



On Saving Land

A Newsletter for California Land Trusts

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TPL Surveys California's Rivers Report Identifies Protection Efforts

By Elise Holland and Elizabeth Byers

California's rivers are remarkably diverse: from the dry Mojave and Amargosa Rivers in the desert to the spring-fed Pit and McCloud Rivers, these waterways vary widely in topography, biota, climate, soils, and geology. Moreover, California's rivers have served varied purposes: the San Joaquin River once hosted astounding salmon runs for fisheries, while the Sacramento River provided a thoroughfare for commerce and agricultural water supply.

California's rivers provide multiple benefits to fish, wildlife, and people across the state, and as a result, interest in protecting and restoring rivers continues to grow. In fact, local protection organizations have formed in most California river watersheds. And on many rivers, partnerships between land conservation organizations, river advocacy groups, and public agencies have resulted in improved river habitat and long-term protection of watershed and riverfront lands.

Report Provides a Look at California Rivers

To broaden understanding of California's rivers, the Trust for Public Land (TPL) recently published *The State of California Rivers*, which takes a comprehensive look at the state's seven hydrologic basins and its major rivers. The report not only documents the state's impressive river resources, but describes how local communities are taking the initiative to protect their rivers.

TPL's report describes the important biological and physical aspects of each river and its watershed, the extent of public access and the range of recreational opportunities available, major threats to the health of the river system, species of concern, and current protection and restoration efforts.

To complement the text, the report features color maps produced by GreenInfo Network (both statewide and for each basin) that highlight the rivers discussed in the report. In addition, land ownership maps of each river's watershed show the extent of public and private ownership. The report includes contact information for land trusts,

watershed groups, and local, state, and federal agencies working in each watershed.

Partnerships are Key to River Protection

Most of the 80 rivers that TPL surveyed are cared for by "friends" groups—organizations whose mission is the protection of rivers through advocacy, education, planning, restoration, or stewardship.

The state's river-support groups are clustered in the Central Valley; this region, draining nearly two-thirds of the state, contains most of California's rivers. The North Coast/Klamath basin, also a large watershed, comprises many major rivers and numerous river protection organizations.

The following case studies feature river protection efforts that involve a partnership of agencies and local organizations. Many major preservation efforts, however, have been undertaken with the assistance of national land conservation organizations like the Trust for Public Land and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). TPL completed large projects on the Trinity, East Walker River, Sacramento, and the San Joaquin Rivers and is currently active on the Los Angeles and Otay Rivers. TNC has focused efforts on the McCloud, Cosumnes, and Santa Margarita Rivers, as well as Battle and Deer Creeks.

Many Caretakers for the Mattole

The Mattole River basin comprises approximately 304 square miles of the northern California Coast Range. The river originates in northern Mendocino County and flows 62 miles to the Pacific Coast. Along its journey, more than 74 tributary streams contribute to its flow.

The Mattole's watershed is sparsely developed and has healthy populations of fish and wildlife. However, logging has threatened the health of the river; after years of logging activity, less than 9 percent of the old growth forest remains. Logging, in combination with salmon over-harvesting at sea

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and in-river, had led to a decrease of salmonid populations to less than 10 percent of historic levels. In response, the community formed several organizations, each with a specific focus, but with the broad goal of protecting the river and watershed.

The Mattole Salmon Group formed in 1980 to restore the native Chinook and coho salmon runs. For over 20 years, the group has maintained a hatch box and rearing program for native salmon stocks, resulting in the release of nearly 400,000 juvenile salmon into the Mattole River and its tributaries. This program offers a critical boost to the numbers of juvenile salmon that survive to enter the ocean, and since 1990 the Mattole Salmon Group has documented a slow but steady increase in the number of salmon returning to spawn.

In 1985 community members formed the Mattole Restoration Council to restore and sustain a healthy functioning watershed. It designs and carries out land and stream rehabilitation work, including surveys of sediment trends and the associated timber harvesting history; erosion control such as tree planting, seeding, and slope stabilization; and restoration of salmon and steelhead habitat.

Permanent land protection is key to sustaining a healthy river, and in 1987, Sanctuary Forest formed as a local land trust to preserve the virgin forests in the Upper Mattole watershed. Over the years, Sanctuary Forest has partnered with agencies and other groups – including the Wildlife Conservation Board and Save-the-Redwoods League – to acquire over 3,500 acres of land and protect an additional 6,000 acres with easements. For some properties, the trust found private buyers who placed conservation restrictions on their land.

Sanctuary Forest purchased many of the watershed lands from timber companies and not only saved the old-growth forest, but averted more problems in the river caused by erosion and sedimentation. In all, the land trust has protected six miles of prime river spawning habitat and ten miles of tributary creeks.

Participants in Sanctuary Forest's summer hike and activity program often become volunteers for the Mattole Salmon Group. In turn, the salmon group provides technical expertise and direction for riparian

restoration activities sponsored by the land trust.

Sanctuary Forest initiated the formation of the Upper Mattole River and Forest Cooperative. Two years ago, a signed memorandum of understanding officially created the cooperative. Participants include public and private organizations that own or manage portions of 3,500 acres in the watershed: Sanctuary Forest, Wildlife Conservation Board, Save-the-Redwoods League, Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Parks and Recreation, California Department of Forestry, Coastal Conservancy, Bureau of Land Management, and Restoration Forestry.

Through this cooperative, the watershed's many landowners can begin to coordinate land management across property and administrative boundaries. The cooperative will focus on river restoration, public access, scientific research, education, fire management, and habitat protection.

Napa River Reclaims its Floodplain

The 55-mile-long Napa River drains into northern San Francisco Bay and is one of the last three free-flowing rivers in the state. The Napa has experienced repeated flooding; in less than 150 years, the river has flooded 28 times, despite flood control efforts using channels and raised levees.

In 1998 Napa County voted to raise taxes to remove the river's flood control system. Local residents will pay about \$110 million over 20 years, matched by federal funds. The Friends of the Napa River, dedicated to the restoration and protection of the river and its watershed, spearheaded the campaign to pass this ballot measure and helped form a coalition of agencies and local groups called the Napa River Community Coalition.

The coalition helped pass the bond measure and is now implementing the Napa River Flood Management effort. Participants include the Friends of the Napa River, Land Trust of Napa County, Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The flood management project uses both nontraditional and engineering techniques to achieve flood

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The State's Seven Hydrologic Basins

North Coast/Klamath Basin

The North Coast/Klamath basin is characterized by some of the most rugged mountains in the state and is heavily forested with coniferous trees. The region is largely undeveloped and comprises a number of large rivers, including the Klamath, Eel, Russian, and Trinity. The Klamath and Trinity Rivers together support the second-largest Chinook salmon population in the state, and the rivers of the North Coast region harbor almost all of California's coho and steelhead, and all of its coastal cutthroat trout. The Smith and the Salmon Rivers are two of the three major undammed rivers remaining in California.

Modoc/Cascade Basin

The Pit, McCloud, and Upper Sacramento Rivers drain the Modoc Plateau in rugged and sparsely populated northeastern California. These rivers once supported substantial runs of anadromous fish—especially winter-run and spring-run Chinook salmon—due to the prime spawning habitat. The Shasta Dam eliminated half of the natural spawning and rearing habitat for salmon and steelhead in the Sacramento River watershed. The existing and potential dams are the major challenges facing river restoration efforts.

Eastside/Great Basin

Rivers in the Eastside and Great Basin region originate in the eastern Sierra Nevada and drain into terminal lakes and desert sinks in California and Nevada. The Eastside receives little precipitation; consequently, the rivers in this region are much smaller than their mighty Central Valley region counterparts. In this remote region of California, the Owens, Walker, Truckee, and Carson Rivers have generated controversy through lengthy legal battles over water rights.

Desert Basin

The southeastern corner of California is the most arid region in the state. This vast region in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts constitutes roughly 12 percent of California's landmass. The region's two most prominent features are the

Colorado River—which forms the 230-mile-long border between Arizona and California—and the Salton Sea. The region contains the only two purely "desert" rivers in California—the Amargosa and Mojave. These rivers flow only when rare rains create floods in the desert washes.

South Coast Basin

Rivers in California's South Coast region flow out of steep, rugged coastal hills and mountains onto broad plains and valleys before entering the Pacific Ocean. Unlike Central Coast rivers, which are often spring-fed and maintain base flows year-round, South Coast rivers can be dry almost all year and then flood in huge surges after a rainstorm. These rivers are more intensively channelized and managed by dams than any other region in the state. Major restoration efforts are occurring on some of these rivers, most notably on the Santa Ana, Santa Clara, Ventura, and Los Angeles.

Central Coast Basin

The Central Coast basin is a 300-mile-long, 40-mile-wide region that extends from San Mateo County south to Santa Barbara County. The region's rivers flow from the wooded and chaparral-covered Coast Range Mountains into long, broad alluvial valleys. The Salinas is the largest river in the region. Excessive diversion of water from Central Coast rivers has degraded water quality for aquatic habitat.

Central Valley Basin

The vast Central Valley drains nearly two-thirds of California and is dominated by the state's largest rivers, the Sacramento and San Joaquin. The Sacramento River runs north to south, and the San Joaquin runs south to north. They meet in the Delta, a maze of channels and sloughs that eventually flow into San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean to the west. These two waterways have tremendous ecological and economic significance. The Central Valley hosts more than 1.5 million ducks and 750,000 geese in its seasonal marshes along the Pacific Flyway.

TPL's Western Rivers Program

In response to intensifying pressures on land and water resources in the American West, TPL created its Western Rivers Program, with California as the pilot region. The program's mission is to preserve and restore naturally functioning rivers and improve water quality through market-based solutions. These approaches include the purchase of fee-title lands and easements, as well as water, diversion, and hydropower rights for conservation purposes.

In California, TPL has preserved 40,000 acres (with a fair market value of \$40 million) of critical watersheds, riparian corridors, wetlands, and recreational lands for river parkways. TPL has also purchased water rights to improve instream flows for fisheries habitat. A map in *The State of California's Rivers* locates all of the freshwater protection projects that TPL completed between 1973 and 2000.

The completion of the rivers report marks the first step in the expansion of TPL's Western Rivers Program. TPL plans to use the report to help identify potential opportunities for projects with local partners and agencies, and hopes to enhance ongoing efforts as well as initiate protection programs in underserved watersheds.

The report also will serve as a useful reference for agencies, nonprofits, and other entities and individuals interested in protecting and restoring California's rivers.

control: most importantly, the river is being reconnected to its historic floodplain. Wetlands in the watershed had been reduced by 75 percent from historical levels, but under the flood control project, 600 acres will become wetlands again.

The Land Trust of Napa County is leading the land acquisition effort for the south wetlands area of the Napa River. Although the entire flood management project requires the purchase of 270 properties, the land trust is only focused on those lands with natural habitat value and willing sellers.

The trust received about \$1.5 million in CALFED grants to acquire five properties for the flood control project. Just recently the trust acquired the 83-acre Ghisletta Ranch, and the Department of Fish and Game will own and manage the land. If the landowners do not sell to the land trust, however, their properties will eventually be condemned by the flood control district. This threat of condemnation has made it challenging for the trust to negotiate willing seller agreements.

Once the lands are acquired, levees and other structures that interfere with the natural processes in the wetland will be removed. The Friends of the Napa River will play an important role in restoring and recreating the wetlands.

Coalition Plans the Santa Clara's Future

The Santa Clara River, which flows for 100 miles through Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, is one of the last rivers in Southern California still free of the concrete and riprap that have compromised the wildness of other large rivers in the Southland. Sespe Creek, the Santa Clara's main tributary, is designated as a national wild and scenic river.

A long stretch of the Santa Clara River runs through rural communities in Ventura County, and citrus groves cover portions of the floodplain in the broad Santa Clara River Valley. The upper river corridor in Los Angeles County contains some of the best riparian woodland in Southern California, but this stretch of the river is threatened by intense development pressures, particularly from the city of Santa Clarita.

Like the Napa River, protection efforts on the Santa Clara and its watershed will grow out of an extensive planning process involving a number of interested parties. In 1993 several agencies and river stakeholders initiated a river enhancement and management plan; this coalition is now a 20-member steering committee.

The Coastal Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Board, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, cities, local flood control districts, and major landowners participate in the planning effort. The Friends of

the Santa Clara River is also a member of the steering committee; in fact, the river planning process provided the impetus for its formation. It formed as an umbrella group with representatives from five environmental organizations, and is dedicated to the protection, enhancement, and management of the river.

The stakeholders in this planning process have reached consensus on recommendations related to flood management, habitat restoration, and public recreation. A final enhancement and management plan is expected to be complete by the summer of 2002 and will likely call for increasing recreational opportunities along the river, improving habitat for endangered species, and recognizing the economic contributions of local agriculture.

The most controversial river land-use issue is the Newhall Land and Farming's proposal to build a new town of 70,000 residents along five miles of the river at the Los Angeles and Ventura County border. The development proposal review process has occurred concurrently with the river planning process, and the Friends of the Santa Clara River and others have initiated a number of legal challenges to the proposed new community.

Although the enhancement and management plan is not finalized, long-term land protection projects have been underway. The California Coastal Conservancy recently purchased a 220-acre riverfront property, and has funded the purchase and restoration of the 235-acre Valley View Ranch, which will be acquired by the Friends of the Santa Clara River.

The Coastal Conservancy plans to acquire 6,000 acres along a 15-mile stretch near the mouth of the river. This part of the river corridor will become the Santa Clara River Parkway, and eventually a joint powers authority will be established to manage these protected lands. The parkway received a boost this year when the conservancy received \$9.2 million in the state budget for Santa Clara River acquisitions.

The Coastal Conservancy will partner with The Nature Conservancy, which plans to also buy properties in other parts of the river corridor. It will also partner with another nonprofit — the Ventura County Agricultural Land Trust — on several protection projects. Given the size of the 1,460-square-mile watershed, restoration and long-term protection requires a partnership effort.

TPL to Produce Other River Handbooks

As a companion piece to *The State of California Rivers* report, TPL is preparing *A Handbook for Conservation Water Acquisition in California*, to be published later this year. The handbook will cover: 1) determining whether a seller owns a legal water right; 2) discerning whether the transfer of a water

right would provide an environmental benefit; 3) the regulatory and legal water transfer process; 4) contractual issues and assurances; 5) political issues; and 6) protecting a water right after it has been transferred.

In addition, TPL will soon produce *A Vision for California Rivers*, a document that will provide the scientific foundation for river restoration policy and action in California.

The State of California Rivers report will be available to the public in late spring. Look for information on how to obtain a copy in *On Saving Land* or on TPL's website (www.tpl.org). For more information about TPL's Western Rivers Program, contact Nelson Mathews, Western Rivers Program Director or Elise Holland, Western Rivers Program Manager, at 415-495-5660. □

River Protection Websites

California Rivers Assessment
endeavor.des.ucdavis.edu

California Watershed Information Technical System
ceres.ca.gov/watershed

Friends of the River
www.friendsoftheriver.org

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program: National Park Service
www.nps.gov/rtca

USEPA Watershed Protection, Information Resource Database
www.epa.gov/owow/watershed

Water Education Foundation
www.water-ed.org

Publications on River and Watershed Protection

Green Infrastructure: Land Conservation as a Watershed Protection Strategy
The Trust for Public Land
1-800-714-LAND
www.tpl.org

Handbook for New River and Watershed Organizations; How to Save a River; Directory of Funding Sources for Grassroots River and Watershed Conservation Groups
The River Network
503-241-3506
www.rivernetwork.org

Top 10 Watershed Lessons Learned
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/lessons/index.html

Watershed Protection Techniques
Center for Watershed Protection
301-589-1890
www.cwp.org

Watershed Restoration: A Guide for Citizen Involvement in California
Coastal Ocean Program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
301-713-3338
www.cop.noaa.gov/pubs/das8.pdf

Grant Programs for River Protection Projects

California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program; Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program
Wildlife Conservation Board
916-445-1072
www.dfg.ca.gov/wcb

Ecosystem Restoration Program
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
916-657-2666
calfed.ca.gov/request_form.htm

Fishery Restoration Grants Program
California Department of Fish and Game
916-327-8842
www.dfg.ca.gov/nafwrb/fishgrant.old.html

Flood Protection Corridor Program
Department of Water Resources
916-653-8912
www.dwr.water.ca.gov/waterbond2000

Habitat Conservation Fund; Riparian/Riverine Habitats Grant Program
California Department of Parks and Recreation
916-653-7423
www.parks.ca.gov/grants

Nature Restoration Trust; Pacific Grassroots Salmon Initiative
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
415-778-0999
www.nfwf.org

Resource Enhancement Program
State Coastal Conservancy
510-286-1015
www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov

Urban Streams Restoration Program
Department of Water Resources
916-653-5791
www.dpla.water.ca.gov/urban_streams

Watershed Assistance Grants
The River Network
503-241-3506
www.rivernetwork.org

Watershed Assistance Grants
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202-260-9194
www.epa.gov/owow/wag.html

Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program
Natural Resource Conservation Service
530-792-5794
www.nrcs.usda.gov

Watershed Protection Program
State Water Resources Control Board
916-657-1043
www.swrcb.ca.gov/prop13

Anza-Borrego Foundation Receives Award

At the February 5 Winter Land Trust Council meeting hosted by the Trust for Public Land and the Coastal Conservancy, TPL awarded its annual Land Trust Achievement Award to the Anza-Borrego Foundation.

The mission of the Anza-Borrego Foundation is to permanently protect land for the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in San Diego County. The park is 600,000 acres, one of the largest state parks in the nation. In 1967 the Desert Protective Council formed the Anza-Borrego Committee to begin identifying and purchasing critical inholdings for the park. It was not until 1989 that the committee became an independent nonprofit called the Anza-Borrego Foundation. The foundation now has a membership of 1,200 and has acquired about 26,000 acres for the park; all of its fee purchases are transferred to the Department of Parks and Recreation. In recent years, the foundation has completed about 12 projects a year. Two years ago, it completed the Sentenac Canyon and Cienega acquisition near Scissors Crossing — a key 1,421-acre addition to the park. The foundation raised \$2.5 million in public and private funding for this purchase.

Great Valley Center Boosts Farmland Protection in Three Counties

In December the Great Valley Center announced \$5 million in grants to support strategic farmland conservation in Merced, Stanislaus, and Yolo Counties. These counties became the first “Partnership Communities” under the center’s Agricultural Transactions Program. This program aims to preserve prime farmland through an approach that balances conservation with compatible economic development. The funds will be used primarily for purchasing conservation easements.

Land trusts operate in all three counties and will work in partnership with the grant recipients; these trusts are the Merced County Farmland and Open Space Trust, Stanislaus Farmland Trust, and Yolo Land Trust. In their grant applications, these counties demonstrated commitments to long-term conservation of prime agricultural land, abilities to secure additional funding, and cooperative county-city government relationships. The David and Lucile Packard Foundation funded the Great Valley Center grants program.

Coastal Conservancy Awards Grants to Bay Area Land Trusts

Since last fall, the Coastal Conservancy awarded 32 grants under its competitive San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy grant program, funded by Proposition 12. The conservancy awarded grants to both public agencies and nonprofits, and funded regionally significant resource and recreation projects in each Bay Area county. Many Bay Area land trusts received sizable grants:

Landpaths: \$500,000 for acquisition of the 28-

acre Van Alstyne Grove near Occidental;

Marin Audubon Society: \$340,000 for acquisition of the 84-acre Atherton Avenue property in Novato;

Napa County Land Trust: \$124,000 to prepare a detailed county vegetation classification map, and \$270,000 for acquisition of a 339-acre Quail Ridge property;

Peninsula Open Space Trust: \$1 million for acquisition of conservation and trail easements on the 534-acre Purisima Farms property;

Save Mt. Diablo: \$50,000 for acquisition of Phase II (331 acres) of the 1,031-acre Clayton Ranch;

Solano County Farmland & Open Space Foundation: \$2 million for acquisition of the final 1,000 acres of the 3,935-acre King and Swett Ranches in southwestern Solano County;

Sonoma Land Trust: \$313,000 to enhance seasonal wetlands and retain agriculture on the Leonard Ranch, \$50,000 for a parcel analysis and concept acquisition plan, and \$80,000 for acquisition of the Laguna de Santa Rosa property and a public access plan for the Laguna Uplands property;

The Nature Conservancy: \$2 million for acquisition of a conservation easement on the 11,189-acre Isabel Valley Ranch in the Diablo Range Wilderness, and \$400,000 for acquisition of a conservation easement on Silacci Ranch in Santa Clara County;

Trust for Public Land: \$500,000 for acquisition of the 108-acre Mori Point property in Pacifica.

Other nonprofits received funding for studies, restoration work, and environmental education programs. These grant recipients include the Friends of Five Creeks, Golden Gate Audubon Society, Richardson Bay Audubon Society and Sanctuary, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Ducks Unlimited, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, Bay Area Open Space Council, and the Bay Institute.

Packard Program Surpasses Goal at Halfway Point

In November The David and Lucile Packard Foundation published a midterm report on its Conserving California Landscapes Initiative (CCLI). The foundation created this five-year, \$175 million program to conserve large expanses of open space, farmland, and wildlife habitat in three California regions—the Central Coast, Central Valley, and Sierra Nevada—and to develop supportive organizations and policies. The program has funded real estate transactions; capacity building; and land use policy and planning, restoration, and public education projects.

At the program’s halfway point, the foundation has helped to protect more than 327,000 acres of land in 47 transactions by providing grants and loans of more than \$96 million. Foundation funds were combined with more than \$244 million in funds from other sources (including more than \$50 million from private individuals). The foundation

has decided to double its original acreage and leverage goal for the CCLI: the program will now help conserve 500,000 acres and draw more than \$350 million in matching funds in a five-year period.

The report lists all of the projects that the CCLI has funded, organized by each California region. Land trusts and larger land conservation organizations have received most of the transaction grants. The report also features the following case studies: the Elkhorn Slough restoration project, Coast Dairies acquisition, Cosumnes River Preserve, Great Valley Center's Agricultural Transaction Program, Blue Ridge/Berryessa Natural Area, the Battle Creek restoration project, and Placer Legacy. The report is available on the foundation's website. Contact: 650-948-7658 or www.packfound.org.

New State Funding Programs Created

In the 2000-01 state budget, a new Land Conservation Matching Grants Program was established. Administered by the Wildlife Conservation Board, the two-year program has \$54 million for acquisition and restoration of habitat and open-space lands. Under the program, grants are made to public agencies and private entities. A one-to-one non-state source match is required, and priority will be given to private matching contributions. All restoration projects funded by the program require a 25-year commitment by the project proponent to manage and maintain the property. For more information contact WCB at 916-445-8448 or www.dfg.ca.gov/wcb.

At the close of the last legislative session, Governor Davis signed SB 1832, which created the California Forest Legacy Program. Forest Legacy is a national program that provides funding to public agencies or nonprofits to purchase conservation easements from willing sellers on forested lands. With the passage of this bill, California becomes eligible for its share of federal Forest Legacy appropriations. The governor also signed AB 2478, which made changes to the California Forest Improvement Program; this program provides grants to landowners for a variety of conservation projects, including management and restoration plans. The California Department of Forestry administers the Forest Legacy Program. For more information contact 916-653-8286.

New Publications

California Farmers and Conservation Easements: Motivations, Experiences and Perceptions in Three Counties, by the UC Agricultural Issues Center. This publication is the result of intensive interviews with 46 farmland owners in three Northern California counties – Marin, Sonoma, and Yolo. It documents the views and experiences of 37 landowners who sold conservation easements, and nine others who had purchased land with easements already in place. The interviewers found that the landowners were motivated by cash, family concerns, and personal beliefs about land preserva-

tion. Copies are \$10 each, or the report can be downloaded from the UC Agricultural Issues Center website. Contact: 530-752-2320 or aic.ucdavis.edu/oa/new.html.

California Wetlands: A Briefing, by the Water Education Foundation. This is one of many publications by the foundation on California's water resources. The briefing paper defines wetlands and provides information on today's effort to preserve and restore wetland areas. The publication discusses the benefits and values of wetlands, explores cooperative partnerships dedicated to wetland restoration, and profiles six specific restoration projects. Copies are \$6 each. Contact: 916-444-6240 or www.water-ed.org.

Protecting Local Wetlands: A Toolbox for Your Community, by Save the Bay: The 142-page publication covers the importance of wetland protection, federal and California state wetland regulations, the Clean Water Act, local wetland regulations, non-regulatory wetland protection measures (including acquisition and restoration programs), and contains sample ordinances and contact information. Available free of charge. Contact: 510-452-9261 or www.savesfbay.org.

Purchase of Development Rights: Conserving Land, Preserving Western Livelihoods, by the Trust for Public Land, the Western Governors' Association, and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. The report describes existing PDR programs in the West, outlines how states and communities can create new programs, and provides references to public and nonprofit sources of information on PDRs. Available on TPL's website. Contact: 800-714-LAND or www.tpl.org.

Land Trust Project News

Anderson Valley Land Trust

The Anderson Valley Land Trust in Mendocino County acquired five easements in 2000 and expects to acquire three more in early 2001. The easements protect about 2,500 acres of prime agricultural lands, forest, riparian resources, and wildlands. Several of the easements protect lands located on key tributaries of the Navarro River: a 160-acre property upstream of Henty Woods State Park and adjacent to another land-trust easement, and an 87-acre agricultural property, which serves as a buffer to the expansion of Boonville and will be used as a demonstration, research, and education center for sustainable agriculture.

Big Sur Land Trust

The Big Sur Land Trust acquired the spectacular 1,000-acre Glen Devon Ranch through a generous bequest. The ranch is located between Garrapata and Palo Colorado Canyons on the Big Sur Coast. Seeley and Virginia Mudd, who had been long-time donors to the land trust, also provided an operating endowment for the land. The land trust is now working to create a permanent preserve on the property.

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In another transaction, the Big Sur Land Trust purchased 51 acres of Monterey Bay dunes and shoreline in December. A loan from The David and Lucile Packard Foundation enabled the trust to acquire the land. Known as Granite Rock Dunes, the land is adjacent to a 10-acre regional park, and has 80-foot dunes and relatively undisturbed wildlife habitat. The property was slated for development under the City of Marina's coastal plan.

Fallbrook Land Conservancy

The Fallbrook Land Conservancy in San Diego County received a 225-acre donation from Pala Mesa Mitigation, LLC. The land will be used as a mitigation bank for developers and public works projects. Called the Heights of Pala Mesa, the land is part of scenic Monserate Mountain, a coastal sage, chaparral, and native grasslands landscape that rises to 1,560 feet. This is the first mitigation bank in the unincorporated area of northern San Diego County. The conservancy granted a conservation easement on the new preserve to the County of San Diego, and will eventually provide hiking and riding trails for the public. The conservancy also recently received a 40-acre donation of coastal sage and chaparral land adjacent to Metropolitan Water District holdings.

Land Trust of Napa County

With a \$2.2 million loan from The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Land Trust of Napa County purchased a key 525-acre property that provides public access to Robert Louis Stevenson State Park via the Oat Hill Mine Road. Only one private parcel now remains to connect the state park with the city of Calistoga. The trust purchased the land just as the owner, a long-time owner and developer, was about to sell to another developer who intended to build four estate homes on the property; the trust had been attempting to acquire the land since 1989.

The land trust transferred the property to the California Department of Parks and Recreation as an addition to the state park. Proposition 12 funds enabled the state to acquire the land. With this addition, Robert Louis Stevenson State Park now encompasses over 5,000 acres, and is one of the largest state parks in the North Bay.

Mendocino Land Trust/Trust for Public Land

In December the Trust for Public Land and the Mendocino Land Trust jointly protected the historic 71-acre Caspar Headlands property along the Mendocino Coast. TPL purchased the \$3.5 million property and conveyed it to the Mendocino Land Trust. The land trust will provide interim stewardship until the California Department of Parks and Recreation is prepared to take ownership. The Mendocino Land Trust and Caspar Community (the local nonprofit) helped secure

funding from the Coastal Conservancy (\$1.5 million), state Proposition 12 (\$500,000), and the California Transportation Commission (Transportation Enhancement Act grant; \$1.5 million). The land includes one-half mile of ocean frontage, over one mile of Caspar Creek, and one of the few native coho salmon fisheries remaining in California. The property will increase public access to the coast and protect a valuable viewshed from the adjoining Caspar Beach and Highway One. The Mendocino Land Trust acquired Caspar Beach and the southern portion of Caspar Creek in 1999.

Mendocino Land Trust/Westport Village Society

After ten years of efforts, last year the Mendocino Land Trust collaborated with the Westport Village Society to permanently protect the eight-acre Westport Headlands property. The Coastal Conservancy provided a \$727,000 grant for the acquisition. This prominent headland in the heart of Westport, which has long been used by the public for picnicking, fishing, and scenic enjoyment, was slated for a six-lot development. The Westport Village Society will own and manage the property.

Monterey County Agricultural and Historical Land Conservancy

The Monterey County Agricultural and Historical Land Conservancy purchased easements on three agricultural properties near King City and Gonzales in October. The three properties total 955 acres. The 700-acre property near King City is at the edge of the city and had been designated for potential commercial and residential development. The easement not only protects prime agricultural land used for row-crop farming, but reduces development pressures on nearby properties.

The two properties near Gonzales are also in the city's sphere of influence, and their protection could help direct development away from lands with high quality soils. The easement purchases were funded by the California Farmland Conservancy Program (\$1.675 million), The David and Lucile Packard Foundation (\$1.83 million), and Proposition 70 funds (\$462,500).

Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

In December the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy preserved Besant Meadow after a nine-month fundraising campaign. The 25-acre meadow is an addition to the 33-acre Ojai Meadows Preserve. The conservancy had launched a \$660,000 fundraising campaign to purchase the land, and a \$250,000 challenge grant provided a key boost to the fundraising effort. Besant Meadow consists of oak woodlands, grasslands, and wetlands, and is one of the last remaining grasslands on the east side of the Ventura River with extensive views of the surrounding Los Padres National Forest. Students use the preserve as an outdoor classroom for science, art, and writing. The conservancy will

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restore and expand the wetland, and plant oaks and native grasses.

The conservancy, in partnership with the City of Ojai, also recently purchased a former gas station to be developed as a community park. The conservancy raised \$290,000 to buy the land and will raise \$400,000 to build the park, which the city will own and manage. These recent projects have helped almost triple the land trust's membership. In two years, the conservancy increased its membership from 350 to more than 1,000. The land trust has protected over 330 acres through fee or easement acquisitions.

Pacific Forest Trust

The Pacific Forest Trust completed its first United States project under its new carbon credit program. Green Mountain Energy purchased forest carbon credits from the trust to offset about half of the company's annual corporate emissions of carbon dioxide (2,500 tons). Under the carbon credit program, companies can offset their carbon dioxide emissions by helping to pay for the conservation and stewardship of forests, and thus compensate landowners for their investment in maintaining and growing older forests. PFT owns carbon rights secured by a number of its conservation easements that landowners have sold or donated to the trust. For more information, contact Pacific Forest Trust at 707-578-9950.

The Pacific Forest Trust also recently completed three major conservation easement projects in Northern California: 2,000 acres in Humboldt County; 90 acres in Comptche, Mendocino County; and 330 acres along the Garcia River in Mendocino County.

The Humboldt County property is part of the Mad River drainage; the easement will guide restoration of the forest and maintenance of future forest conditions. The trust worked with the Comptche Land Conservancy to place an easement over a 90-acre property owned by the Mendocino Redwood Company. Because this forest is in the heart of Comptche, commercial timber harvest and development are not allowed under the terms of the easement. The 330-acre easement in Mendocino County protects an organic farm and retreat center; the terms of the easement conform to the standards of forest management set by the Forest Stewardship Council.

Peninsula Open Space Trust

POST announced in January that it purchased 215 acres of prime farmland and rolling hills near Half Moon Bay for \$3.05 million. This acquisition completed the preservation of the historic Johnston Ranch. By protecting this land, POST created a boundary on further development south of Half Moon Bay. A portion of the ranch is leased for row-crop production, and a small herd of longhorn cattle graze the upland areas. POST will eventually transfer the property to public agencies, as well as private landowners, subject to conservation easements. Since 1977 POST has protected 40,000 acres in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

Riverside Land Conservancy

Last year the Riverside Land Conservancy acquired two critical parcels to protect Joshua tree and desert tortoise habitat in Riverside County. Through its Revolving Land Fund Program, the conservancy purchases tax delinquent lands and sells them to land protection agencies. Last year's purchases protected 220 acres in the Chuckwalla Bench Area of Critical Concern, and 10 acres in the Pinto Basin of Joshua Tree National Park.

Other properties acquired through tax-sale purchases by the conservancy include big horn sheep habitat in the Orocopia Wilderness, desert tortoise habitat in the Chuckwalla Bench and Mecca Hills area, and endangered species habitat and cultural sites near Lake Elsinore.

Save Mt. Diablo

Save Mt. Diablo and the East Bay Regional Park District partnered over the past three years to successfully raise funds for the three-phase acquisition of 1,030-acre Clayton Ranch. In the fall, the land trust and the district raised \$703,000 to purchase the final 331 acres of the ranch. They completed the first two phases of the project in 1998 and 1999 and secured \$2.1 million in total funding from public and private sources on the state, regional, and local level. This property extends the open-space corridor between Mt. Diablo State Park and Black Diamond Mines.

South Livermore Valley Agricultural Land Trust

In November the land trust acquired a 185-acre agricultural easement on Smith Ranch, just south of Livermore. The parcel is within an important viewshed, contains two trail corridor links, and is habitat for the red-legged frog and California tiger salamander. This easement was considered mitigation for the Smith Ranch development. The South Livermore plan requires that an acre be preserved through permanent easements for each housing unit developed. The trust has acquired easements over 2,337 acres.

Trust for Public Land/Tuolumne County Land Trust

The Trust for Public Land, working with the Tuolumne County Land Trust, acquired 74 acres on Table Mountain and conveyed the land to the Bureau of Land Management in November. This purchase was the second phase of the project; last spring TPL transferred 252 acres on Table Mountain to BLM. The property is located at Yosemite Junction in Tuolumne County and has been added to BLM's Red Hill's Area of Critical Concern. The property provides critical habitat to an estimated 17 state- and/or federally listed threatened and special-status wildlife species, and contains Andrew Creek. The Wildlife Conservation Board, Tuolumne County Land Trust, and The David and Lucile Packard Foundation provided acquisition funding.

- By Elizabeth Byers

Governor Davis Releases 2001-02 State Budget

Governor Davis submitted a record \$104.7 billion spending plan to the legislature in January that includes approximately \$5.5 billion for natural resources and \$1.6 billion for environmental protection. Highlights include:

- \$70 million for river parkways;
- \$101.5 million for CALFED ecosystem restoration programs;
- \$95 million from Proposition 13 for the River Protection Program;
- \$50 million from Proposition 12 for habitat and wetlands restoration, public access and trails, and the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park;
- \$6 million for the Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program; and
- \$269.8 million to the Department of Parks and Recreation for local assistance.

TPL is looking forward to working with the governor this year to craft a budget that contains adequate spending to address California's land conservation needs. A copy of the governor's budget, as well as a summary and highlights, can be accessed on the Department of Finance website at www.dof.ca.gov.

New Faces for 2001 Legislature and Key Committees

California recently elected 32 new state assemblymembers to serve in the 2001-02 legislature. In addition, ten assemblymembers from the previous session were voted into the legislature as state senators in November 2000.

Senate President pro Tempore John Burton (D-San Francisco)

and Assembly Speaker Bob Hertzberg (D-Sherman Oaks) have selected newly elected legislators to head committees that are key to land conservation issues: Senator Sheila James Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) is chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee and Assemblymember Fran Pavley (D-Santa Monica) is chair of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #3 on Resources. Other key committee assignments include Assemblymember Howard Wayne (D-San Diego) as chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee and Senator Deirdre Alpert (D-Coronado) and Assemblymember Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) as chairs of their respective appropriations committees.

California's state senate is now comprised of 25 Democrats and 14 Republicans, and the state assembly is comprised of 50 Democrats and 29 Republicans. Both houses have one vacant seat.

Big Bills for Land Conservation in 2001

As of late February, the state senate and assembly had introduced several key pieces of legislation relating to land conservation, including bills regarding the newly created Baldwin Hills Conservancy, brownfields loans, CALFED funds, and natural community conservation planning. Other key legislation includes:

AB 104 (Nation): Authorizes the state Coastal Conservancy to establish the Motor Vehicle Mitigation Subaccount under the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program for purposes of funding open-space and watershed protection projects within the nine-county Bay Area region.

AB 242 (Thomson): Establishes the Oak Woodland Conservation Act to provide funding for the conservation and protection of California's oak woodlands. The bill would allocate \$5 million from Proposition 12 for these purposes.

SB 196 (Chesbro): Enacts the Safe Parks, Coastal Protection, and Historic Preservation Bond Act of

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For Legislative Information:

TPL produces an annual legislative handbook that contains full state legislative rosters, complete committee assignments, a legislative calendar, charts on the state budget and legislative process, and key legislative information sites on the Internet. If you would like to order a copy of the 2001 handbook, please call TPL's Sacramento office at 916-557-1673.

For information on this year's important land conservation legislation, visit TPL's website at www.tpl.org (please note the new URL for access to this page). Click on Local Programs, California Programs, California Land Trusts, and California Land Trust Legislation.

Dear Readers:

I am writing to introduce myself as the new Land Trust Program Director of The Trust for Public Land's Western Region. I joined the TPL staff in January—just in time to attend TPL's Winter Land Trust Council Meeting in Sacramento, giving me the opportunity to meet many of you in California's land trust community. It was a great welcome and an exciting view of all the important land conservation work that is happening statewide.

I come to TPL having recently completed graduate work at the Conway School of Landscape Design, located in western Massachusetts. Prior to my graduate studies, I worked with the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST). I was fortunate to work with POST during its very successful *Completing the Vision Campaign*, in which the organization raised \$33 million to protect 12,000 acres of San Francisco Peninsula land. Working on this campaign was an incredible experience and its success is a testament to what's possible when people work together, think big, and are dedicated to their community and natural landscapes.

I am delighted to have this opportunity to work with TPL and with all of you in California's land trust community. Please feel free to contact me at 415-495-5660 or janet.curtis@tpl.org if you think that TPL's Land Trust Program can be of service to your land trust...or just to say *HI* and introduce yourself and your land trust!

I look forward to working with you and wish you all the best with your continued good work.

Janet Curtis
Land Trust Program Director

Grant Deadline, March 8, Federal Farmland Program, administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This year \$30 million in matching grants is available nationwide for the purchase of conservation easements on agricultural lands (\$10 million of this amount is available to nonprofits). Contact: 530-792-5600 or www.nrcs.usda.gov/fpcp/fpp.

Conference, March 9, 2001: *A Bay Area Open Space Odyssey*, the Bay Area Open Space Council's fourth annual conference. Presentations on last year's Bay Area open-space protection accomplishments, Bay Area voter polling, the media, the economic impact of parks, and new state legislative initiatives. Held at the Presidio in San Francisco. Contact: 510-849-0464 or spare@norcov.com

Conference, March 12-15, *Riparian Habitat and Floodplains Conference*, sponsored by the California Riparian Habitat Joint Venture. The conference offers plenary sessions, technical sessions, panel discussions, workshops, and field trips. Major themes include the practice of conservation and restoration, research and technology in riparian and floodplain restoration, and legislative policy and programs. Held in Sacramento. Contact: www.tws-west.org/riparian.

Conference, March 14-17, *Creating Community in the 21st Century*, sponsored by the California Park and Recreation Society. Over 90 educational sessions. Held in Sacramento. Contact: 916-665-2777 or www.crps.org/conference.

Grant Deadline, March 16, Pacific Grassroots Salmon Initiative, sponsored by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Bureau of Reclamation, and National Marine Fisheries Service. Eligible activities include salmonid habitat protection and restoration projects, and efforts to encourage and assist communities in key salmonid watersheds to engage in watershed planning, management, and public outreach. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$100,000 and must be matched by non-federal funds. Contact: 415-778-0999 or www.nfwf.org/pgsi_rfp.htm.

