



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

DATE	February 20, 2024
TITLE	Authorization to Apply for Grant Funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board for the Former Roddy Ranch Golf Course Habitat Restoration and Public Access Project in an Amount Up to \$2.5 million
DIVISION	Finance and Management Services
FROM	Katy Hornbeck, Grants Manager Dr. Ana M. Alvarez, Deputy General Manager
APPROVED	Sabrina Landreth, General Manager

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager recommends that the Board of Directors authorize an application to the Wildlife Conservation Board for grant funds for the Former Roddy Ranch Golf Course Habitat Restoration and Public Access project in an amount up to \$2,500,000.

BACKGROUND

The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) was created by statute in 1947 to conserve California’s wildlife resources and provide for suitable public recreation. WCB funds acquisition, restoration, and public access projects throughout the State of California. WCB envisions a future in which California’s wildlife, biodiversity and wild places are effectively conserved for the benefit of present and future generations. WCB received funding from a variety of sources. Applicants do not identify a specific fund source when preparing an application. Once an application is submitted, WCB staff will determine the most appropriate funding source.

In 2019, WCB’s 2015 Strategic Plan was updated to include strategic initiatives and measurable objectives. All projects shall provide one or more of the following benefits, as identified in WCB’s Strategic Plan: protected or enhanced biodiversity, climate change resiliency and connectivity, support of the State Wildlife Action plan priority habitats, conserved or enhanced working landscapes, conserved or enhances water-related projects, and/or enhanced public space. Projects should also contribute to the State’s priorities such as protecting biodiversity, increasing climate resilience, providing access for all, and expanding nature-based solutions through initiatives such as the Pathways to 30x30 document that identifies a goal of protecting 30 percent of California’s land and coastal waters by 2030. WCB also strives to support projects with long-term durability, to fund projects that provide a benefit to disadvantaged communities, and to implement projects throughout the state including development of new partnerships. WCB also recognizes the importance of early consultation and collaboration with California Native American tribes.

ANALYSIS

The project at the former Roddy Ranch Golf Course is an eligible project that supports both the WCB’s Strategic Plan and 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. The project

will convert 84-acres of former golf course to functional grasslands and wetlands to support special status species and provide public access features for passive recreation across 230-acres.

The 230-acre former Roddy Ranch Golf Course in Antioch was acquired by the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (Conservancy) and the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) in 2018. The golf course operated from 2000 until its closing in 2016. The construction of the golf course involved the grading of 600,000 cubic yards of material over 170 acres. The features that remain today are six miles of golf cart paths, a subsurface drainage system, three irrigation ponds, several water quality basins, a 142-space parking lot, a septic system, rest rooms, and a pump house. Ruderal (weedy) vegetation has colonized the former fairways, sand traps, and other golf course remnants.

The goal of this project is to restore grasslands and wetlands as habitat for special status species and provide infrastructure for passive recreation in an open space preserve. This design and approach has been approved by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as the Park District and Conservancy. The 230 acres are part of a larger planned 3,700-acre Deer Valley Regional Preserve owned and protected by the Park District and the Conservancy which will eventually form a new regional preserve.

If awarded, WCB funding will go towards the grassland, drainage, and seasonal wetland restoration on 80+ acres of the 230-acre site. This will result in approximately 0.6 acres of restored seasonal wetlands, nearly a mile of restored drainages/ephemeral creeks, and 83.5 acres of restored grasslands. Additionally, the existing parking lot will be converted to serve as the staging area for public access with modifications for accessible parking and equestrian trailer parking, and new picnic tables, drinking fountains, a shade structure/shade pavilion, and restrooms. The golf cart paths will be replaced with 2.3 miles of multi-use trails and an additional 1.6 miles of accessible multi-use trails. The trail system will include viewpoints, interpretive signage, and will avoid sensitive habitat areas. The park entry intersection will be realigned for public safety.

FISCAL IMPACT

This action proposes submission of a grant application in an amount up to \$2,500,000. Once a grant agreement is executed, funds will be budgeted into project #160300. The estimated total project cost for construction is \$12 million. When completed, this project will increase the long-term operational cost of the Park District.

ATTACHMENTS

None.



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2024 - 02
FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

**AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION BOARD FOR THE FORMER RODDY RANCH GOLF COURSE
HABITAT RESTORATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT UP
TO \$2.5 MILLION**

WHEREAS, the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) is seeking funding from the California Wildlife Conservation Board for projects that create or enhance wildlife-oriented recreation; and

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

WHEREAS, the Former Roddy Ranch Golf Course Habitat Restoration and Public Access 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; and

WHEREAS, said application contains assurances and certifications that the applicant must comply with in order to enter into an agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Board; 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 Wildlife Conservation Board up to the maximum amount allowed under the program; and
2. Certifies that Grantee understands the assurances and certification in the application form; and
3. Certifies that Grantee has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project; and
4. 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 February 20, 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 February 20, 2024, by the following vote:

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: