



## Board Meeting Agenda with Actions

March 7, 2024 – Sacramento, CA

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### **Board Meeting**

*California Natural Resources Agency – Auditorium – 715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814*

#### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

#### **2. Oath of Office for New Boardmembers**

#### **3. Roll Call**

Present:

- Terry O'Brien
- Heather Bernikoff
- John Brissenden
- Elizabeth Cavasso
- Lisa Lien-Mager
- Jack Garamendi
- Cindy Gustafson
- Michele Perrault
- Victoria Rome
- Dennis Townsend
- Ed Valenzuela

Absent:

- Jeff Griffiths
- Bob Johnston
- Christopher Heppe

Board Liaisons also Present:

- Cicley Muldoon
- Elizabeth Berger

#### **4. Approval of December 8, 2023, Meeting Minutes (ACTION)**

Boardmember Heather Bernikoff moved and Boardmember Cindy Gustafson seconded a motion to approve the December 8, 2023, Meeting Minutes.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye –11, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

#### **5. Board Chair’s Report (ACTION)**

Boardmember Elizabeth Cavasso moved and Boardmember John Brissenden seconded a motion to adopt SNC Resolution Number 03-24-01: Honoring Senator John Laird, Senator Brian Dahle, Jim Branham, Angela Avery, and regional champions for their efforts in the creation and ongoing support of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC).

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 11, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The resolution was adopted.

#### **6. Executive Officer’s Report (INFORMATIONAL)**

- a. Executive Officer Update
- b. Administrative Update
  - Attachment A: Annual Budget Report
- c. Policy & Outreach Update

#### **7. Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP) Update (INFORMATIONAL)**

#### **8. Strategic Plan Update (INFORMATIONAL)**

Attachment A: Draft 2024-2029 Strategic Plan

The Board Meeting adjourned for recess at 12:00 p.m.

Jeff Griffiths arrived at 12:53 p.m.

The Board Meeting reconvened at 12:56 p.m.

## 9. Consent Agenda

### **Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program Award Recommendations**

a. #1645

North Vegetation Assessment, Data Development and Project NEPA in Siskiyou, Shasta, Modoc, Lassen, and Tehama counties in the amount of \$3,580,500 to the Fall River Resource Conservation District with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

b. #1646

Forest Projects Plan - Phase Two Environmental Planning project in El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, and Alpine counties in the amount of \$723,542 to the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

c. #1669

Ishi Wilderness Fire Restoration Planning project in Tehama County in the amount of \$641,920 to the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

d. #1672

Long Canyon Watershed Protection Project in Placer County in the amount of \$657,500 to the Placer County Water Agency with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

e. #1678

Boca/Hobart Forest Health and Meadow Habitat Restoration project in Nevada County in the amount of \$168,820 to the Truckee River Watershed Council with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

f. #1679

Bungalow Resilience and Fuels Reduction Planning Project in Fresno County in the amount of \$2,902,715 to the National Forest Foundation with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

g. #1682

Tribal Wildfire Resilience and Land Use Plan project in Tuolumne County in the amount of \$920,000 to the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

h. #1688

Upper Middle Yuba Watershed Forest Restoration NEPA Planning project in Sierra and Nevada counties in the amount of \$386,100 to the Nevada Irrigation District with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

**Action**

Boardmember Heather Bernikoff moved and Boardmember Elizabeth Cavasso seconded a motion to:

- a) Authorize the Executive Officer to file Notices of Exemption for the North Vegetation Assessment, Data Development and Project NEPA (1645); Forest Projects Plan - Phase Two Environmental Planning project (1646); Ishi Wilderness Fire Restoration Planning project (1669); Long Canyon Watershed Protection Project (1672); Boca/Hobart Forest Health and Meadow Habitat Restoration project (1678); Bungalow Resilience and Fuels Reduction Planning Project (1679); Tribal Wildfire Resilience and Land Use Plan project (1682); Upper Middle Yuba Watershed Forest Restoration: NEPA Planning project (1688); and
- b) Authorize a grant award to each of the projects listed above for the amounts recommended by staff; and
- c) Authorize the staff to enter into the agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

**10. Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program Award Recommendations (ACTION)**

a. #1632

Claremont Forest Resiliency Project in Plumas County in the amount of \$1,787,000 to the Mule Deer Foundation with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

**Action**

Boardmember Ed Valenzuela moved and Boardmember Michele Perrault seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Claremont Forest Resiliency Project (1632), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,787,000 to the Mule Deer Foundation, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye –12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

b. #1636

Forest Projects Plan Phase One-B project in Amador County in the amount of \$4,739,056 to the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

**Action**

Boardmember John Brissenden moved and Boardmember Jack Garamendi seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Forest Projects Plan Phase One-B project (1636), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$4,739,056 to the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

c. #1639

Parker Peak Forest Restoration and Resilience Project in Tulare County in the amount of \$1,709,130 to the Tule River Indian Tribe with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

**Action**

Boardmember Dennis Townsend moved and Boardmember Heather Bernikoff seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Parker Peak Forest Restoration and Resilience Project (1639), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,709,130 to the Tule River Indian Tribe, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

d. #1641

Northstar Community Services District Wood Energy Facility project in Placer County in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the Northstar Community Services District and authorize the filing of a CEQA Notice of Determination as a responsible agency.

**Action**

Board Chair Terry O'Brien certified that the Governing Board independently reviewed and concurs with the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Addendum. Boardmember Cindy Gustafson moved and Boardmember Heather Bernikoff seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Determination as a responsible agency for the Northstar Community Services District Wood Energy Facility project (1641), authorize a grant award in the amount

of \$1,000,000 to the Northstar Community Services District, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

e. #1644

Soldier Mountain WUI Project in Shasta County in the amount of \$1,686,100 to the Fall River Resource Conservation District with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

**Action**

Boardmember Ed Valenzuela moved and Boardmember Cindy Gustafson seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Soldier Mountain WUI Project (1644), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$1,686,100 to the Fall River Resource Conservation District, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

f. #1647

Taylorsville Community Defense Zone Implementation project in Plumas County in the amount of \$751,665 to the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

**Action**

Boardmember Elizabeth Cavasso moved and Boardmember Ed Valenzuela seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Taylorsville Community Defense Zone Implementation project (1647), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$751,665 to the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

g. #1654

South Fork Sacramento Fire Resilience project in Siskiyou County in the amount of \$3,628,600 to the United States Forest Service and the Shasta-Trinity National Forest with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

### **Action**

Boardmember Ed Valenzuela moved and Boardmember Jeff Griffiths seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the South Fork Sacramento Fire Resilience project (1654), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$3,628,600 to the United States Forest Service, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

h. #1666

Giant Sequoia National Monument Restoration and Stewardship Phase Two project in Tulare County in the amount of \$2,225,300 to the Save the Redwoods League with a CEQA Notice of Exemption.

### **Action**

Boardmember Dennis Townsend moved and Boardmember Elizabeth Cavasso seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Officer to file a Notice of Exemption for the Giant Sequoia National Monument Restoration and Stewardship Phase Two project (1666), authorize a grant award in the amount of \$2,225,300 to the Save the Redwoods League, and authorize staff to enter into agreements necessary for project implementation.

After a Board vote the results were: Aye – 12, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. The motion passed.

## **11. Boardmembers' Comments**

## **12. Public Comments**

## **13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

## **Additional Board Materials**

- Key Meetings and Presentations
- Letters of Support
- [Sierra Spotlight](#)