




**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

DATE	April 2, 2024
TITLE	Authorization to Apply for Grant Funds from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program for the East Bay Seeds to Native Grassland Restoration Project in the amount of \$50,000
DIVISION	Finance and Management Services
FROM	Katy Hornbeck, Grants Manager Deborah Spaulding, Assistant General Manager, Finance & Management Services/ CFO
APPROVED	Sabrina Landreth, General Manager 

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager recommends that the Board of Directors authorize an application to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the East Bay Seeds to Grasslands Restoration project at Garin Regional Park and Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park in the amount of \$50,000.

BACKGROUND

The USFWS' Partners in Wildlife Program provides technical and financial assistance to plan, design, supervise and monitor customized habitat restoration projects. These projects range in size from a wetland of a few acres to a grassland restoration covering several hundred thousand acres. Since 1987, the program has helped 30,000 landowners to complete more than 50,000 projects, restoring more than six million acres of forest, prairie, wetland and stream habitat for wildlife.

Many Partners for Fish and Wildlife projects take place on working landscapes such as forests, farms and ranches. Projects must focus efforts on areas of conservation concern, such as upland forests, wetlands, native prairies, marshes, rivers and streams. Projects are designed to benefit federal trust species including migratory birds, endangered, threatened and at-risk species.

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employs 220 biologists, located in all 50 states and territories, who consult with landowners to help them conserve and improve wildlife habitat. Landowner conservation is important because nearly 70 percent of land in the United States is privately owned. Public and private landowners are critical partners in ensuring the health and sustainability of America's fish, wildlife and plant species. Projects are voluntary and customized to meet landowners' needs. Participating landowners continue to own and manage their land while they improve conditions for wildlife.

ANALYSIS

The East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) has been pursuing efforts to better understand, conserve, and enhance native grassland populations for the purpose of increasing biodiversity and increasing resiliency of grasslands and their associated species—including native pollinators—to a changing climate. Stewardship staff have proposed implementing the East Bay Seeds to Grassland

Restoration project, a restoration field demonstration project consisting of two Park District sites (Garin Regional Park and Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park) totaling three acres in size. These sites were selected based on opportunities to increase native grassland diversity and presence. The project will (1) seed amplification (collect and grow seeds), (2) implement the projects (prepare the site, plant seeds, and irrigate seeds), (3) maintain the plantings, and (4) monitor results. The USFWS' Partners in Wildlife Program staff have determined this project is eligible for funding and desire to support the Park District with the first task (collect and amplify seeds). The remaining tasks are anticipated to be funded through other grant sources.

The project supports the state of California's 30x30 conservation initiative that calls for the protection of thirty percent (30%) of lands and waters by the year 2030 to meet the environmental challenges due to the devastating loss of the natural world and its life supporting systems.

FISCAL IMPACT

This action approves a grant application in the amount of \$50,000. No grant match is required. If awarded, grant funds for the seed amplification portion of the project would be budgeted into a new project. The total cost estimate for seed amplification is \$50,000.

ATTACHMENTS

None.



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2024 – 04 -
APRIL 2, 2024**

**AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE US FISH AND
WILDLIFE SERVICE'S PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM FOR THE
EAST BAY SEEDS TO NATIVE GRASSLAND RESTORATION PROJECT IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$50,000**

WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Partners in Wildlife Program provides technical and financial assistance to plan, design, supervise and monitor customized habitat restoration projects; and

WHEREAS, the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) continues to pursue efforts to better understand, conserve, and enhance native grassland populations for the purpose of increasing biodiversity and increasing resiliency of grasslands and their associated species, including native pollinators, to a changing climate; and

WHEREAS, the Park District's proposed East Bay Seeds to Grassland Restoration project (Project) supports the goals of the USFWS's Partners in Wildlife Program. The Partners in Wildlife Program is interested in funding the first phase of the project in which seed amplification will occur; and

WHEREAS, the Project also supports the state of California's 30x30 conservation initiative that calls for the protection of thirty percent (30%) of lands and waters by the year 2030 to meet the environmental challenges due to the devastating loss of the natural world and its life supporting systems; an

WHEREAS, Park District procedures require Board Approval for all grant applications; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District hereby:

1. Approves the filing of an application with the USFWS; and
2. Certifies that said applicant understands the assurances and certification in the application the Park District must comply with in order to enter into an agreement with USFWS; and
3. Certifies that said applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the Project; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District hereby authorizes and directs the General Manager or Assistant General Manager of Finance and Management Services/CFO, on behalf of the District and in its name, to accept grant funds and execute and deliver such documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, payment requests and amendments and to do such acts as may be

deemed or appropriate to accomplish the intentions of this resolution as presented to the Board on April 2, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Financial Officer or Budget Manager is hereby authorized to amend the current year's budget, without further Board action, upon receipt of the executed contract from the Grants Manager. The budget amendment will include an increase in budgeted revenue and a corresponding increase in appropriation for the amount stipulated in the contract.

Moved by Director _____, and seconded by Director _____, and adopted April 2, 2024, by the following vote:

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: