



**NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK &  
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

Karen Bower Turjanis  
*Director, Ward One*

Tony Norris  
*Director, Ward Two*

Brent Randol  
*Director, Ward Three*

Nancy Lewis-Helotes  
*Director, Ward Four*

Barry Christian  
*Director, Ward Five*

**AGENDA**  
*for the*  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING**  
*of*  
Monday, September 12, 2022 *at* 2:00 P.M.

Napa County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1195 Third Street, 3rd floor, Napa, Calif.

Please note: this is an in-person meeting, subject to Covid-related regulations.  
You may also attend and provide comments via Zoom Conference Call.

Instructions for Joining Zoom Meeting

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86234321832?pwd=SnhadmRaNW9RNWp3YmtqWnFLVWR4QT09>

Dial by your location  
+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)  
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

**Meeting ID: 862 3432 1832**  
**Passcode: 844782**

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kcQireHK3R>

## General Information

Agenda items will generally be considered in the order indicated below, except for Set Matters, which will be considered at the time indicated. Agenda items may from time to time be taken out of order at the discretion of the President.

Requests for disability related modifications or accommodations, aids, or services may be made to the Secretary's office no less than 48 hours prior to the meeting date by contacting 707.299.1377.

Prior to action on any item, the Board President will ask for comments from any member of the audience. After receiving recognition from the President, give your name, address, and your comments or questions. In order that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak, please be brief and limit your comments to the specific subject under discussion. Time limitations shall be at the discretion of the President.

State law requires agency officers (Directors and Officers) to disclose, and then be disqualified from participation in, any proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use, if the officer has received from any participant in the proceeding an amount exceeding \$250 within the prior 12 month period. State law also requires any participant in a proceeding to disclose on the record any such contributions to an agency officer.

All materials relating to an agenda item for an open session of a regular meeting of the Board of Directors which are provided to a majority or all of the members of the Board by Board members, staff or the public within 72 hours of but prior to the meeting will be available for public inspection, on and after at the time of such distribution, in the NCRPOSD Office at 1195 Third Street, Suite 210, Napa, California 94559, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., except for County holidays. Materials distributed to a majority or all of the members of the Board at the meeting will be available for public inspection at the public meeting if prepared by the members of the Board or County staff and after the public meeting if prepared by some other person. Availability of materials related to agenda items for public inspection does not include materials which are exempt from public disclosure under Government Code §§6253.5, 6254, 6254.3, 6254.7, 6254.15, 6254.16, or 6254.22.

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

### 2. Public Comment

*In this time period, anyone may address the Board of Directors regarding any subject over which the Board has jurisdiction but which is not on today's posted agenda. In order to provide all interested parties an opportunity to speak, time limitations shall be at the discretion of the President. As required by Government Code, no action or discussion will be undertaken on any item raised during this Public Comment period.*

### 3. Set Matters

None.

### 4. Administrative Items

- a. Consideration and potential approval of minutes for Board of Directors regular meeting of August 8, 2022.
- b. Presentation on the Napa StoryWalk by the project's originator, Kate Graham.
- c. Presentation on forest management practices for wildfire mitigation by the RCD (Lucas Patzek and Alison Blodorn) and CalFire (Tim Holliday).
- d. Consideration and potential approval of Resolution 22-05, adopting an amended District Conflict of Interest Code.
- e. Consideration and potential approval of revisions to the Purchasing Manual to increase General Manager purchasing authority consistent with AB 2137 (Mayes, 2018) to \$51,000 and adopt certain policies related to Graydon v. Pasadena Redevelopment Agency.

- f. Receipt of report on expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff for August 2022.
- g. Review of the District Projects Status Report.
- h. Receipt of monthly report for Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park, and Robert Louis Stevenson State Park.

5. Announcements by Board and Staff

*In this time period, members of the Board of Directors and staff will announce meetings, events, and other matters of interest. No action will be taken by the Board on any announcements.*

6. Agenda Planning

*In this time period, members of the Board of Directors and staff will discuss matters for possible consideration at future meetings. Other than to determine whether and when such matters should be agendaized, no action will be taken by the Board on these items unless specifically noted otherwise.*

7. Adjournment



**NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK &  
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

Karen Bower Turjanis  
Director, Ward One

Tony Norris  
Director, Ward Two

Brent Randol  
Director, Ward Three

Nancy Lewis-Heliotas  
Director, Ward Four

Barry Christian  
Director, Ward Five

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Monday, August 8, 2022 at 2:00 P.M.

Napa County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1195 Third Street, 3rd floor, Napa, Calif.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

**Directors Present: Karen Bower-Turjanis, Brent Randol, Nancy Heliotas, Barry Christian**

**Directors Absent: Tony Norris**

**Staff Present: Chris Cahill, Ryan Ayers**

2. Public Comment

**None.**

3. Set Matters

**None.**

4. Administrative Items

- a. Consideration and potential approval of minutes for Board of Directors regular meeting of July 11, 2022.

**Minutes for the July 11, 2022 regular meeting were approved as presented.**

**KBT – BC – BR – NH – TN**

**Ab**

- b. Consideration and potential approval of budget adjustments for FY 2021-2022.

**Directors approved budget adjustments for FY 2021-2022 as presented.**

**BR – KBT – NH – BC – TN**

**Ab**

- c. Presentation on the Napa StoryWalk by the project's originator, Kate Graham.

**Item continued until September regular meeting.**

- d. Receipt of report on expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff for July 2022.

**Report received; No action taken.**

- e. Review of the District Projects Status Report.

**Report received; No action taken.**

f. Receipt of monthly report for Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park, and Robert Louis Stevenson State Park.

**Report received; No action taken.**

5. Announcements by Board and Staff

- **Chris Cahill announced that he, Director Randol, and Kyra Purvis visited the White Sulphur Springs property in St Helena that is for sale.**
- **Director Christian announced that he attended the StoryWalk kickoff event at Wetlands Edge Park on 7/29 and that he appreciates the District’s hosting and participating in events in American Canyon.**
- **Director Christian announced that he is representing the District on the technical advisory committee for a Measure AA grant that the City of American Canyon received for their Wetlands Ecology Center project.**
- **Director Christian expressed his appreciation to the District for continuing to coordinate projects with local scouts on their Eagle and Gold Award projects.**
- **Director Christian noted his attendance at the recent Napa Valley State Parks Association event honoring their retired Board Members.**

6. Agenda Planning

- **Director Bower-Turjanis suggested an agenda item to discuss options to formally recognize retired General Manger John Woodbury’s service to the District.**

7. Adjournment

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Helioles, Board President (Acting)

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan Ayers, District Secretary

KEY

Vote: KBT = Karen Bower-Turjanis; TN = Tony Norris; BR = Brent Randol; NH = Nancy Helioles; BC = Barry Christian  
The maker of the motion and second are reflected respectively in the order of the recorded vote.

Notations under vote: N = No; A = Abstain; X = Excused; Ab=Absent



## **STAFF REPORT**

*By:* Kyra Purvis  
*Date:* September 12, 2022  
*Item:* **4.d**  
*Subject:* Consideration and potential approval of Resolution 22-05, adopting an amended District Conflict of Interest Code.

### RECOMMENDATION

1. Open the public hearing.
2. Close the public hearing.
3. Find that the proposed action is not a project pursuant to CEQA.
4. Adopt the proposed resolution updating the District Conflict of Interest Code.

### ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

**Not a project.** The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

### BACKGROUND

As a California public agency, the District is required to adopt a Conflict of Interest Code, and to update that Code every two years. Following a District Board of Directors approval action, the Code is submitted to the relevant "Code Review Body," in our case the County of Napa. Under a quirk of State law, the amended Conflict of Interest Code only becomes operative upon approval by the County Board of Supervisors. The District first adopted its Conflict of Interest Code in 2007 and it has been revised and updated a number of times since then.

All of the substantive changes to the proposed amended code reside in Appendix A, where we have updated the list of District officers, employees, and contractors who are required to file financial statements as otherwise prescribed by State law. The proposed resolution, including the amended code, is attached.

RESOLUTION N<sup>o</sup>. 22-05

NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADOPTING AN AMENDED CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2006 the voters of Napa County established the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District (“DISTRICT”) pursuant to the provisions of Article 3, Chapter 3 of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code (commencing with Section 5500) with responsibility for protecting and stewarding public open space resources and providing outdoor recreational and educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Political Reform Act of 1974 (Government Code Section 81000 et seq., hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) and regulations promulgated thereunder require local government agencies having more than minimal annual revenues to adopt and promulgate conflict of interest codes, and the DISTRICT first did so in 2007; and

WHEREAS, DISTRICT now desires to adopt an Amended Conflict of Interest Code (“Amendment”) that revises and updates the Appendix A list of designated employees, employee positions, contract consultants, and public officials who manage public investments and adoption of such amended code is authorized and being carried out under the provisions of Government Code Sections 87300 through 87302; and

WHEREAS, the DISTRICT Board of Directors held a public hearing on the proposed Amendment at its regular meeting of September 12, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District hereby resolves as follows:

CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE OF THE  
NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

1. Incorporation of Standard Terms. The terms of the model code set forth in Section 18730 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, as such may be amended from time to time by the FPPC, are adopted and incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein. The definitions contained in the Political Reform Act of 1974, regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission (Regulations 18110, et seq.), and any amendments to the Act or regulations, are incorporated by reference into this conflict of interest code.

2. List of Designated Employees. For purposes of the requirements of the Act and the provisions of the model code, the Designated Employees of the District shall be the persons

holding those offices and performing the functions of those positions set forth in Appendix “A”, attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein.

3. List of Disclosure Categories. For purposes of the requirements of the Act and the provisions of the model code, the disclosure categories for the Designated Employees of the District shall be those categories set forth in Appendix “B”, attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein.