Grant Deadline, March 20, Urban Streams Restoration Program, administered by the Department of Water Resources. Grants for local projects that reduce damages from flooding and erosion on urban streams while restoring natural habitat values. Public agencies, local community conservation corps, and nonprofits are eligible applicants. This year \$2 million is available statewide. Contact: 916-347-1664 or www.dpla.water.ca.gov/environment/habitat/stream/ustrp.html.

Conference, March 29, *Watersheds Conference 2001: The Challenge of Collaborative Management*. The third annual statewide conference highlights, compares, and evaluates efforts statewide to manage watersheds using collaborative stakeholder processes. Contact: 530-757-8878 or www.unex.ucdavis.edu/landuse/watershed.html.

Grant Deadline, April 1 (tentative), for Statewide Transportation Enhancement grants, administered by Caltrans. This year \$27 million is available (from federal TEA-21 funds). Included among the 12 eligible project categories is acquisition of scenic easements, or scenic or historic sites. Requests must be at least \$100,000 and require a 12 percent match. Applicants must partner with a state agency. Contact: Your Caltrans District Local Assistance Office or www.dot.ca.gov/hq/TransEnhAct.

Grant Deadline, April 6, Bay Trail Extension Grant Program, sponsored by the Association for Bay Area Governments. Funds available to construct trail segments or to undertake technical feasibility or planning studies. Local governments, special districts, and qualified nonprofits are eligible. Contact: 510-464-7909 or www.abag.ca.gov/bayarea/baytrail/grant_funds.html.

California Trail Days, April 21-22, sponsored by the California Trails Foundation and California Trails & Greenways Foundation. The 16th annual trail days celebrates trails and greenways and provides trail organizations and parks agencies the opportunity to promote trail development, build new trails, and improve existing trails. Contact: 1-800-757-9457 or www.best.com/~caltrail/.

March for Parks, April 21, sponsored by the National Parks and Conservation Association. This is the 12th annual march, the nation's largest walking event that benefits parks and public lands. Contact: 800-628-7275, ext. 370 or www.npca.org/take_action.march_for_parks.html.

Earth Day, April 21, California State Parks Foundation Restoration and Cleanup Day. Volunteers needed to help plant trees, restore trails, clean up beaches and parks, and develop recycling and composting programs. Contact: 888-987-2757 or www.calparks.org/earthday/index.htm.

Grant Deadline, May 1, Land and Water Conservation Fund, administered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation. This year \$7.7 million is available statewide for acquiring and developing outdoor recreational areas and facilities. Cities, counties, and districts are eligible applicants. Contact: 916-653-7423 or www.parks.ca.gov/grants/lwcf/lwcf.htm.

Conference, May 3-5, *Pacific Land Trust Conference*, organized by the Land Trust Alliance and cosponsored by the Trust for Public Land and Coastal Conservancy. Designed for land trust board members, staff, volunteers, and natural resource agency staff. Held in Long Beach. Contact: 970-245-5811 or www.lta.org.

Conference, May 9-10, *Our Place in the World 4: People, Place, and Prosperity*, sponsored by the Great Valley Center. The conference will cover economic development, children's health, demographics, land use, and other topics related to the Central Valley.

Calendar

Held in Sacramento. Contact: 209-522-5103 or www.greatvalley.org/programs/conference/confhome.htm.

Conference, May 19-20, Planning & Conservation League Annual Symposium. The conference will cover water supply and demand in Southern California, energy, growth and sprawl, transportation, coastal water quality, environmental issues along the California/Mexico border, and how to access funds from Propositions 12 and 13. Held at the University of San Diego. Contact: 916-444-8726 or www.pcl.org.

Registration Opens, May, Land Trust Alliance National Rally. This year's rally will be held September 29-October 2 in Baltimore, Maryland. The rally is the only national conference devoted to the work of land trusts. Over 100 workshops are offered on land transactions, conservation easements, stewardship, fundraising, organizational development, legal issues, community outreach, and federal policies. Contact: 202-638-4725 or www.lta.org.

Grant Deadline, June 1, for National Fish and Wildlife Foundation challenge grants. Grants are available for conservation projects, particularly those that focus on habitat protection and restoration on private lands, sustainable communities, or conservation education. Grants range from \$25,000 to \$75,000 and must be matched with nonfederal funds. Public agencies, educational institutions, and nonprofits are eligible. Contact: 415-778-0999 or www.nfwf.org.

Grant Deadline, June 1, for the Kodak American Greenways Awards Program, sponsored by The Conservation Fund and Eastman Kodak Company. Grants of \$500 to \$2,500 for seed money to stimulate greenway planning and design. Community-based organizations and nonprofits are eligible. Contact: 703-525-6300 or www.conservationfund.org.

National Trails Day, June 2. Trails organizations promote a national network of trails. Sponsored by the American Hiking Society. Contact: 301-656-6704 or www.americanhiking.org.

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2002, placing a \$2.275 billion park bond act on the March 2002 ballot.

SB 198 (Chesbro): Extends the property tax exemption to 2012 on lands used exclusively for open-space protection and natural resource preservation. The current exemption statute expires next year.

Key legislation has also been introduced regarding permanent funding sources for land and water conservation, river parkways, establishing a state conservancy for the Sierra Nevada, and creating an urban park program.

TPL Honors Governor and Legislator

At its annual Winter Land Trust Council Meeting, TPL honored Governor Davis with its 2000 Conservation Funding Achievement Award.

The governor received the award for his leadership in creating new public funding for safe parks, open space, wildlife habitat, recreation, and water quality. Governor Davis was a critical proponent of Propositions 12 and 13, which generated \$4 billion for land conservation, park improvements, and water quality.

Also at the land trust meeting, State Senator Jack O'Connell (D-San Luis Obispo) received TPL's 2000 Legislator of the Year Award for his authorship of the Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act. The governor signed the act into law last year. The new law grants a state income tax credit of up to 55 percent for donating land to public agencies or nonprofits.

-By Chuck Mills



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