

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES**

Sacramento, CA

March 16, 2016

1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

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**ATTENDANCE**

*Association of California Water Agencies*

Director: Tim Quinn – Absent

Alternate: Dave Bolland – Absent

*California Department of Fish and Wildlife*

Director: Sandra Morey – Absent

Alternate: Nancee Murray – Present

*California Farm Bureau Federation*

Director: Karen Mills – Present

Alternate: Noelle Cremers – Absent

*California Forestry Association*

Director: Kirsten Kolpitcke – Present

Alternate: David Bischel – Absent

*California Hydropower Reform Coalition*

Director: Richard Roos-Collins – Absent

Alternate: Pete Bell – Present

*California Public Utilities Commission*

Director: Allison Brown - Present

Alternate: OPEN

*California Public Utilities Commission Appointed Public Members*

Director: Art Baggett Jr. – Present

Director: David Muraki – Present

Director: Chris Nota - Present

*California Natural Resources Agency*

Director: John Laird – Absent

Alternate: Todd Ferrara – Absent

*California Tribal Interests*

Director: Larry Myers – Present

Alternate: Ken Tipon – Absent

*Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board*

Director: Soapy Mulholland – Present  
Alternate: Bob Schneider – Present

*Office of Ratepayer Advocates*

Director: Truman Burns – Present  
Alternate: Cherie Chan – Absent

*Pacific Gas & Electric Company*

Director: Mike Schonherr – Present  
Alternate: OPEN

*Rural County Representatives of California*

Director: Lee Adams – Absent  
Alternate: John Viegas – Absent

*State Water Resources Control Board*

Director: DeeDee D'Adamo – Absent  
Alternate: Jeffrey Parks – Present

*Trust for Public Land*

Director: Dave Sutton – Absent  
Alternate: Jessica Daugherty – Present

*U.S. Forest Service*

Non-Voting Liaison: Jerry Bird - Absent

**STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL STAFF**

Executive Director Allene Zanger  
Director of Finance Scott Broberg  
Director of Land Conservation Ric Notini  
Senior Project Manager Toby Perry  
Senior Project Manager Heidi Krolick  
Senior Project Manager Chantz Joyce  
Land Conservation Program Associate Lauren Faccinto  
Executive Assistant Robin Flynn  
Office Administrator Pam Mayers

**OTHERS**

Members of the public were also present.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS TAKEN BY THE BOARD AT THIS MEETING**

*Consent Calendar Items:*

- The board adopted the minutes of the January 21, 2016 board of directors meeting.

- The board ratified the decision of the Watershed Planning Committee to approve the award of a capacity building grant to the Mother Lode Land Trust in the amount of \$25,000 as part of the Stewardship Council's Enhancement Program; the board shortened the Dispute Notice Period for this Action to 5 business days after the meeting minutes are distributed.
- The board delegated authority to the Watershed Planning Committee to approve additional capacity building grants to MLLT to enhance the land trust's ability to protect the Beneficial Public Values of the Watershed Lands as part of the Stewardship Council's Enhancement Program; the board shortened the Dispute Notice Period for this Action to 5 business days after the meeting minutes are distributed.
- The board approved the following changes to the 2016 board meeting calendar: a change in the location of the April 27 meeting to the Sacramento Public Library and a change in the location of the June 15 board meeting to Anderson; a change in the date of board retreat to the afternoon of June 15.

***Other Items:***

The board approved the following actions:

- The board approved the proposed Land Conservation and Conveyance Plan (LCCP) for the portion of the lands at the North Fork Mokelumne River planning unit that have been recommended for donation to the U.S. Forest Service, which LCCP describes how the proposed transactions conform to and fulfill the requirements of the 2003 Settlement Agreement and Stipulation.
- The board approved the proposed LCCP for a 219 acre portion of the lands at the Eel River planning unit (Lower Trout Creek) that have been recommended for donation to the Potter Valley Tribe, which LCCP describes how the proposed transaction conforms to and fulfills the requirements of the 2003 Settlement Agreement and Stipulation; the board approved the proposed conservation easement funding agreement between the Stewardship Council and the Mendocino Land Trust.
- The board approved the Revised LCCP for a 673-acre portion of the lands at the Eel River planning unit (Trout Creek) that have been recommended for donation to the Potter Valley Tribe, which LCCP describes how the proposed transaction conforms to and fulfills the requirements of the 2003 Settlement Agreement and Stipulation.
- The board awarded a grant in an amount not-to-exceed \$130,000 to the Sierra Foothill Conservancy to implement a riparian vegetation restoration project at the Merced River planning unit.

**ATTENDANCE AND QUORUM**

Stewardship Council board president Art Baggett called the roll, declared a quorum, and called the meeting to order. Mr. Baggett welcomed Allison Brown to the board, noting that she was recently appointed by the California Public Utilities Commission as its primary representative.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES**

Mr. Baggett asked if any board members had a conflict of interest with regard to any of the proposed actions. Mr. Baggett disclosed he had a conflict of interest regarding the action item regarding the Merced River Enhancement Project.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Baggett invited public comment on general matters; hearing none the meeting continued.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The board approved the consent calendar items as noted above in the summary of actions and resolutions taken at board meeting.

## **WATERSHED PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Ms. Mulholland provided an overview of the Watershed Planning Committee's duties and then called on staff to present the action items.

### **North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit (*ACTION*)**

Senior Project Manager Toby Perry reviewed the Watershed Planning Committee's recommendation that the board approve the proposed LCCP for the portion of the lands at the North Fork Mokelumne River planning unit that have been recommended for donation to the U. S. Forest Service. He said that the Sierra Nevada Conservancy would hold the conservation covenant over the donated property. Mr. Perry said that the Stewardship Council received one public comment from the Amador Water Agency regarding whether the donation of the land to the U.S. Forest Service would impact the agency's water rights. He said that PG&E responded to the agency and indicated that this transaction would not affect the water agency's water rights.

After an opportunity for board questions and discussion, the board made the following conflict of interest findings:

- The Board confirmed that in good faith it agrees that the Stewardship Council will take the proposed action for its own benefit; that the proposed action is fair and reasonable to the Stewardship Council; and that, after reasonable investigation, the Stewardship Council could not have obtained a more advantageous arrangement with reasonable effort under the circumstances.

Following the conflict of interest findings, the board approved the action as described above in the summary of actions and resolutions taken at board meeting.

### **Eel River (Lower Trout Creek) Planning Unit (*ACTION*)**

Mr. Perry reviewed the Watershed Planning Committee's recommendation to approve the proposed LCCP for the portion of lands at the Eel River (Lower Trout Creek) planning unit that have been recommended for donation to the Potter Valley Tribe. He said that the Mendocino Land Trust would

hold the conservation easement over the donated property. Mr. Perry said that no public comments were received on the proposed LCCP.

Mr. Baggett invited **Tribal Chairman Salvador Rosales** of the Potter Valley Tribe to address the board. Chairman Rosales thanked the board for recommending the Potter Valley Tribe as the fee holder of the land. He said the Tribe is very excited about the land transfer, has been working with other parties and partners, and will be back to share with the board the plans the Tribe has for the property.

After an opportunity for board questions and discussion, the board approved the actions as described above in the summary of actions and resolutions taken at board meeting.

### **Eel River (Trout Creek) Planning Unit (*ACTION*)**

Mr. Perry reviewed the Watershed Planning Committee's recommendation to approve the proposed revised LCCP for the portion of lands at the Eel River (Trout Creek) planning unit that have been recommended for donation to the Potter Valley Tribe. He said that the Mendocino Land Trust would hold the conservation easement over the donated property. Mr. Perry said that this LCCP was first approved by the board in April 2015, however, because a separate conservation easement was negotiated for the Lower Trout Creek property, the parties to that conservation easement wanted to revise the conservation easement for the Trout Creek property so that both conservation easements would contain similar language. Mr. Perry said that no public comments were received on the proposed revised LCCP when it was made available for public comment.

After an opportunity for board questions and discussion, the board approved the action as described above in the summary of actions and resolutions taken at board meeting.

### **Merced River Enhancement Project (*ACTION*)**

As Mr. Baggett stepped out of the room, Mr. Perry reviewed the recommendation of the Watershed Planning Committee to approve an Enhancement Grant in the amount of \$130,000 to the Sierra Foothill Conservancy for riparian vegetation restoration at the Merced River planning unit. Mr. Perry noted that the project would involve developing a planting plan, removing non-native plants and restoring areas, installing native plantings and protective features, monitoring plantings to assess the project's performance, and maintaining plantings, including irrigation, continued weed removal and additional plantings as necessary.

After an opportunity for board questions and discussion, the board made the following conflict of interest findings:

- The Board confirmed that in good faith it agrees that the Stewardship Council will take the proposed action for its own benefit; that the proposed action is fair and reasonable to the Stewardship Council; and that, after reasonable investigation, the Stewardship Council could not have obtained a more advantageous arrangement with reasonable effort under the circumstances.

Following the conflict of interest findings, the board approved the action as described above in the summary of actions and resolutions taken at board meeting.

## **LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM UPDATE**

After Mr. Baggett returned to the room, Land Conservation Director Ric Notini provided the board with an update on the land conservation program.

## **FIDUCIARY COMMITTEE**

Fiduciary Committee Chair, Truman Burns, provided an overview of the committee's purpose, reviewed the budget vs. actual expenses through January 2016, and then introduced George Berla from Berla Investment to present the board with the status of the Stewardship Council's financial Investments. George Berla, Corey Berla, and Todd Feld, the Relationship Agent from Vanguard, provided an investment update through December 31, 2015

The board was provided an opportunity for questions and discussion.

## **YOUTH INVESTMENT COMMITTEE**

Youth Investment Committee Chair, David Muraki, gave a brief overview of the committee's purpose. He then invited Kim Bailey, Executive Director of Youth Outside (formerly Foundation for Youth Investment) to address the board. Ms. Bailey provided an update on Youth Outside's activities.

The board was provided an opportunity for questions and discussion.

## **FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Baggett invited public comment on general matters but no one requested an opportunity to comment.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Baggett adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:20 p.m.

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Mike Schonherr, Assistant Secretary \_\_\_\_\_w\_\_\_\_\_