4. Documents Comprising Conflict of Interest Code. For purposes of the Act, the provisions of this Resolution, the model code, and Appendices “A” and “B” shall together constitute the Conflict of Interest Code of the District on and after the date of confirmation by the Napa County Board of Supervisors.

5. Effective Date of Code. The effective date of the Conflict of Interest Code shall be the date of confirmation by the Napa County Board of Supervisors acting as code reviewing body for the District.

6. Documents to be filed with the Board of Supervisors. The District Secretary is hereby directed to file three certified copies of the Conflict of Interest Code approved by the District Board with the Napa County Board of Supervisors, the code reviewing body for the District, along with a brief description of the duties and terms of all consultants working for the District who have been determined by the District General Manager as of the effective date of this Conflict of Interest Code to be exempt from the Designated Employee “contract consultant” category for calendar year 2020, and the reasons for such exemption.

7. Time of Filing Statements of Economic Interests. All persons who are required, either by this Conflict of Interest Code or by virtue of their listing in Government Code section 87200 as public officials who manage public investments, to file Statements of Economic Interests (“Statements”) shall file initial Statements with the District Secretary for filing with the code reviewing body within thirty days after the effective date of the Code. When taking office after the time of such listing, such persons shall file assuming office Statements within 10 days after first assuming such positions if they fall under Government Code section 87200 as public officials who manage public investments and within 30 days if considered to be Designated Employees by the District’s Conflict of Interest Code. However, if they are re-elected or re-appointed without a break in service such persons need not file an assuming office Statement at the time of such re-election or re-appointment. Every such person shall thereafter file an annual Statement by April 1 of each year, covering reportable interests for the twelve-month period ending on the preceding December 31. Every such person who leaves office shall file, within 30 days of leaving office, a Statement disclosing reportable interests held or received at any time during the period between the closing date of the last Statement required to be filed and the date of leaving office.

8. Place of Filing. Designated Employees and those public officials of the District who are required to file Statements in consequence of Government Code section 87200 shall file the required Statements with the District Secretary who shall retain copies of the original Statements. For purpose of such filing with the District Secretary, the address of the District Secretary shall be 1195 Third Street, Second Floor, Napa, California 94559.



9. Public Inspection of Conflict of Interest Code and Statements. Commencing on the effective date of the Conflict of Interest Code or any amendment thereof, a copy of the Conflict of Interest Code and such amendments shall be maintained in the office of the District Secretary who shall make such copies and the copies of all Statements on file with the District Secretary available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours. No conditions whatsoever shall be imposed upon persons desiring to inspect the copy of the Conflict of Interest Code and amendments thereof, nor shall any information or identification be required from such persons. Copies shall be provided in accordance with and subject to charges imposed generally by the Public Records Act (Government Code sections 6250 et seq.) and District resolutions pertaining to copying of public records of the District.

10. Annual Review Statement.

(a) No later than October 1 of each even-numbered year, the District shall submit to the Napa County Board of Supervisors, as code reviewing body for the District, a written statement signed by the District General Manager or his/her designee, that either:

(1) The District has reviewed the Conflict of Interest Code, that the Conflict of Interest Code designates accurately all positions which make or participate in the making of governmental decisions for the District, that the disclosure assigned those positions accurately require the disclosure of all investments, business positions, interests in real property, and sources of income which may foreseeably be affected materially by the decisions made by those designated positions, and that the Conflict of Interest Code contains the provisions required by Government Code section 87302; or

(2) The District has reviewed the Conflict of Interest Code and has determined that amendment is necessary to designate all positions which make or participate in the making of governmental decisions for the District, or to update the disclosure categories assigned to require the disclosure of all investments, business positions, interests in real property and sources of income which may be affected materially by the designated positions, or to include other provisions required by Government Code section 87302. If the statement contains this report, the District shall submit the amendment to the Napa County Board of Supervisors within 90 days of the report.

(b) Changed circumstances which require amendment of the Conflict of Interest Code shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) The creation of positions which involve the making or participation in the making of decisions which may foreseeably have a material effect on any financial interest;

(2) The reclassification, renaming, or deletion of previously-designated positions;

(3) The addition, deletion, or modification of statutorily-required provisions of this Conflict of Interest Code; or

(4) The addition, deletion, or modification of the specific types of investments, business positions, interests in real property, and sources of income which are reportable unless such changes have been automatically incorporated into this Conflict of Interest Code as the result of inclusion of the changes into the model code by the Fair Political Practices Commission.

## APPENDIX “A”

### LIST OF DESIGNATED EMPLOYEES

Because of the nature of the powers and duties conferred on the District by the provisions of Chapter 3 of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code, the policies adopted by the Board of Directors of the District, and the terms of support services and consultant agreements approved by the Board of Directors, the following positions within the District may involve the making or participation in the making of decisions of the District which may foreseeably have a material effect on financial interests of the holders of the positions. Most of the positions listed are of long-term duration, although some are limited-term positions, but all are listed because their scope of District or work involves either making final decisions for the District which have financial consequences or developing and/or exercising such a level of expertise and ongoing relationship with those who make such decisions that the decision-makers can reasonably be expected to routinely trust and rely upon their advice.

For purposes of filing Statements of Economic Interests as required by this Conflict of Interest Code, the “Designated Employees” of the District shall be those persons who actually occupy or carry out the functions of the following positions, whether as elected or appointed officers, compensated employees, or contracted consultants or their employees or subcontractors:

#### Designated Employee Positions

##### Members of the Board of Directors

##### General Manager

Assistant General Manager (Park and Open Space Planner, as appointed by the General Manager)

Park Manager (Napa County Park Steward, on contract to the District)

##### Community Relations Specialist

District Legal Counsel (Napa County Counsel, serving ex-officio, including any deputy county counsel when assigned to advise and/or represent the District)

District Auditor (Napa County Auditor, serving ex-officio)

**Contract Consultants for the District.** Contract consultants shall be included in the list of Designated Employees and shall disclose their material financial interests in regard to all of the adopted disclosure categories, subject to the following limitation:

The General Manager may determine in writing that a particular contract consultant, although a “designated position”, is hired to perform a range of duties that is limited in

scope and thus is not required to comply or fully comply with all of the disclosure requirements described in Appendix “B”. This written determination shall include a description of the contract consultant’s duties and, based upon that description, a statement of the extent of disclosure requirements. This determination is a public record and shall be retained for public inspection and be available for inspection and copying in the same location and manner as the District’s copy of the Conflict of Interest Code.

As of the date of Board of Directors approval of this Code no contract consultants for the District are included in the list of Designated Employees.

#### **PUBLIC OFFICIALS OF THE DISTRICT WHO MANAGE PUBLIC INVESTMENTS**

It has been determined that the District Treasurer (the Napa County Treasurer-Tax Collector serving ex-officio) manages public investments and therefore is required by statute to file a Statement of Economic Interests pursuant to Government Code section 87200.

APPENDIX "B"

DISCLOSURE CATEGORIES

Rationale. The decisions which the Designated Employees may make or participate in making for the District may involve exercising or directly influencing the exercise of any of the powers conferred on the District by Division 5 of the Public Resources Code, including the expenditure of funds for public recreation purposes.

Except where otherwise determined for specified contract consultants pursuant to Appendix "A", the decisions by the Designated Employees in the routine course of their work for the District may have the potential to impact at a level commonly recognized as "material" by the Political Reform Act of 1974, as amended, and the regulations adopted by the Fair Political Practices Commission ("FPPC") to implement that Act, any or all of those types of financial interests listed in all of the Disclosure Schedules of the Statement of Economic Interests Form approved by the FPPC.

For this reason, all of the Designated Employees under this Conflict of Interest Code, other than specified contract consultants whose disclosure responsibilities or exemption therefrom are determined in writing on a case-by-case basis as described in Exhibit "A", shall comply with the broadest possible Disclosure Category applicable under the then-current Statement Form and Schedules, disclosing all sources of income, interests in real property, and investments and business positions in business entities.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District at a regular meeting of said Board on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022 by the following vote:

AYES: \_\_\_ DIRECTORS \_\_\_\_\_

NOES: \_\_\_ DIRECTORS \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_ DIRECTORS \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tony Norris, President

APPROVED BY THE NAPA COUNTY  
REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE  
DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Date: September 12, 2022  
Processed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
District Secretary



## **STAFF REPORT**

By: Chris Cahill  
Date: September 12, 2022  
Item: **4.e**  
Subject: Consideration and potential approval of revisions to the Purchasing Manual to increase General Manager purchasing authority consistent with AB 2137 (Mayes, 2018) to \$51,000 and adopt certain policies related to Graydon v. Pasadena Redevelopment Agency (1980) 104 Cal.App. 631, 164 Cal.Rptr. 56.

### RECOMMENDATION

Amend the District Purchasing Manual as proposed.

### ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

**Not a project.** The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

### BACKGROUND

In September 2018 then-Governor Brown signed Assembly Bill 2137 (Mayes) into law, revising and expanding the Public Resources Code purchasing authorization for Park and Open Space Districts like ours. It was one in a series of iterative changes to that section of law, which increased GM purchasing authority from \$10,000 (in some cases), to \$25,000 in all cases, to \$50,000 for some Park Districts, and finally to \$50,000 with a built-in 2% per annum COLA for all Park Districts. In 2021 the Board revised our By-Laws and Purchasing Manual to increase General Manager purchasing authority to \$50,000. Today's item would enact the allowed annual 2% increase to raise the purchasing limit to \$51,000.

Because Public Resources Code Sec 5549 includes the magic language, "the General Manager may bind the district... without advertising" the proposed changes would at the same time increase the limit for projects that do not require formal public bid under State contracting law up to \$51,000, streamlining our ability to do construction projects in an efficient and cost effective manner.

In addition, we are recommending the addition of language that recognizes the Graydon v. Pasadena Redevelopment Agency exception to competitive bidding requirements where, "competitive proposals work an incongruity and are unavailing as affecting the final result, or where competitive proposals do not produce any advantage, or where it is practically impossible to obtain what is required and to observe such form." By way of example, competitive bidding might be waived under Graydon v. Pasadena Redevelopment Agency for a project in which a nonprofit partner organization, such as Redwood Trails Alliance, designed, repaired, or constructed a trail on behalf of the District in a way that clearly advantaged the District or the public good. Examples of that kind of advantageous partnership might include incorporating into the project

scope: volunteer labor, the labor of District staff, training of District staff or volunteers, a not de minimis discount on the market cost of labor or equipment, and/or specialized skills or techniques not readily or cost effectively available on the private market.

We recommend the following textual changes to the District Purchasing Manual. In the following sections revisions are underlined and deletions are ~~struck through~~.

## Purchasing and Procurement Manual

2-1 (d) **When Informal Quotations, RFPs or Competitive Bidding are Not Required.** Neither informal quotations, RFPs nor competitive bidding are required for the following purchases of goods or services:

- Purchase of goods or services through contracting with the County of Napa, as authorized by Public Resources Code 5538.4, except that the General Manager may seek informal quotations, or competitive bids if such would otherwise be required, if the General Manager determines that there is a reasonable argument that the goods and/or services could be obtained at a better value to the District by not contracting with the County, or where formal bidding is required by law or agreements with any state, federal or other public agency; or
- Purchase of goods or services whose price is fixed by law; or
- Purchase of goods or services where the nature of the subject of the work, procurement or contract is such that competitive proposals would be unavailing or would not produce an advantage, and the advertisement for competitive bid or the solicitation of competitive proposals would thus be undesirable, impractical, or impossible. In Graydon v. Pasadena Redevelopment Agency (1980) 104 Cal.App. 631, 164 Cal.Rptr. 56, it was held that where competitive proposals work an incongruity and are unavailing as affecting the final result, or where competitive proposals do not produce any advance, or where it is practically impossible to obtain what is required and to observe such form competitive bidding is not applicable. The District purchasing authority (General Manager or Board of Directors as otherwise applicable) must be able to substantiate claims that competitive bidding would not be advantageous in any such case.

2-1 (e) **When Informal Quotations or RFPs are Required, but not Competitive Bidding.** Except as noted at 2-1(d) or elsewhere in this Section, informal quotations (including RFPs for specialized or professional services) are required (~~except as otherwise provided in this Section 2-1~~), but competitive bidding (with advertised notice and award to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder) is not required for the following purchases of goods or services:

- Purchase of goods or services, whether by the General Manager or by the Board, which are not for: (1) maintenance projects involving contractor services to preserve, maintain, or repair any existing building, structure or improvement; or (2) construction projects for the construction of any new building, structure or improvement (Government Code section 5594);
- Purchase of goods or services by the General Manager where the cost does not exceed \$51,000 for: (1) maintenance projects involving contractor services to preserve, maintain, or repair any existing building, structure or improvement; or (2) construction projects for the construction of any new building, structure or improvement (Government Code section 5594); or
- Purchases of goods or services by the General Manager or Board from or through other public agencies pursuant to joint powers agreements to the extent authorized

by the Joint Exercise of Powers Act (Government Code section 6500 et seq.) or other applicable state laws authorizing public agency pooled purchasing, as such may be adopted from time to time.

2-2 **PROCEDURE FOR PURCHASES BY THE BOARD** (Public Resources Code 5549 and 5594; Government Code sections 53064, 53068). Each of the following is except as noted at 2-1(d).

(a) **When Competitive Bidding Is Not Required for Purchases by the Board.** Although the Board must approve all purchases of goods or services costing over \$51,000, informal quotations (or RFPs) may be used to solicit the offers, and competitive bidding prior to award of such contracts shall not be required unless the goods or services are needed as part of the actual work to be done by licensed contractors on such maintenance or new construction projects.

(b) **When Competitive Bidding is Required for Maintenance Projects.** All contracts for the purchase of goods and/or services for maintenance projects over \$51,000 shall be awarded by the Board to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder after a notice inviting bids has been published in a newspaper in the District at least one week before the time set for receiving bids. After the notice has been given and bids opened, the Board may reject all bids and either re-advertise or, by no less than a five-sevenths vote (4 affirmative votes), may elect to either purchase the materials or supplies in the open market or to complete the project by force account. For purposes of this requirement and as required by Public Resources Code section 5594, a “maintenance project” is a District project involving the provision of contractor (as opposed to professional engineering or architectural) services to preserve, maintain, or repair any existing building, structure, or improvement. For purposes of this subsection, “by force account” includes work performed by District employees and support services contractors paid on a wage or salary (rather than project) basis, by volunteers and paid or unpaid volunteer coordinators, and/or by County of Napa employees performing the functions of District employees under direct supervision and control of District pursuant to support services agreement between the District and the County of Napa.

(c) **When Competitive Bidding is Required for New Construction Projects.** All contracts for the purchases of goods and/or services for new construction projects over \$51,000 shall be awarded by the Board to the lowest responsible bidder after a notice inviting bids has been published in a newspaper in the district at least one week before the time set for receiving bids. After the notice has been given and bids opened, the Board may reject all bids and either re-advertise or, by no less than a five-sevenths vote (four affirmative votes), may elect to either purchase the materials or supplies in the open market or to construct the building, structure or improvement by force account. For purposes of this requirement, Public Resources Code section 5594 defines a “new construction project” as a District project involving contractor (as opposed to professional engineering or architectural) services to construct any new building, structure or improvement. For purposes of this subsection, “by force account” includes work performed by District employees and support services contractors paid on a wage or salary (rather than project) basis, by volunteers and paid or unpaid volunteer coordinators, and/or by County of Napa employees performing the functions of District employees under direct supervision and control of District pursuant to support services agreement between the District and the County of Napa.



## **STAFF REPORT**

**By:** Kyra Purvis  
**Date:** September 12, 2022  
**Item:** 4.f  
**Subject:** Receipt of report on expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff for August 2022

### RECOMMENDATION

Receive the report, no action required.

### BACKGROUND

Section III.A.(7) of the District By-laws authorizes the General Manager to bind the district for supplies, materials, labor, and other valuable consideration, in accordance with board policy and the adopted District budget, up to \$50,000, provided that all such expenditures are subsequently reported to the Board of Directors. Section III.A.(8) of the By-laws authorizes the General Manager to apply for grants and receive donations, subject to reporting such actions to the Board of Directors.

Attached is a report showing all District expenditures for August 2022. Also included with the report is the District credit card statement.

In addition to these expenditures, the General Manager has authorized the following agreements using his signature authority:

**None to report.**

#### Grants and donations:

CA Dept of Parks and Recreation Prop 68 Regional Park Program	\$1.17M
Orinda Hiking Club	\$500
Online donations	\$290
Iron Ranger Donations (August)	\$473



**PARKS & OPEN SPACE DISTRICT -AUGUST 2022 EXPENSE REPORT**

**Gen Admin Dept - 85000-00**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
8/8/2022	Computer Software	Google 7/22	Us Bank National Association	\$ 18.00
8/8/2022	Computer Software	Zoom 7/22	Us Bank National Association	\$ 14.99

**Moore Creek Dept - 85010-00**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
8/2/2022	Printing	Moore Creek Sign	The Copy Corner	\$ 112.06
8/9/2022	Maintenance Suplies	Napa Power Equip vise, oil, chainsaw bar	Napa Power Equipment	\$ 150.77
8/9/2022	Minor Equipment & Small Tools	Saw wrap	Napa Power Equipment	\$ 1,405.06
8/9/2022	Maintenance Suplies	Supplies	Central Valley Builders	\$ 103.42
8/17/2022	Property Tax	Unsecured property taxes 22/23-Busse	Napa County Treasurer	\$ 642.38
8/17/2022	Property Tax	Unsecured property taxes 22/23-Pruett	Napa County Treasurer	\$ 629.77
8/17/2022	Rents & Leases	#PARK 20-03 7/22 Portable toilet	Johnny On The Spot	\$ 202.80
8/18/2022	Maintenance Suplies	Napa Power Equip gas can and VP52	Napa Power Equipment	\$ 226.21
8/18/2022	Other Professional Services	Oakville Pump Parts/Service	Oakville Pump Service	\$ 140.00
8/18/2022	Maintenance Suplies	Oakville Pump Parts/Service	Oakville Pump Service	\$ 56.63
8/24/2022	Maintenance Suplies	Chain loops	Napa Power Equipment	\$ 90.48

**Camp Berryessa - 85010-03**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
8/9/2022	Utilities-Electric	PG&E	Pacific Gas & Electric	\$ 9.86

**NRER Dept - 85010-05**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
8/17/2022	Other Professional Services	#PARK 18-02 7/22 Litter Abatement	Napa Valley Support	\$ 500.00

**State Park - 85010-08**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
8/2/2022	Utilities-Electric	PG&E Electric Charges 7/25/22	Pacific Gas & Electric	\$ 973.13
8/2/2022	Utilities-Electric	PG&E Electric Charges 7/21/22	Pacific Gas & Electric	\$ 360.56
8/2/2022	Other Professional Services	PG&E Electric Charges 7/21/22	Caltest Analytical Labs	\$ 50.00
8/2/2022	Other Professional Services	Caltest Lab Order X070905 7/26/22	Caltest Analytical Labs	\$ 50.00
8/2/2022	Maintenance Supplies	Silverado Ace HW tote & chlorine x12	Silverado Ace Hardware	\$ 120.97
8/2/2022	Maintenance Supplies	Steve's HW batteries, traps & dist water	Steves Hardware	\$ 56.41
8/2/2022	Maintenance Supplies	Silverado Ace chlorine, ant bait, hotshot	Silverado Ace Hardware	\$ 147.32
8/8/2022	Janitorial Supplies	Janitorial Supplies-Webstaurant	Us Bank National Association	\$ 228.34
8/8/2022	Minor Equipment & Small Tools	Bale Mill freezer	Us Bank National Association	\$ 900.92
8/9/2022	Maintenance Supplies	Silverado Ace HW bulbs 8/6/22	Silverado Ace Hardware	\$ 20.01
8/9/2022	Other Professional Services	Bay Alarm Monitoring 8/1/22 - 10/31/22	Bay Alarm Company	\$ 233.16
8/9/2022	Communications	Calnet Internet 6/10/22-7/9/22	At&T	\$ 339.36
8/9/2022	Waste Disposal Services	UV Disposal July 2022	Upper Valley Disposal	\$ 2,181.34
8/9/2022	Other Professional Services	Caltest Lab Order X070907 Bale Grist Mill	Caltest Analytical Labs	\$ 70.00
8/9/2022	Other Professional Services	Caltest Lab Order X070908 7/26/22	Caltest Analytical Labs	\$ 70.00
8/9/2022	Vehicle Repair Supplies	Brown's Auto Parts atv supplies 8/22	Brown's Auto Parts	\$ 65.64
8/9/2022	Maintenance Supplies	Leslie's Pool Supplies chlor 53 gal 8/3/22	Leslie's Swimming Pool	\$ 517.15
8/9/2022	Communications	ATT Calnet Phone 6/2/22-7/27/22	At&T	\$ 23.23
8/9/2022	Maintenance Supplies	CV water main supplies 7/5/22	Central Valley Builders	\$ 282.29
8/9/2022	Maintenance Supplies	CV Order No 11172290 7/6/22	Central Valley Builders	\$ 89.22
8/18/2022	Communications	At&T Calnet 7/13/22-8/12/22 alarm	At&T	\$ 116.75
8/18/2022	Maintenance Supplies	Keith Giusto Bakery 8/16/22 - Bale Grist	Keith Giusto Bakery	\$ 511.03
8/24/2022	Maintenance Supplies	Steve's HW clorox 8/22/22	Steves Hardware	\$ 7.57
8/24/2022	Maintenance Supplies	Steve's HW PVC & misc hardware 8/22/22	Steves Hardware	\$ 41.19
8/24/2022	Maintenance Supplies	Silverado Ace Bleachx8 8/21/22	Silverado Ace Hardware	\$ 66.29
8/24/2022	Maintenance Supplies	Silverado Ace HW pool supplies 8/19/22	Silverado Ace Hardware	\$ 172.42
8/24/2022	Maintenance Supplies	Leslie's Pool supplies 8/17/22	Leslie's Swimming Pool	\$ 756.95
8/24/2022	Communications	At&t Calnet 7/10/22-8/29/22 Internet	At&T	\$ 339.36



P.O. BOX 6343  
FARGO ND 58125-6343



ACCOUNT NUMBER [REDACTED]  
STATEMENT DATE 08-25-2022  
AMOUNT DUE \$2,355.59  
NEW BALANCE \$2,355.59  
PAYMENT DUE ON RECEIPT



NAPA OPEN SPACE DISTRICT  
ATTN CHRISTOPHER CAHILL  
1195 THIRD STREET  
SECOND FLOOR  
NAPA CA 94559-3048

AMOUNT ENCLOSED  
\$

Please make check payable to U.S. Bank\*

U.S. BANK CORPORATE PAYMENT SYSTEMS  
P.O. BOX 790428  
ST. LOUIS, MO 63179-0428



Please tear payment coupon at perforation.

CORPORATE ACCOUNT SUMMARY

NAPA OPEN SPACE DIST [REDACTED]	Previous Balance	Purchases And Other + Charges	Cash Advances +	Cash Advance Fees +	Late Payment Charges +	- Credits	- Payments	= New Balance
Company Total	\$1,162.25	\$1,193.34	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,355.59

NEW ACTIVITY

CHRISTOPHER M CAHILL [REDACTED]	CREDITS	PURCHASES	CASH ADV	TOTAL ACTIVITY
	\$0.00	\$1,193.34	\$0.00	\$1,193.34

Post Date	Tran Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
08-02	08-01	24204292213304336644949	GOOGLE GSUITE NAPAOUTDOO 650-2530000 CA	17.99
08-08	08-06	24492152218740114632238	SQ *CALISTOGA CHAMB CALISTOGA CA	132.00
08-08	08-05	24755422218152188279780	READERS BOOKS SONOMA CA	86.25
08-15	08-12	24431062224083065484920	TARGET.COM * 800-591-3869 MN	60.81
08-15	08-12	24431062225083068004922	TARGET.COM * 800-591-3869 MN	43.08
08-24	08-23	2427530223628600000140	PEARSON'S APPL INC 530-662-3878 CA	838.22
08-25	08-24	24011342236000038726716	ZOOM.US 888-799-9666 WWW.ZOOM.US CA	14.99

