

**Sierra Foothill Conservancy
Board of Director's Meeting Agenda
October 20, 2018 at 10 AM Martin House**

10:00 AM	Welcome and Introduction to the Day	Lynn/Bridget
10:15 AM	Land Conservation Program Presentation	Bridget/Lauren
12 Noon	Lunch & Opportunity to Personally Sign Year End Letters	All Board
1:00 PM	Consent Agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes from September 26, 2018 Meeting • Approval Simple IRA Matching Contribution of 3% from SFC • Holiday Office Closure December 26-28, 2018 	Bridget
1:05 PM	Governance	Rich
1:10 PM	Announcements/Information Executive Director's and Staff Reports	Bridget
1:30 PM	Discussion/Requests for Approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve Conflict of Interest Waiver for attorney Ellen Fred re: PG&E • Approve Acceptance of the North Shore Conservation Easement • Approve Acceptance of the donated Rodenhaus - Triangle Ranch Conservation Easement 	Bridget Lauren
2:00 PM	Public Policy Updates and Information	Bridget
2:10 PM	Development McKenzie 20 th Anniversary and Year End Campaign	Nancy
2:25 PM	Treasurer's Update: FY 18-19 Cash Flow Update	Jon
2:30 PM	• Logistics for next meeting (December 5, 2018) - Adjourn	Lynn
2:30 PM	Opportunity to Personally Sign Year End Letters	All Board

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

<p>Board Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 5, 2018 • January 23, 2019 • February 27, 2019 • April 24, 2019 • May 22, 2019 • June 26, 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member & Volunteer Appreciation BBQ, McKenzie - October 27th 9 AM – 4 PM • Bohna Dedication, Bohna Three-Bar Ranch, Raymond - November 2nd 4 – 8 PM • Twinkie Roast, Tioga Sequoia Brewery, Fresno, November 17th 5:30 to 9:30 PM • Holiday Open House, Martin House: December 8th 1-5 PM • Annual Dinner, The Manor Estate: May 4, 2019, 5 – 9 PM
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BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Board of Supervisor's Meeting Room
5100 Bullion Street, Mariposa CA
September 26, 2018

SUMMARY OF KEY DECISIONS

1. Consent Agenda:
Minutes from May 23, 2018 Meeting
Passed with 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
2. Approve to reinstate Jon Edwards as Board Member and Treasurer
Passed with 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
3. Approve Annual Fund Withdrawal from Long-Term Funds Of 3% of three-year averages for McKenzie Trust (Fund), CE Stewardship Fund, plus Operations. Total Withdrawal of \$54,000.
Passed with 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
4. Resolution to amend Transaction Authority for the Vanguard held Investment Funds and SIMPLE IRA account to update signature authority.
Passed with 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
5. Resolution to the board to accept the Cultural Resources Conservation Easement already existing and currently held by Madera County (Tesoro Viejo)
Passed with 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
6. Resolution to approve SNC Grant Application Bean Pond Restoration
Passed with 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
7. Resolution to approve SNC Grant Application Von Der Ahe
Passed with 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
8. Resolution to Accept the Auberry Conservation Easement
Passed with 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
9. June 2018, Unanimous Electronic Vote: Resolution to submit the application for Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program grant funding for the McKinney Ranch and letter of resolution for same concerning conflict of interest.
10. August 2018, Unanimous Electronic Vote: Accepted and approved the Willow Creek Conservation Easement and the Kerckhoff Conservation Easement, both Stewardship Council/PG&E Projects

FULL MINUTES

Board Members Present: Art Baggett, Margot Cegielski (Secretary), Caryn Coss, Jon Edwards, Lynn Gorman (President), Sue Overstreet

Board Members Present via Conference Call: Rich Gilman

Board Members Absent: Eric Cole, Donn Furman, Charles Morales, Jeff Single

Staff Present: Bridget Fithian, Heather Bromberg, Nancy Fluharty, Lauren Hubert, Mary Kate McKenna

Call to Order

Lynn called meeting to order at 5:49 PM

Consent Agenda – Lynn – 5:49 PM

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda

Moved by Caryn, Seconded by Margot Unanimous

Passed 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

Rich joined via GoToMeeting at 5:50 PM

Governance – Rich – 5:50 PM

Motion to Re-Instate Jon Edwards as Board Member and Treasurer

Moved by Margot, Seconded by Art

Passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

Announcements and Information –Bridget – 5:52 PM

SFC hired two new staff. Lindsey Roberts comes to us from REI and will be our new Outreach Manager, and Allyson Brooks from Prather will work in our Education and Stewardship Programs.

Two acquisition closings of Wishon and Willow Creek Conservation Easements. These are both Stewardship Council/PG&E projects and bring us to over 30,000 acres.

Discussion/Requests for Approval–Bridget – 5:54 PM

Motion to approve Annual Fund Withdrawal from Long-Term Funds Of 3% of three-year averages for McKenzie Trust (Fund), CE Stewardship Fund, plus Operations. Total Withdrawal of \$54,000. Moved by Art, Seconded by Margot

Passed with 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

Motion to approve Resolution to amend Transaction Authority for the Vanguard held Investment Funds and SIMPLE IRA account to update signature authority.

Moved by Sue, Seconded by Art

Passed with 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

Motion to approve Resolution to the board to accept the Cultural Resources Conservation Easement already existing and currently held by Madera County (Tesoro Viejo)

Moved by Jon, Seconded by Margot

Passed with 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

Motion to approve Resolution to approve SNC Grant Application Bean Pond Restoration

Moved by Margot Seconded by Caryn

Passed with 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

Motion to approve Resolution to approve SNC Grant Application Von Der Ahe

Moved by Art, Seconded by Sue

Passed with 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

Executive Director's and Staff Report Bridget – 6:20 PM

See reports attached to the board packet of materials.

Public Policy Updates and Information– Bridget – 6:31 PM

Bridget discussed the passage of Prop 68 and its potential effect on the organization. Prop 3 is coming to a statewide vote in November 2018 and if passed could add an additional \$42 million in funding dollars for conservation to the Sierra Nevada region.

A question was raised about any support or work toward the Fresno Parks Bond, which Bridget confirmed that SFC is not currently active in this initiative.

Land Conservation Project Presentation – Lauren – 6:40 PM

Lauren presented information about the proposed Auberry Conservation Easement, a Stewardship Council PG&E project.

Motion to approve Resolution to Accept the Auberry Conservation Easement

Moved by Art, Seconded by Jon

Passed with 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

Acknowledgment of the two E-Votes for the following items:

June 2018, Approved the application for Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program grant funding for the McKinney Ranch and letter of resolution for same concerning conflict of interest.

And

August 2018, Accepted and approved the Willow Creek Conservation Easement and the Kerckhoff Conservation Easement, both Stewardship Council/ PG&E Projects.

Information to the Board:

The Investment Committee has determined to move the SFC Investment Portfolio to Vanguard Investment Management Services to consolidate all investment management under one company and expand the depth and breadth of advisement services. This transfer will happen during the 2nd quarter of the fiscal year.

Development – Nancy – 6:51 PM

See provided Development Dashboard that highlights the great progress in membership and membership retention, as well as opportunities to attend upcoming events!

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

<p>2018 Board Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• October 19, 2018 (Board & Advisory Social)• October 20, 2018 (Board Retreat)• December 5, 2018 <p>Major Donor Save the Date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bohna Ranch Dedication, Friday Nov 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• October 27, 2018 Member and Volunteer Appreciation BBQ on the McKenzie• December 8, 2018 Holiday Party (Martin House)
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7:12 PM Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Kate McKenna, September 27, 2018



Sierra Foothill Conservancy SIMPLE IRA 2019 Notification to Eligible Employees

You are eligible to make salary reduction contributions to the SIMPLE IRA plan offered by Sierra Foothill Conservancy. This notice and the attached summary description provide you with information that you should consider before you decide whether to start, continue, or change your salary reduction agreement.

Employer Contribution Election

For the 2018 calendar year, the **Sierra Foothill Conservancy elects to contribute to your SIMPLE IRA a matching contribution** equal to your salary reduction contributions **up to a limit of 3% of your compensation** for the year.

To start or change your salary reduction contributions, you must complete the salary reduction agreement and return it to the Finance Manager, Angie Sberna by December 21, 2018.

Salary Reduction Agreement

Salary Reduction Election:

Subject to the requirements of the SIMPLE IRA plan of Sierra Foothill Conservancy, I authorize ____% or \$_____ (which equals to ____% of my current pay) to be withheld from my pay for each pay period and contributed to my SIMPLE IRA as a salary reduction contribution.

I understand that the total amount of my salary reduction contributions in any calendar year cannot exceed the applicable amount for that year. See instructions.

Date Salary Reduction Begins:

I understand that my salary reduction contributions will start as soon as permitted under the SIMPLE IRA plan and as soon as administratively feasible or, if later, _____.

This salary reduction agreement replaces any earlier agreement and will remain in effect as long as I remain an eligible employee under the SIMPLE IRA plan or until I provide my Employer with a request to end my salary reduction contributions or provide a new salary reduction agreement as permitted under this SIMPLE IRA plan.

Signature of employee

Date

Printed Name

Sierra Foothill Conservancy
Executive Director Report
October 20, 2018

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Highlights

This month we launch our *McKenzie Preserve 20th Anniversary Campaign* with our year end appeal. We will focus on the cause of giving back to the McKenzie Preserve which has given so much to so many people and over the course of the next year we have set the goal to raise \$100,000. We will launch the campaign at the Board & Advisory Social and we have already secured pledges for the campaign.

This month we also completed another new land acquisition with the closing of the Kerckhoff Reservoir Conservation Easement, a Stewardship Council Project on October 16, 2018 adding an additional 325 acres to our acquisition portfolio, bringing us to 30,839 acres!

We will close more land projects this calendar year than ever before in the history of SFC! We can't wait to share information about all the new land projects that continue to develop. New opportunities are presenting themselves, and in concert with deeper partnerships with agencies and funders we are seeing incredible progress in land acquisition.

Membership is at an all time high with a more than 46% increase at 1,900 members!

Our Education & Outreach Program is taking its next evolution with two new staff members (Allyson Brooks & Lindsey Roberts) and the launch of our Youth Outside Ambassador Program. Our Fall intern with Fresno State, U Moa, continues helping the Stewardship Staff on many projects, and hosted his own Volunteer Workday, and led a hike on the McKenzie.

Grants were awarded from SoCal Edison Foundation of \$10,000 and \$3,000 from the Clif Bar Family Foundation for the Youth Education Program

See the program reports for more exciting developments.

Media, Outreach & Donor Engagement

SFC and SLB hosting booths at Harvest Arts was a resounding success. Thank you to the many volunteers from the Board and Advisory Council that stepped up to help both Allyson and Lindsey in their first foray representing for SFC. Over 60 new membership secured, and over \$1,000 of SLB beef sold or ordered. Numerous connections new and old as our new Education and Outreach staff really took on this challenge and engaged with the community at this event. We look forward to the upcoming Member BBQ to visit with more supporters and members, as well as other events on our calendar.

Staffing

Heather Bromberg has moved to a grant funded position with Mariposa County, and we are happy to have hired Jessica Thompson to fill this position as FT Program Assistant. She has deep ties to the Sierra foothills and brings tremendous experience in program and project management. Welcome Jessica!

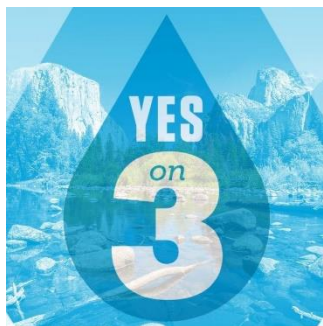
We sent 5 staff members to the Land Trust Alliance Rally in Pittsburgh earlier in October. I was able to attend the day-long LTA Leadership Summit with a cohort of ED's from Land Trusts around the country with a focus on Organizational Management. During Rally, I was asked to partner with CCLT and LTA on how to effectively work together as a state-wide group of Land Trusts, ensuring greater efficiencies between the two umbrella

Organizations and helping to direct responsiveness to the unique needs of not only California Land Trusts, but the Sierras as well.

Policy

Staff are reviewing Draft Guidelines and attending Workshops related to the recently passed Prop 68 and its substantial pool of funding. Exciting things are happening on this front and we look forward to leveraging significant resources for our work with the grant opportunities.

Prop 3 – the CA Water Bond is on the ballot this November. With a changing climate, more intense droughts, and increased demand on the state's water resources, Proposition 3 ensures that we not only care for our water as a supply issue but invest in the preservation and restoration of our watersheds and lands.



Proposition 3 is an opportunity to capitalize on gains made in previous elections and guarantee sufficient restoration and land protection funding to move us through this period of reduced federal funding. Our work through The Sierra Consortium has developed a strong allocation for our region in the bond which will serve our mission well.

Budget & Finance

The audit is going extremely well with Angie taking the lead and we plan to have the audit presentation at our December 5th Board Meeting.

Consent Agenda

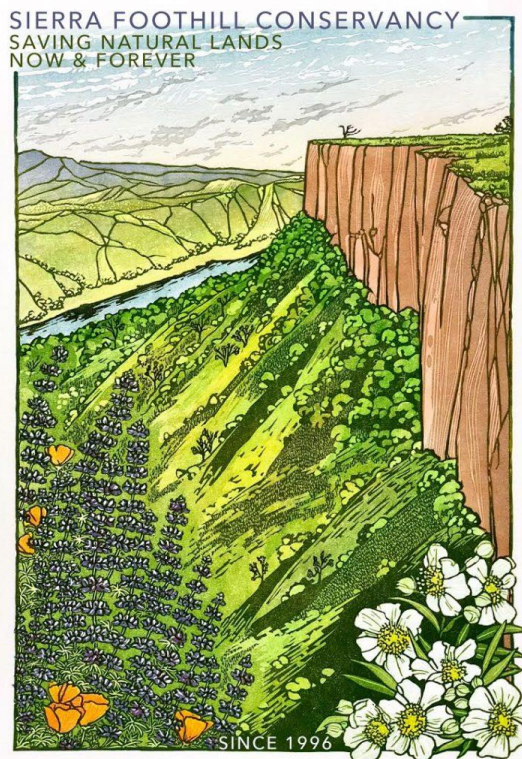
- Minutes from September 26, 2018 Meeting
- Approval Simple IRA Matching Contribution of 3% from SFC
- Holiday Office Closure December 26-28, 2018

Board Meetings

- December 5, 2018
- January 23, 2019
- February 27, 2019
- April 24, 2019
- May 22, 2019
- June 26, 2019

Save the Date

- Members BBQ on the McKenzie, October 27, 2018
- Bohna Dedication, Bohna Three-Bar Ranch, Raymond is November 2, 2018
- Twinkie Roast, Tioga Sequoia Brewery, November 17, 2018
- Holiday Party, Martin Preserve, December 8, 2018
- Annual Dinner, The Manor Estate, May 4, 2019



DEVELOPMENT & MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Nancy Fluharty, Development Program Manager

McKenzie Preserve 20th Anniversary Campaign

We are excited to announce our McKenzie Preserve 20th Anniversary Campaign, set to officially launch at our Annual Member BBQ on Oct 27th! The campaign is designed to raise funds supporting the needs of the Preserve after 20 years of use. Funds will go directly to helping support new trails, outdoor education, vegetation stewardship projects, erosion repairs, and much needed infrastructure.

Our fundraising goal is \$100,000, and the campaign will feature a multi-pronged strategy including: Quiet phase strategic amount requests, public launch, year-end campaign, spring McKenzie events, and a social media campaign.

This is a powerful opportunity for the SFC community to support our beloved McKenzie Preserve in celebration of its 20th Anniversary! Please help spread the word and consider how this Preserve which is at the origin of SFC's beginnings has personally impacted and inspired you.



Donor Outreach

The Bohna Dedication Ceremony at the historic Three Bar Ranch in Raymond on Friday, Nov 2nd from 4 – 6 PM. Help us celebrate the conservation of this historic ranch. The ceremony will be followed by mingling, picnic dinner, drinks, a tour of the site and a sunset tour. **This is a fantastic opportunity to invite potential new donors for cultivation, or new landowners.**

Giving Opportunity

#givingtuesday is coming up on November 27, 2018! Giving Tuesday is an annual day of giving that takes place the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. This global event has been helping raise money for non-profits and charitable events since 2012. SFC is the perfect organization to give to on Giving Tuesday, so spread the word, and watch for our social media campaign leading up to the event. Donations can be made by mail, online at www.sierrafoothill.org, or through our FB campaign.



Wishon Dedication Ceremony at SFC's Wishon Reservoir CE August 10, 2018

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Land Conservation

By Lauren Hubert and Melissa Odell

Land Conservation Staff is predicting the closing of a record number of conservation easements by the end of 2018!

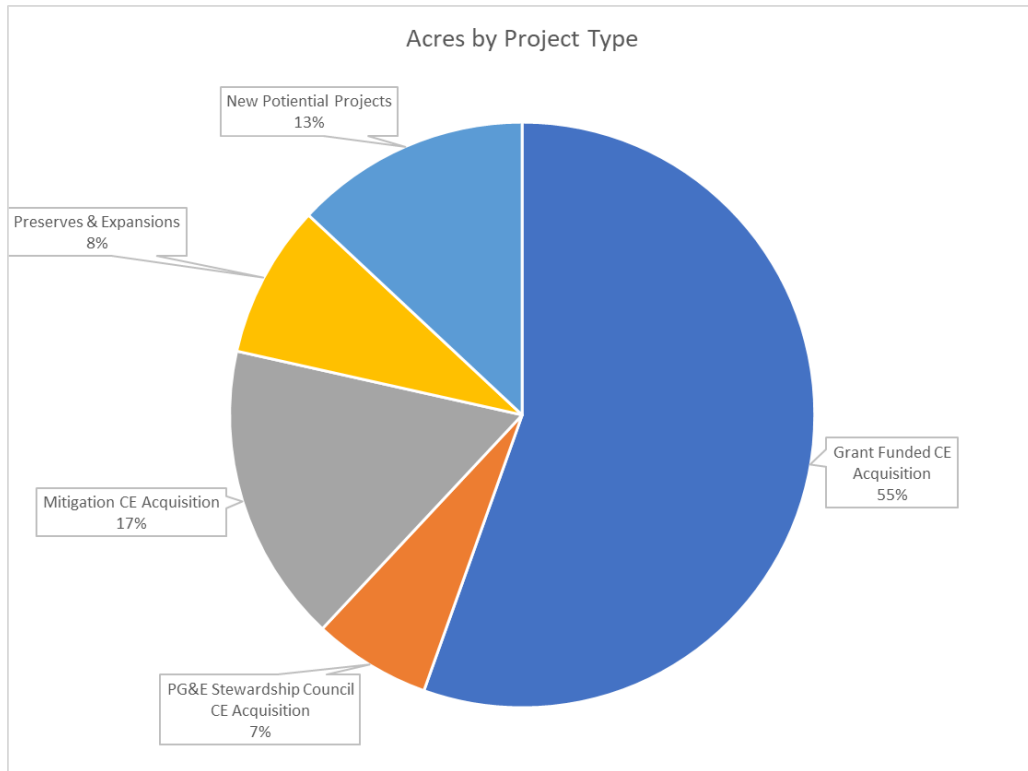
Kerckhoff Reservoir Conservation Easement CLOSED! This 325 acre publicly accessible conservation easement closed escrow on October 16, 2018, and officially brings SFC to 30,839 acres conserved. This easement, located on the Fresno/Madera County border, provides values such as lake and lakeshore, riparian habitat along the San Joaquin River, oak woodland, outdoor recreation, and cultural and agricultural resources. This property is owned and managed by PG&E and was completed as part of the Stewardship Council partnership to conserve watershed lands with beneficial public values in our region.



Kerckhoff Reservoir and its surrounding riparian and oak woodland habitat provides scenic views, public recreation, and important habitat for many common and special status species such as migratory birds and western pond turtle.

LAND CONSERVATION DASHBOARD

Land Conservation Staff are currently working on 26 projects totaling 24,405 acres of additional conserved land. The following graph depicts how these projects break out by project type.



Graph courtesy of Melissa Odell, October 2018

SUMMARY

Staff is heavily focused on tracking Prop. 68 funding allocations and reviewing/comment on draft grant guidelines. Several land projects are nearing closing including; Chapman Ranch CE and Fenston Ranch CE. In the Stewardship Council arena, the development of Bass Lake CE is moving forward, Kerckhoff Reservoir CE has closed, and we are expecting the closing of Auberry CE in late 2018.

INFORMATION

New Grants & Donations: SFC is working on wrapping up grant agreements from the Central Valley Project Conservation Program and Central Valley Project Improvement Act Habitat Restoration Program, \$740,480 or 100% for the Day Ranch Conservation Easement (Merced County) and \$1,000,000 or 16% toward the McKinney Ranch Conservation Easement (Madera County), as well as for 50% CE funding for Wright Ranch (1,729 acres, Madera County) from the USDA-NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. Staff has applied for matching grant funds through the CA Department of Conservation and is eagerly awaiting the Strategic Growth Council's November meeting agenda that will subsequently determine. Additionally, we have applied for match funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board and the CA Natural Resources Agency and we hope to hear news of grant award by December.

Fee for Service: Staff is investigating new fee-for-service opportunities throughout the region, while many of our contracted mitigation projects are rapidly progressing. Currently, staff is under contract to conduct FFS biological monitoring at the UC Merced 2020 expansion project, with several other opportunities on the horizon.

Policy & Planning: SFC is focusing its efforts on working with the land trust community and Sierra to address the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's vision for their strategic plan and Prop. 68 funding guidelines amongst California state agencies set to issue in late 2018. SFC is actively participating in the SCLTC (Sierra Cascade Land Trust Council) who recently had an incredible opportunity to meet with agency leaders, including David Bunn of the CA Department of Conservation, John Donnelly of the Wildlife Conservation Board, as well as Jim Branham and Bob Kingman from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to discuss land conservation and prioritization in the Sierra Nevada region; additionally SFC is participating in the Sierra Task Force (a collective of land trusts focusing on legislative language in upcoming state bills, bonds and propositions) and the Sierra Consortium.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Bean Creek Restoration (Mariposa County, Meadow Restoration) Funded by Natural Resources Agency and CDFW. The repair portion of the project is now complete and post-construction monitoring continues (see Stewardship Program Report). NFWF grant funding is supporting species-specific surveys (owls, turtles, willow flycatcher), water quality, and rancher outreach until May 2020.

Day Ranch CE (356 acres, Merced County, vernal pool grassland, riparian). Grant application for full easement funds was submitted in February to the CVPIA/CVPCP (BOR/USFWS) program has been awarded. Staff are working on negotiating terms of the grant agreement.

Drayer Ranch CE (284 acres; Mariposa County, riparian, grassland, CTS and vernal pool) Project is 100% funded through the NRCS ACEP ALE Program and the Dept. of Conservations SALCP Program. Baseline Documentation Report, Title Policy Proforma and Escrow Instructions are under review by DOC and NRCS. Goal to close before December 2018.

Fenston Ranch CE (765 acres; Madera County, CTS and vernal pools), the Long-Term Management Plan, Endowment, and Conservation Easement have received Agency feedback which SFC and the biological consultant are working to address while simultaneously moving forward on the Escrow Instruction Agreement, Final Mitigation Agreement and Baseline Documentation Report.

