’ knowledge of ecological, geographical, and geological concepts related to the Central Coast. In addition to a receiving a comprehensive science-based training curriculum, participants will also learn to become leaders in environmental stewardship from a tribal perspective.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Elkhorn Slough, Monterey Bay Aquarium, state and federal beaches along the Big Sur coastline, Piedras Blancas State Marine Reserve, and Morro Bay National Estuary.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

SANTA MONICA CONSERVANCY

\$29,200

Bay to Bay: A Comprehensive Coastal Education for Youth

Inland Southern California

The Santa Monica Conservancy (SM Conservancy) will take 15 underserved youth from the City of San Bernardino on an 11 day expedition from Monterey Bay to Santa Monica Bay. Bay to Bay is a comprehensive coastal exploration focused on the experiences of African Americans and other people of color in coastal California. Youth will discover the impact that people of color have had on California’s coast from Monterey Bay to Santa Monica Bay. They will explore the cultural heritage of people of color during the Jim Crow era and nineteenth century. They will camp, hike, kayak, participate in guided tours, meet historians and scientists, explore history, discover the flora, fauna and ecology of each program site—and learn about the impact of human on the health of Elkhorn Slough, Monterey Bay, Santa Monica Bay, and the ocean. Youth will also learn about career opportunities in heritage and nature conservation leadership and outdoor recreation.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Bay Street Beach Historic District, the Santa Monica Pier, Adamson House at Surfrider Beach, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Elkhorn Slough, Piedra Blancas State Marine Reserve, and Morro Bay National Estuary.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

**SIERRA CLUB FOUNDATION (FISCAL SPONSOR FOR ANGELES
INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS)**

\$15,000

Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors

South Coast

Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) is an environmental education program of the Sierra Club that will conduct approximately 26 trips for students, parents, and teachers from Title 1 schools in Los Angeles County to parks, beaches, and wetlands along the coast from Pt. Mugu State Beach in southern Ventura County down to Crystal Cove State Park in Orange County. Angeles ICO trips create safe and enjoyable outdoor experiences for young people. Outings will include beach hikes and tide-pooling, bird-watching in coastal wetlands, whale watching in Santa Monica Bay, day hikes to coastal sage scrub habitats, an overnight camping trip, beach clean-ups, and nature education. Through these activities, ICO participants develop self-esteem, an appreciation for nature, and an understanding of their rightful place in these public lands. In addition, Angeles ICO has developed a program called Inspiring Leaders Outdoors (ILO) that further engages high school participants to become outdoor leaders in their communities.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of several coastal facilities including Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, Huntington Beach State Beach, White Point Nature Preserve, Abalone Cove Ecological Reserve, Point Vicente, Leo Carrillo State Beach, Point Mugu State Park, Cabrillo Aquarium Whale Watch and tidepools, Ballona Wetlands, Crystal Cove State Park, and San Clemente State Beach.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment to low-income students and families in the greater Los Angeles region.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by organizing coastal outings for lower-income students and their parents.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

SOCIAL GOOD FUND (FISCAL SPONSOR FOR BROWN GIRL SURF) \$35,000

Surf Sister Program Bay Area

The Surf Sister Program is Brown Girl Surf’s flagship program focused on physically connecting primarily girls and women of color to the ocean and the California Coast. This program builds a welcoming community of “surf sisters” who support each other to surf and safely enjoy the ocean, both within and outside the program. Approximately 100 participants will be introduced to the ocean and surfing through Surf Sister Saturdays. Surf Sister days are a community building event where new participants are welcomed into an inclusive community that re-enforces the messages, “you belong here” and “This is for you.” They are introduced to surfing through a deeply intentional, joyful, multi-disciplinary, trauma-informed program that meets everyone where they are at. Surf days typically involve an opening circle with music and movement, introduction to wetsuits and equipment for new participants, stretching, mindfulness, introduction to being in the ocean without a board, introduction to surfing technique on land, catching waves on a board, beach cleanup, and a picnic. In addition to the regular surf days, Volunteer Leadership Crews (Surf Instructors and Rising Leaders) will host 5 beach-based leadership building program days that further develop skills in surfing, surf instruction, ocean safety, and leadership, ending potentially with an overnight surf trip in Santa Cruz. BGS will also offer three weeks of surfing day camp in 2021.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Surfer’s Beach, Mirada Beach, and Miramar Beach in Half Moon Bay, as well as Muir Beach in Marin County.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing a surfing experience for low-income and underserved people while also increasing the number of people visiting the coast.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources through surfing and educational activities to create a sense of shared ownership of the ocean.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by bringing low-income and underserved people from communities of color to the coast to experience the coast through surfing.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

SONOMA COUNTY REGIONAL PARKS FOUNDATION \$35,000

Youth Exploring the Sonoma Coast (YES-Coast) North Coast

The YES-Coast project will connect approximately 128 underserved youth from inland Sonoma County to their coastline by providing a series of outings interweaving themes of local history and ecology. The year-long series will include approximately six one-day trips, including hiking the Coastal Trail, visiting the Bodega Marine Lab, kayaking in Jenner, and a living history experience at Fort Ross. The project also includes a 3-day, 2-night camping trip for a subset of participants as well as hands-on coastal habitat stewardship activities. Post-trip connections are fostered through a gallery exhibit of student photographs from these coastal trips and a chance to help plan the experiences for the next year. The program focuses on youth ages 13-18 from under-resourced neighborhoods, predominantly in Santa Rosa.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of multiple coastal locations in Sonoma including Bodega Head State Beach, Doran Regional Park, Shell Beach State Park, Spud Point Marina, Salmon Creek State Park, Carrington Ranch Regional Park, Goat Rock State Beach, Pinnacle Gulch Regional Park, Sonoma Coast State Beach, Coastal Prairie Trail, Fort Ross State Park, Kashia Preserve, Gualala Point Regional Park, and Stillwater Cove Regional Park.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use. Invasive species removal and trail maintenance activities to be completed under the project are also categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) because they are landscaping activities that do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

STOKED MENTORING INC.

\$35,000

STOKED to Surf

South Coast

The STOKED to Surf program provides mentorship through ocean sports to low-income, high needs youth and their families, with the aim to make the coast an accessible, memorable, inspiring and permanent part of their life. The program will serve approximately 400 middle and high school students from inner-city Los Angeles through a year-long program consisting of 1) one week of daily swim lessons teaching participants how to swim, 2) eight Saturdays over the

summer at Southern California beaches where participants are paired with mentors and learn to surf, and 3) monthly meetups between students and mentors involved in the program. Participants learn coastal science in addition to swimming and surfing, and all programming, from language to food, is designed to be culturally relevant and accommodating of participants with disabilities.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of Zuma Beach and Santa Monica Beach.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

VENTANA WILDLIFE SOCIETY

\$34,800

Ocean Prescription Program

Central Coast

Ventana Wildlife Society (VWS), in partnership with the Alisal Health Clinic, will offer a nature prescription program to migrant farm-working families in East Salinas as a strategy to combat childhood obesity, anxiety, and stress. While families are keen to fill the outdoor prescriptions given by doctors at the Alisal Clinic, the reality is that parents face a lack of resources such as transportation, money, knowledge of where to go, and information in Spanish. There is also fear of gangs, authorities, and even the outdoors in some cases, and the perception that many outdoor spaces are not particularly welcoming to people of color. In order to address the barriers farmworker families typically face in fulfilling such a nature-based prescription, VWS will support transportation costs associated with travel to the coast; healthy snacks; youth supervision; guidance on nature activities; introduction to safe places to visit the coast; and translation services. Additional resources, including materials in Spanish and bus passes, will be provided for repeat coastal engagements.

The project will consist of weekly coastal nature education outings for youth, plus one-day outings and a two-day, one-night camping trip for families. Activities will be driven by participant interest but could include activities such as hiking, exploring, tide-pooling, wildlife

watching, beach games, and kayaking. In addition to providing recreational outdoor activities, the program will nurture coastal resource stewardship by taking part in the SLEWTHS (Science, Learning and Education With the Help of Sealions) project, where participants will interact with sea lions, learn how they aid in academic research, and engage in a beach clean-up.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of Coastal Access Account funds because it involves operation of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary shoreline from Moss Landing to Monterey including State Beaches, State and Regional Parks, and Wildlife Areas from Moss Landing to Big Sur. The proposed project is also consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Funds because it involves environmental education as described above.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing coastal experiences as described above.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

WATERSIDE WORKSHOPS

\$33,700

San Francisco Bay and Coastal Experiences

Bay Area

Waterside Workshops provides outdoor recreational experiences to low-income East Bay youth in their own community, as well as the opportunity to visit some of California's State and National parks. Youth will paddle in kayaks or canoes and go sailing at the Berkeley Aquatic Park and South Sailing Basin. The project also includes six multi-day camping trips to coastal parks in the San Francisco Bay Area with groups of 6-10 youth. Destinations for these trips include Half Moon Bay, China Camp State Park, Bodega Bay, and Point Reyes National Seashore. These trips will provide youth the opportunity to visit parts of California that they likely have not visited before and to experience a different coastal marine environment. On a weekly basis, there will be mountain bike trips in local neighboring urban parks, and on quarterly outings, there will be organized trips to state and national parks. In addition to outdoor recreation, youth will also have leadership development opportunities through internships and jobs with three social enterprises: a community bike shop, a boatshop and boat rental facility, and a youth-run café.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Funds because it involves environmental education and recreation as described above.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing low-income youth recreation access to the San Francisco Bay. The proposed project is also consistent with Chapter 4.5: San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Section 31162(a) because it improves public access to the bay and coast by providing East Bay youth with bay and coastal experiences as described above.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing free outdoor recreation access to youth in the San Francisco Bay Area.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

YES NATURE TO NEIGHBORHOODS

\$35,000

Coastal Conservation Science & Education for Richmond Youth

Bay Area

YES Nature to Neighborhoods engages Richmond youth in outdoor and leadership development programming through a Youth Leadership Pathway: a ten-year pipeline from childhood through young adulthood that leads youth from a week of nature-based Summer Camp to year-round participation in YES's Camp-to-Community teen program. This project will provide about 145 youth ages 8-18 with outdoor and environmental education programming via the Youth Leadership Pathway programs. This grant will help implement a second year of the "Coastal Conservation Corps" focused on marine, coastal, and bay conservation and experiential education for underrepresented Richmond teens. Teens will then share their learning with younger children and the wider Richmond community. Camp Days for younger children include hiking, fishing, biking, team-building, and health and wellness activities.

Funding: The proposed project is consistent with the use of California Environmental License Plate Funds because it involves environmental education as described above.

Enabling Legislation: The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways because it expands coastal access and enjoyment by providing for educational and recreational trips to the coast for youth. The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 4.5:

San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Sections 31162(a), 31162(d), and 31165 because it improves public access to the Bay and coast for educational and recreational purposes.

Strategic Plan: The proposed project will further the following strategic objectives:

- **Goal 4, Objective A:** The proposed project improves public understanding and promotes stewardship of coastal resources by providing valuable recreational and environmental learning experiences to youth through various connected programs that make up the Youth Leadership Pathway.
- **Goal 16, Objective A:** The project directly benefits one or more disadvantaged communities.
- **Goal 16, Objective C:** The project helps to increase coastal access for all Californians by providing coastal experiences to underserved populations.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it involves regular operation of coastal locations that will be visited with no expansion of use.

Site Description: All of the projects will take place along the California coast and San Francisco Bay shoreline, as described above.

Project History: In 2013, the Conservancy launched the Explore the Coast Grant Program with the two main goals of supporting activities that allow more people to explore California’s spectacular coast and enhancing visitors’ experiences. The latter includes projects that enhanced visitors’ ability to learn about natural, recreational, cultural and historic resources of the California and San Francisco Bay shorelines. ETC grants were envisioned to support a wide range of activities including funding transportation for coastal experiences for communities less familiar with the coast, communication and outreach, economic development related to coastal tourism, and development of interpretive information and/or education materials. The program was designed as a “small grants” program with a maximum award of \$50,000.

To date, the Conservancy has provided over \$6.4 million to fund 218 projects. The program has been hugely successful in meeting the ETC goals. The current staff recommendation is for the seventh ETC grant round.

PROJECT FINANCING

Coastal Conservancy	\$695,000
Other Funding (matching funds excluding in-kind)	\$1,411,401
Project Total	\$2,106,401

Two sources of Conservancy funding are expected to be used for the ETC grants program. The first funding source is an appropriation from the Conservancy’s Coastal Access Account, which

derives from coastal development permit application fees required by the California Coastal Commission (Public Resources Code Section 30620.2). Coastal Access Account funds may be used for grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for the development, maintenance, and operation of new or existing facilities that provide public access to the coast, excluding San Francisco Bay. Use of the Coastal Access Account funds is appropriate for all of the proposed projects listed below because each will develop, maintain, or operate an existing facility that provides access to the coast. Please refer to the “Project Summary” section, above, for more information on the specific facility(ies) associated with each proposed project.

- Camp Phoenix (Camp and the Coast)
- City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department (Teen Treks to the Coast)
- City Surf Project (City Surf Project)
- Community Initiatives (Fiscal Sponsor for Latino Outdoors) (¡Vamos A La Costa! (Let’s Go to the Coast!))
- Friends of the Dunes (Fiscal Sponsor for Tolowa Dunes Stewards) (Reweaving the Fabric: Threading Indigenous Stories into Coastal Exploration)
- LandPaths (Vamos Afuera)
- Nature Collective (GOIN Coastal)
- Ocean Discovery Institute (Empowering Young People to Connect with Coastal Environments)
- Outdoor Outreach (Coastal Adventure Club)
- Outward Bound Adventures Inc. (Torres Martinez Tribal Youth Otters & Estuaries Expedition)
- Santa Monica Conservancy (Bay to Bay: A Comprehensive Coastal Education for Youth)
- Sierra Club Foundation (Fiscal Sponsor for Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors) (Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors)
- Social Good Fund (Fiscal Sponsor for Brown Girl Surf) (Surf Sister Program)
- Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation (Youth Exploring the Sonoma Coast (YES-Coast))
- STOKED Mentoring Inc. (STOKED to Surf)
- Ventana Wildlife Society (Ocean Prescription Program)

The second expected source of funds for the ETC grants program proposed projects is an appropriation from the California Environmental License Plate Fund, derived from sales and renewal of personalized license plates. Funds in the California Environmental License Plate Fund are available upon appropriation for purposes outlined in Public Resources Code Section 21190. These purposes include funding environmental education projects. Please refer to the “Project Summary” section, above, for more information on how each proposed project provides environmental education.

- Big Sur Land Trust (Youth Outdoor Programs: Overnight Summer Camps at Glen Deven Ranch)
- Environmental Traveling Companions (AccessAbility – ETC Bay Kayak Adventures)
- Fathers & Families of San Joaquin (Coastal Access for Stockton Trauma Healing and Renewal)

- Friends of the Dunes (Fiscal Sponsor for Tolowa Dunes Stewards) (Reweaving the Fabric: Threading Indigenous Stories into Coastal Exploration)
- LandPaths (Vamos Afuera)
- Ventana Wildlife Society (Ocean Prescription Program)
- Waterside Workshops (San Francisco Bay and Coastal Experiences)
- YES Nature to Neighborhoods (Coastal Conservation Science & Education for Richmond Youth)

Although matching funds are not required as a condition of ETC grants, project partners will provide approximately \$1.4 million in matching funds for the 2020-2021 ETC grants. In addition, they will provide over \$353,000 worth of in-kind services. Much of this is a result of the hundreds of hours of volunteer time that will support ETC projects and is a reflection of how important these projects are to the communities they serve.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION:

Staff recommends the Conservancy find that the 21 proposed projects are consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation, Division 21 of the Public Resources Code as described in the "Project Summary" section, above. Below is a list of the proposed projects that staff recommends the Conservancy find consistent with the relevant section of the Conservancy's enabling legislation.

Chapter 3: General Conservancy Powers (includes Educational Projects and Programs)

The project listed below will be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Section 31119, regarding educational projects and programs.

Pursuant to Section 31119(a)(1), the Conservancy is authorized to award grants to nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and public agencies, including federally recognized Indian tribes, for educational projects and programs. Section 31119(a)(2) requires that in carrying out a project pursuant to this section, the grantee will document increased pupil participation in its education programs, provide outreach to low-income, underserved, and noncoastal areas of the state, and maintain sufficient data to evaluate project effectiveness to the Conservancy's satisfaction. Section 31119(a)(3) prohibits the Conservancy from awarding General Fund monies to public educational institutions for projects authorized under this section.

Section 31119(b)(1) authorizes educational projects undertaken pursuant to Section 31119(a) that relate to the preservation, protection, enhancement, maintenance, and enjoyment of coastal resources. Section 31119(b)(2) authorizes activities that support the delivery of science, history, and social science content related to the goals of Section 31119(b)(1), including assisting pupils in acquiring core knowledge and developing critical thinking skills (31119(b)(2)(A)); encouraging pupils to have direct contact with history (31119(b)(2)(B)); linking science to technology and societal impacts, including community health, population, natural resources, environmental quality, natural and human-induced hazards, and other global

challenges (31119(b)(2)(C)); and supporting social-emotional learning and development, such as team-building and leadership skills (31119(b)(2)(D)).

The proposed project is consistent with these sections, as more specifically described in the “Project Summary” section, above.

- City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department (Teen Treks to the Coast)

Chapter 4.5 San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program

The proposed projects listed below will be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 31160-31165, regarding recreational and resource goals in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Pursuant to Section 31162(a), the Conservancy is authorized to award grants to projects located in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area that will help improve public access to, within, and around the bay, coast, ridgetops and urban open spaces through completion and operation of regional bay, coast, water and ridge trail systems, and local trails connecting to population centers and public facilities. Pursuant to Section 31162(d), the Conservancy is authorized to award grants that promote, assist and enhance projects that provide open space and natural areas that are accessible to urban populations for recreational and educational purposes. The projects listed below are consistent with these sections as they all help to achieve at least one of these goals, as more particularly described in the “Project Summary” section, above.

- Environmental Traveling Companions (AccessAbility – ETC Bay Kayak Adventures)
- Waterside Workshops (San Francisco Bay and Coastal Experiences)
- YES Nature to Neighborhoods (Coastal Conservation Science & Education for Richmond Youth)

Section 31163(c) establishes criteria for prioritizing projects under the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program. The proposed projects listed meet one or more of the following prioritization criteria established in Section 31163(c): are multijurisdictional or serve a regional constituency; can be implemented in a timely way; provide opportunities for education and access that would be lost if not quickly implemented; and include matching funds.

Chapter 9: System of Public Accessways

The proposed projects listed will be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 31400 *et seq*, regarding public access to and enjoyment of coastal resources.

Section 31400 states the Legislature’s intent that the Conservancy play a principal role in the implementation of a system of public accessways to and along the state’s coastline, including San Francisco Bay. All of the proposed projects listed below will be funded by the Conservancy to implement public access objectives, as more specifically described in the paragraphs below.

Section 31400.3 authorizes the Conservancy to provide such assistance as is required to aid public agencies and nonprofit organizations in establishing a system of public coastal accessways, and related functions necessary to meet the objectives of this division. The

projects listed below are consistent with these sections as more particularly described in the “Project Summary” section, above.

- Big Sur Land Trust (Youth Outdoor Programs: Overnight Summer Camps at Glen Deven Ranch)
- Camp Phoenix (Camp and the Coast)
- City Surf Project (City Surf Project)
- Community Initiatives (Fiscal Sponsor for Latino Outdoors) (¡Vamos A La Costa! (Let’s Go to the Coast!))
- Environmental Traveling Companions (AccessAbility – ETC Bay Kayak Adventures)
- Fathers & Families of San Joaquin (Coastal Access for Stockton Trauma Healing and Renewal)
- Friends of the Dunes (Fiscal Sponsor for Tolowa Dunes Stewards) (Reweaving the Fabric: Threading Indigenous Stories into Coastal Exploration)
- LandPaths (Vamos Afuera)
- Nature Collective (GOIN Coastal)
- Ocean Discovery Institute (Empowering Young People to Connect with Coastal Environments)
- Outdoor Outreach (Coastal Adventure Club)
- Outward Bound Adventures Inc. (Torres Martinez Tribal Youth Otters & Estuaries Expedition)
- Santa Monica Conservancy (Bay to Bay: A Comprehensive Coastal Education for Youth)
- Sierra Club Foundation (Fiscal Sponsor for Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors) (Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors)
- Social Good Fund (Fiscal Sponsor for Brown Girl Surf) (Surf Sister Program)
- Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation (Youth Exploring the Sonoma Coast (YES-Coast))
- STOKED Mentoring Inc. (STOKED to Surf)
- Ventana Wildlife Society (Ocean Prescription Program)
- Waterside Workshops (San Francisco Bay and Coastal Experiences)
- YES Nature to Neighborhoods (Coastal Conservation Science & Education for Richmond Youth)

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S [2018-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN](#) GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S):

The 21 projects proposed for funding assist the Conservancy in meeting a number of its Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives. Relevant Goals and Objectives are listed below, along with the names of the proposed projects that meet each goal. Please see the “Project Summary” section, above, for how each proposed project meets the relevant goal(s) and objective(s).

Consistent with **Goal 2, Objective A**, which seeks to develop projects that expand opportunities for barrier-free access to and along the coast and coastal trails, the following proposed projects will contribute to this goal:

- Environmental Traveling Companions (AccessAbility – ETC Bay Kayak Adventures)

Consistent with **Goal 4, Objective A**, which seeks to support educational programs and interpretive events that improve public understanding and promote stewardship of coastal resources, all the proposed 2020-2021 ETC projects will contribute to this goal.

Consistent with **Goal 13, Objective L**, which seeks to implement projects that expand opportunities for barrier-free access to natural areas in the San Francisco Bay region, the following proposed project will contribute to this goal:

- Environmental Traveling Companions (AccessAbility – ETC Bay Kayak Adventures))

Consistent with **Goal 16, Objective A**, which seeks to prioritize projects for funding that are located in disadvantaged communities or directly benefit disadvantaged communities, the following proposed projects will contribute to this goal:

- Big Sur Land Trust (Youth Outdoor Programs: Overnight Summer Camps at Glen Deven Ranch)
- Camp Phoenix (Camp and the Coast)
- City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department (Teen Treks to the Coast)
- Community Initiatives (Fiscal Sponsor for Latino Outdoors) (¡Vamos A La Costa! (Let's Go to the Coast!))
- Fathers & Families of San Joaquin (Coastal Access for Stockton Trauma Healing and Renewal)
- Friends of the Dunes (Fiscal Sponsor for Tolowa Dunes Stewards) (Reweaving the Fabric: Threading Indigenous Stories into Coastal Exploration)
- LandPaths (Vamos Afuera)
- Ocean Discovery Institute (Empowering Young People to Connect with Coastal Environments)
- Outdoor Outreach (Coastal Adventure Club)
- Outward Bound Adventures Inc. (Torres Martinez Tribal Youth Otters & Estuaries Expedition)
- Santa Monica Conservancy (Bay to Bay: A Comprehensive Coastal Education for Youth of Color)
- Sierra Club Foundation (Fiscal Sponsor for Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors) (Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors)
- Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation (Youth Exploring the Sonoma Coast (YES-Coast))
- STOKED Mentoring Inc. (STOKED to Surf)
- Ventana Wildlife Society (Ocean Prescription Program)
- Waterside Workshops (San Francisco Bay and Coastal Experiences)
- YES Nature to Neighborhoods (Coastal Conservation Science & Education for Richmond Youth)

Consistent with **Goal 16, Objective C**, which seeks to Increase coastal access for all Californians, by supporting organizations that provide coastal experiences to underserved populations, all the proposed 2020-2021 ETC projects will contribute to this goal.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:

The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy’s Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, last updated on October 2, 2014, in the following respects:

Required Criteria

1. **Promotion of the Conservancy’s statutory programs and purposes:** See the “Consistency with Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation” section above.
2. **Consistency with purposes of the funding source:** See the “Project Financing” section above.

1. **Promotion and implementation of state plans and policies:** The ETC grants program is consistent with the San Francisco Bay Plan (see “Consistency with Bay Plan”, below) as well as the California Coastal Act (Public Resources Code Sections 30000 *et seq*) (“Coastal Act”).

The Coastal Act indicates in Section 30001.5(c) that it is the state’s goal to “maximize public access to and along the coast.” Section 30210 requires that “maximum access, which shall be conspicuously posted, and recreational opportunities shall be provided for all the people.” Section 30530 expresses the intent of the Legislature that a program to maximize public access to and along the coastline be prepared and implemented “consistent with the provisions of Chapter 9 of Division 21.” (See “Consistency with Enabling Legislation,” above).

Similarly, the Coastal Act includes several references to the need to increase public knowledge of access opportunities and to involve community organizations in such efforts. Section 30214(c) directs the Coastal Commission and other public agencies to “... encourage the utilization of innovative access management techniques including, but not limited to, agreements with private organizations which would minimize management costs and encourage the use of volunteer programs.” Section 30012 includes the Legislative finding that “an educated and informed citizenry ... is necessary to protect California’s finite natural resources [and] ... through education, individuals can be made aware of and encouraged to accept their share of responsibility for protecting and improving the natural environment.”

The ETC grants program is consistent with and promotes the priorities of the Coastal Act. The projects proposed for funding are consistent with the Coastal Act because all of the proposed projects involve maximizing access to the coast for coastal resource education and recreation. Please see “Project Summary,” above, and “Consistency with Conservancy’s Enabling Legislation”, above, for how the individual proposed projects are consistent with the Coastal Act’s priorities of maximizing coastal access.

2. **Support of the public:** The broad level of support for environmental education, resource protection and enhancement, and public access projects is indicated by the large numbers of people that will participate in the 2020-2021 ETC program. It is estimated that over 8,000 people will be served by the 21 ETC projects. In addition, this suite of proposed ETC projects is supported by elected officials, numerous community and nonprofit organizations, and local agencies (See Exhibit 3).

3. **Location:** All of the proposed ETC projects bring people to the coast or to the San Francisco Bay shoreline. Some of the proposed projects also involve transportation from an area outside of the coastal zone to a location within the coastal zone, which is consistent with the intent of the ETC grants program to support activities that facilitate bringing more people to explore California’s coast. Similarly, some of the proposed projects involve classroom education at inland locations, which is also consistent with the intent of supporting activities that enhance a coastal experience.
4. **Need:** Without Conservancy funding, the proposed projects will either not proceed or will need to be scaled back.
5. **Greater-than-local interest:** The projects recommended for funding under this authorization will provide experiences along the state’s coastline and San Francisco Bay for over 8,000 people from throughout the state. The proposed projects will serve more than local needs through transportation from inland and underserved communities to the coast or provision of coastal education and citizen science programs for underserved and inland youth.
6. **Sea level rise vulnerability:** Most of the proposed ETC projects do not entail physical improvements that could be vulnerable to sea level rise impacts, except for small restoration activities, which are primarily for public education objectives. Of the proposed ETC projects that include coastal restoration components that may be susceptible to flooding and storm water surge, especially under future sea level rise projections, restoration of these project areas will enhance native biodiversity and abundance, resulting in larger and likely more genetically diverse populations of native species that have greater potential to adapt to future changes in habitat due to sea level rise. These proposed restoration projects are:
 - Friends of the Dunes (Fiscal Sponsor for Tolowa Dunes Stewards) (Reweaving the Fabric: Threading Indigenous Stories into Coastal Exploration)
 - Ocean Discovery Institute (Empowering Young People to Connect with Coastal Environments)
 - Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation (Youth Exploring the Sonoma Coast (YES-Coast))

Additional Criteria

7. **Leverage:** See the “Project Financing” section, above.
8. **Readiness:** All of the proposed projects described in the “Project Summary” section, above, are ready to implement and will be completed within 1 to 2 years.
9. **Realization of prior Conservancy goals:** See “Project History,” above.

CONSISTENCY WITH SAN FRANCISCO BAY PLAN:

The three proposed ETC projects that are authorized pursuant to Chapter 4.5 of the Conservancy’s enabling legislation, regarding the San Francisco Bay Conservancy Program, are consistent with the San Francisco Bay Plan, as described below. (See “Consistency with Conservancy Enabling Legislation, San Francisco Bay Program,” above, for a list of the projects. See also “Project Summary,” above, for more information about each of the proposed projects listed below).

Consistent with Public Access, Policy 9, access to and along the waterfront should be provided by walkways, trails, or other appropriate means and connect to the nearest public thoroughfare where convenient parking or public transportation may be available. Diverse and interesting public access experiences should be provided that encourage users to remain in the designated access areas to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects on wildlife and their habitat. The following proposed projects will facilitate appropriate enjoyment and use of the San Francisco Bay shoreline in a manner consistent with this policy:

- Environmental Traveling Companions (AccessAbility – ETC Bay Kayak Adventures)
- Waterside Workshops (San Francisco Bay and Coastal Experiences)
- YES Nature to Neighborhoods (Coastal Conservation Science & Education for Richmond Youth)

Consistent with Part IV, Public Access, the following proposed ETC projects will provide for nature study to orient people to the various parts of the San Francisco Bay and will provide access to the Bay to allow the public to discover, experience, and appreciate the Bay’s natural resources. The proposed projects are supported by Public Access, Policy 3, that states “public access to some natural areas should be provided to permit study and enjoyment of these areas.” These proposed projects will provide environmental education and encourage stewardship of Bay and marine resources by providing hands-on, onsite experiences at the Bay:

- YES Nature to Neighborhoods (Coastal Conservation Science & Education for Richmond Youth)

Consistent with Part IV, Recreation, the following proposed projects will increase access to natural areas in and near the shoreline of San Francisco Bay. The Recreation section finds that “the Bay is the most important open space in the Bay region. The Bay and its shoreline provide unique recreational opportunities. Participating in recreation activities on the Bay and along its shoreline can inspire an appreciation of the Bay and can motivate people to participate in the responsible management and protection of the Bay.”

- Environmental Traveling Companions (AccessAbility – ETC Bay Kayak Adventures)
- Waterside Workshops (San Francisco Bay and Coastal Experiences)
- YES Nature to Neighborhoods (Coastal Conservation Science & Education for Richmond Youth)

CEQA COMPLIANCE:

Conservancy staff reviewed the 21 proposed projects for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (14 California Code of Regulations, Sections 15000 *et seq*). All of the proposed projects are categorically exempt under CEQA. Please see the “Project Summary” section above, for more information on each proposed project and its compliance with CEQA. Applicable CEQA exemptions are listed below.

14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities): All 21 of the proposed 2020-2021 ETC projects are categorically exempt under 14 CCR Section 15301, which exempts operation, maintenance, and minor alterations of existing facilities or topographic features including pedestrian trails (Section 15301(c)) and wildlife areas and stream channels to protect fish and wildlife resources (Section 15301(i)).

14 CCR Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land): The following proposed ETC projects include removal of non-native species. These activities are categorically exempt under Section 15304, which exempts minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

- Friends of the Dunes (Fiscal Sponsor for Tolowa Dunes Stewards) (Reweaving the Fabric: Threading Indigenous Stories into Coastal Exploration)
- Ocean Discovery Institute (Empowering Young People to Connect with Coastal Environments)
- Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation (Youth Exploring the Sonoma Coast (YES-Coast))

Upon approval of the projects, Conservancy staff will file Notices of Exemption.