Hornitos Ranch CE (7,182 acres; Mariposa County, in rolling oak woodland, to oak savannah, and grassland transition; adjacent to Merced River and Lakes McSwain and McClure; CTS and vernal pools) Project was awarded over \$5 million through 4 grants (Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (CA Dept of Conservation), CDFW Prop 1, California Oak Foundation, and the Wildlife Conservation Board), covering the cost of acquisition. Staff are moving forward with negotiating grant agreements with these agencies.

Madera Quarry CE: (200 acres; Madera County, riparian restoration, CTS and vernal pool conservation easement). Staff has worked collaboratively with the Project Proponent to submit the Habitat Mitigation lands package to the regulatory agencies, including USFWS and CDFW. While we await Agency feedback, staff will be moving forward with the Escrow Instruction Agreement, Final Mitigation Agreement and Baseline Documentation Report.

McKinney Ranch CE (3,602 acres; Madera County, CTS, vernal pool, adjacent to Bonadelle Ranchos and Madera Ranchos) Staff is working collaboratively Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting and Kevin Knowles consulting to acquire competitive grant funding. SFC has been awarded \$1,000,000 already through the CVPIA grant program and is awaiting notification on \$3,000,000 in funding from the SALC program from DOC. Future plans for funding include WCB, USFWS and CDFW.

Wright Ranch CE (1729 acres; Madera County, transition zone, Fresno River corridor). Staff has received verbal approval from the USDA NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program for 50% of the funds needed for acquisition. Match funding grants were applied for in the spring/summer 2018.

Stockton Creek Preserve Expansion Project Fee Title Acquisition Transfer (200 acres; Mariposa County, transition zone, riparian corridor, public access) 100% funded by the Natural Resources Agency. Appraisal site visit complete, next steps will be survey and Lot Line Adjustment, then close and transfer.

Tesoro Viejo CE On Site Mitigation Conservation Easement: (186 acres, Madera County) A conservation easement of riparian corridors winding through the Tesoro Viejo Development. To mitigate for Waters of the U.S., lead agency, Army Corps. This project is quickly progressing, with weekly meetings and monthly site visits to review and develop dozens of documents.

Todisco Ranch CE: (480 acres; Madera County, vernal pools, grassland, CTS and blue oak woodland) Funded by the CVPIA Program through BOR as the lead. Initial stewardship site visits complete, long term management plan and conservation easement drafting underway.

DEVELOPING PROJECTS

Cal Trans Potential Cal Trans mitigation projects for Mariposa (Limestone salamander preservation and expansion of SFC's existing preserve) and Madera (CTS preservation and restoration) and Fresno (riparian restoration) are in development. We are contributing to the ITP (Incidental Take Permit) information with the mitigation measures.

Bissett and Hansen Ranches (3,000 acres, Mariposa County, Oak savannah, riparian, part of our Madera Mariposa Focus Area, vernal pools and possible CTS). Working with the Bissett family to obtain an Option Agreement, sent donated easement materials to Adele (Hansen). Staff has applied for grant funding this summer to match a bargain sale planned for Phase 1 of the project and expect to hear of grant award decisions by winter.

Fenston Remainder (1,216 acres, vernal pools, CTS) SFC is working with Vulcan Lands to develop various approaches to conserve the remainder of the Fenston Ranch utilizing mitigation as funding mechanism and at the same time serving to meet permittees local needs, from local developers to state agencies.

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL PG&E LANDS (CONSERVATION EASEMENTS)

Staff is negotiating Conservation Easement language, various transaction documents, and long-term monitoring funds for the following projects, which are at various stages of completion:

Auberry Service Center (29 acres; Fresno County) Preliminary and Baseline visits have been conducted. Staff has negotiated terms of the conservation easement. Other transaction documents, funding agreement, and reports are in draft final form. Final long-term monitoring fund has been negotiated. Project was approved by Stewardship Council Planning Committee for approval and has been submitted for CPUC approval. Expected to begin closing process close to the end of 2018.

Bass Lake (1085 acres; Madera County) Due diligence documents and conservation easement are under review. Initial site visit has been completed and BDR site visit was completed summer 2018. CE draft negotiation and funding agreement is in progress as well as drafting of the BDR. Expected to close at the end of 2019.

Kerckhoff Reservoir (325 acres; Madera/Fresno County) Closed October 16, 2018!!!

Manzanita Lake Donated (146 acres; Madera County) Funds for transaction costs and SFC staff time have been negotiated, as well as final long-term monitoring fund has been negotiated. This is a property that will be donated from PG&E to Madera County, and SFC will hold an easement. SFC has received Madera County's park infrastructure proposal and is negotiating permitted uses and a management plan. Conservation Easement language and other transaction documents are negotiated and in draft final. Long-term Management Plan is in the drafting phase. Expected to close 2019.

Manzanita Lake Retained (330 acres; Madera County) Funds for transaction costs and SFC staff time have been negotiated. Initial Site visit and Due diligence process and BDR are complete. Land Committee approved project development and all documents are in their draft final versions. Currently going to Stewardship Council board for approval in October. Expected to close at the end of 2019.

Willow Creek (241 acres; Madera County) Closed September 7, 2018!

OPEN GRANTS

NFWF Bean Creek Phase II Grant \$164,000

CDFW Bean Creek Meadow Restoration Grant \$493,000

EEMP CA Dpt. of Resources Bean Creek Restoration Grant \$463,000

NRCS EQIP Bean Creek: \$44,900

NRCS ACEP Drayer CE: \$179,375

SACLP ACE Drayer CE: \$179,350

Todisco CE BOR: \$576,000

Hornitos SALCP: \$2,205,000

Hornitos CDFW: \$3,000,000

Hornitos WCB: \$100,000

Hornitos California Wildlife Fund/ California Oak Foundation: \$100,000

NRCS ACEP Wright \$756,437

CVPIA Day \$740,480

CVPIA McKinney \$1,000,000

Natural Resources Agency River Parkways Program – Stockton Creek Expansion \$410,000

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT DEPOSITS

Fenston Ranch CE: \$30,000

Madera Quarry CE and Restoration: \$30,000

Stewardship Council Projects: \$50,000

Tesoro Viejo CE: \$30,000

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM REPORT

September – October 2018

Gary Miltimore, Stewardship Program Manager

Conservation Easement Monitoring - CE monitoring for the 2018 year has been completed! Stewardship staff monitored thirty-three conservation easements over three counties, encompassing approximately 26,000 acres. Our annual CE site visits enable staff to check in with our partner landowners, review and document the conditions of the properties, and make any recommendations that might be necessary to enhance the conservation values. Reports from each monitoring visit are drafted and signed to be stored on file as part of SFC's CE monitoring procedures.

Bean Meadow Restoration - The Bean Meadow Restoration Project has been pushed one week because of a delay in permit issuing. We now anticipate the restoration project to start on October 22nd and run through the 26th. We will address repairs to the plugs and reinforce the upstream banks to help the resiliency during super strong winter storms similar to what we have experienced the past couple of years

Merced Falls Restoration - Stewardship staff continued to prepare for a riparian native planting on our Merced River conservation easement. Staff have acquired materials for the planting that include gopher baskets, weed cloth, and browse guards. Additionally, we have mapped out the irrigation lines that will provide water to the plants for the next three years. Per the permit requirements a pre-project survey was conducted to ensure there aren't any sensitive species in the project work area. The project will commence the week after the Bean Meadow Restoration project, October 29 thru November 3rd.

McKenzie Trail Maintenance - 14 Fresno State students and 3 volunteer trail leaders participated in trail maintenance activities on sections of trail at the McKenzie Preserve. Work consisted of removing overgrown vegetation and debris as well as redefining the trail tread. For their efforts they were awarded lunch made by Clovis Rotary with food generously donated by Mar-Val Grocery Store.



Newly installed benches on the Black Mountain Preserve trail with funds donated by Bea and Kevin Olsen and crafted by Chris Velez and Bill Esmay.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT/SLB PROGRAM REPORT

Billy Freeman, Rangeland Program Manager, CPM, CPRM

As we move through Fall, we are continuing to implement Residual Dry Matter (RDM) monitoring and plan ahead for grazing implementation on many conservation properties. We have also been working with partners such as Point Blue Conservation Science and CE landowners to outline stewardship activities for the coming years. Beef sales are coming to a close with the Intermountain Nursery Harvest Arts Festival culminating marketing activities for the year.

We are continuing with Residual Dry Matter (RDM) monitoring according to CE and Preserve management plans. Point Millerton Ranch, Topping Kennedy Table CE along with Fine Gold and McKenzie Preserves will be monitored in the coming weeks.

Melissa Odell and I attended Point Blue Conservation Science's annual meeting at Paicines Ranch on September 26th. We presented about SFC's partnership with Point Blue and had discussions about our ongoing work. Of note, Point Blue will be heavily involved in soil carbon sequestration and developing soil carbon markets on California Rangelands in the coming years. SFC may have the opportunity to participate by way of providing research sites, implementing monitoring on preserves for associated carbon market funding, and eventually pursuing funding for CE landowners who would like to participate in these programs.

Steve Kellenberg (owner of the Striped Rock and Trabucco CE properties) invited us to a site visit of Trabucco Ranch alongside NRCS to discuss stewardship practices. Similar to the Striped Rock CE property, NRCS practices may be used to enhance conservation values on site. Potential cross fencing, road repair and water developments are being considered for a potential NRCS contract. We are working with Steve to advise him on how these practices can best be used to improve resources on the property.

We have moved 43 cows from the Martin Preserve to the Big Table Ecological Reserve to perform animal impact on the Northern Basalt Flow vernal pool grasslands at this location. Reducing the overabundance of standing dry matter at the site, along with mediating growth of non-native annual grasses aids in the functioning of the vernal pool ecosystems on the Reserve. CDFW has been our partner on this project, using grazing to maintain the populations of Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp, Tadpole Shrimp and sensitive vernal pool plant species at the site.

Grazing for the McKenzie Preserve is set to commence starting in November. 135 cow/calf pairs were grazed on the Preserve last season. Given a slightly lower amount of standing residual, we are planning to reduce the number of cattle to around 100 cow/calf pairs for this season. The cattle will come on a few weeks earlier, so fewer animals will help conserve ground cover before grass germination. The Fine Gold Preserve and Point Millerton Ranch will also be stocked in November. The final number of cattle will depend on timing and amount of rainfall events.

We are still planning our final beef processing day for November 9th at the Martin Preserve. There are 4 remaining animals that will be ready for processing. Sales will dictate if we process all 4 non-USDA inspected or perhaps process 2 animals USDA inspected to sell through different marketing channels. We will have a beef selling booth at the upcoming Harvest Arts Festival at Sierra High School October 13th and 14th.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions about our Rangeland Management and SLB programs.



October 15, 2018

via email: Bridget Fithian < bridget@sierrafoothill.org >

Bridget Fithian, Executive Director
Sierra Foothill Conservancy
P.O. Box 691
Mariposa, CA 95338

RE: Conflict waiver request

Dear Bridget:

As you may know, I represent Pacific Gas and Electric Co. ("PG&E") with respect to certain conservation transactions related to the Land Conservation Commitment ("LCC"). I recently learned that Sierra Foothill Conservancy ("SFC") is currently in ongoing negotiations with PG&E related to the LCC. I have described my representation of SFC on unrelated projects to PG&E and am in the process of receiving PG&E's conditional waiver to represent SFC in those unrelated matters. In obtaining such waiver, I have agreed that I would not represent either party in litigation, arbitration, or mediation related to any PG&E project on which you are working with them.

As a condition to PG&E's agreement to the conflict waiver, I have also been asked by write to you to request a reciprocal conflict waiver of my ongoing representation of PG&E. In particular, you are being asked to agree that (1) I can be adverse to SFC on LCC matters; (2) I will have no duty to maintain the confidentiality of information regarding SFC or its documents in LCC matters; (3) I will have no duty to disclose information regarding PG&E to SFC; and (4) SFC waives any future conflict arising out of my future review of Baseline Documentation Reports or other documents for PG&E. If you agree to waive any such conflict of interest with regard to my ongoing work for PG&E, please sign where indicated below.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need more information to proceed on this request.

Best,

Ellen A. Fred

p.o. box 47, traverse city, mi 49685 P (510) 290-0165 F (231) 629-4566 www.conservationpartners.com

ellen a. fred
efred@conservationpartners.com
principal

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

ACKNOWLEDGED AND AGREED:

I have read the foregoing, understand it and, by signing below, waive any potential conflict of interest that may exist by virtue of Ellen A. Fred's continued representation of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company described above.

Bridget Fithian, on behalf of
Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Date: _____

SIERRA·FOOTHILL



· CONSERVANCY ·

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SIERRA FOOTHILL CONSERVANCY
APPROVING
DEVELOPMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF NORTH SHORE MITIGATION CONSERVATION
EASEMENT IN MADERA COUNTY

WHEREAS, the North Shore Mitigation Conservation Easement will permanently conserve 949.6 acres of high-quality habitat for the California Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma Californiense*) and the Hartweg's Golden Sunburst (*Psuedobahia Bahiifolia*) and contains breeding and upland aestivation habitat for the stated animal species along with the necessary soil composition for the stated plant species.

WHEREAS, SFC will be compensated for costs associated with the development, implementation and long-term management of the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors

1. Approves the North Shore Mitigation Conservation Easement as presented;
2. Appoints the Executive Director, Conservation Director, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, option agreement, conservation easement and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

Approved and adopted the 20th day of October 2018. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Sierra Foothill Conservancy by the following vote:

Ayes:
Nos:
Absent:

Margot Cegielski, Secretary of the Board

SIERRA·FOOTHILL



· CONSERVANCY ·

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SIERRA FOOTHILL CONSERVANCY
APPROVING
DEVELOPMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF TRIANGLE RANCH CONSERVATION EASEMENT
IN MARIPOSA COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Triangle Ranch Conservation Easement will permanently conserve 640 acres of oak woodland, mixed-conifer forest, annual grassland, riparian habitat, and open space and scenic values.

WHEREAS, SFC will be compensated for costs associated with the development, implementation and long-term management of the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors

1. Approves the Triangle Ranch Conservation Easement as presented;
2. Appoints the Executive Director, Conservation Director, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, option agreement, conservation easement and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

Approved and adopted the 20th day of October 2018. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Sierra Foothill Conservancy by the following vote:

Ayes:
Nos:
Absent:

Margot Cegielski, Secretary of the Board