Department: 00000 Total: \$1,193.34  
Division: 00000 Total: \$1,193.34

CUSTOMER SERVICE CALL 800-344-5696	ACCOUNT NUMBER [REDACTED]		ACCOUNT SUMMARY	
	STATEMENT DATE 08/25/22	DISPUTED AMOUNT .00	PREVIOUS BALANCE	1,162.25
AMOUNT DUE 2,355.59		PURCHASES & OTHER CHARGES	1,193.34	
		CASH ADVANCES	.00	
SEND BILLING INQUIRIES TO: U.S. Bank National Association C/O U.S. Bancorp Purchasing Card Program P.O. Box 6335 Fargo, ND 58125-6335		CASH ADVANCE FEES	.00	
		LATE PAYMENT CHARGES	.00	
		CREDITS	.00	
		PAYMENTS	.00	
		ACCOUNT BALANCE	2,355.59	



## Projects Status Report

September 12, 2022

### **Bay/River Trail - American Canyon to Napa**

*An 8+ mile recreational trail. Phase 2-B--Pond 10 to Napa Pipe.*

The design for the public crossing of the SMART tracks has been completed, and SMART, NRCA and the PUC have verbally agreed to allow the railroad crossing. A biological survey for the Fagan Marsh area has been completed; based on the results, CDFW has indicated they do not want the trail alignment to follow the levee on the north side of Fagan Marsh; District staff is reviewing the feasibility of an alternative alignment. At the request of the City of American Canyon, in August 2017 City and District staff met to discuss strategies for completing the trail. The Board President and General Manager met with CADFW staff on June 12, 2018 to discuss CDFW concerns. Senator Dodd organized a meeting in October with the City of American Canyon, County of Napa and the District in an attempt to move the project forward, and another meeting with District staff and CADFW staff on November 28, 2018. Staff has been working with BCDC to determine whether CDFW plans to impose user fees for people walking on the trail along the edge of the wetlands would be allowed under DFW's permit from BCDC. Director Christian has been volunteering considerable time to remove weeds blocking the trail both north and south of Green Island Road. Staff has also been working with the Bay Trail Project and Director Christian to ensure the draft Countywide Bicycle Master Plan includes the trail connection from Green Island Road to Suscol Ferry Road. CDFW in April approved policy changes for the Napa-Sonoma marshes, including use of bicycles on designated trails. The District and the City of American Canyon have been developing new and improved signage for the Wetlands Edge trailhead. The commemorative plaque for former Director Myrna Abramowicz was vandalized in June or July of 2020; Director Christian has taken the lead in getting a replacement plaque and the finished product is now installed and turned out excellent. Rick and Chris inspected the segment north of Soscol Ferry Road in mid-June and noticed some damage to the stabilized quarry fines tread due to work by Napa San in their easement. Their contractor has committed to repairing the trail to at least the preexisting condition at project completion. Because the construction project requires excavation in and around a manhole in the middle of the trail, the Butler Bridge segment is currently closed to protect public safety. Post-construction work on rehabilitating the tread of the trail was completed shortly after Thanksgiving and it is once again open and useable. Staff cleaned wasps out of viewing pipes and bird poop off of interpretive signs on the Wetlands Edge Trail.

On July 29<sup>th</sup> the Napa StoryWalk had its grand opening in American Canyon, turnout was light, probably due to the 4:00PM on Friday afternoon timing, but those who attended had a wonderful time.

### **Berryessa Vista**

*Planning, stewardship and expansion of this 304 acre wilderness park.*

Volunteers working with the District have completed detailed GIS mapping showing all existing roads, creek crossings, vista points and potential campsites. The District sent a letter to all property owners in that area introducing the District, explaining the deed restriction prohibiting off road vehicles, and asking for their cooperation. Since then there has been less observed damage, although the problem is not resolved. Staff was planning on installing a gate to restrict OHV access, but this has proven infeasible. In 2014 the Land Trust acquired an 80 acre inholding between District and BLM land, based on a District Board action in November 2014 agreeing to acquire the property from the Land Trust at a later date when funding is available. District and Land Trust staff in April 2016 placed a camera on the property in an attempt to identify the off-road vehicle and motorcycle users who have been causing some damage to the property. Staff has been monitoring the cameras since spring 2016 and has noted a small decrease in illegal off road vehicle use; staff will continue to monitor the cameras. Staff is working on plans to create a formal boat-in backcountry camp at Berryessa Vista accessed from the BOR Capell Cove boat launch. Staff has been reviewing PG&E plans to grade and widen an access road to their high power lines that cross the property, to ensure the work does not cause future erosion nor increase vehicular trespass. The Bureau of Reclamation has completed environmental review and authorized the District to improve the trail leading from water's edge up into the District property and install directional signage. We had tremendous success at the volunteer trail building event in early February, building +/- 900 feet of new trail. Berryessa Vista burned in the August 2020 fires; once the ashes settle staff will need to assess damage and come up with a repair and restoration plan. Land Trust conservation easement monitoring which occurred in late 2021 indicated there is still some OHV trespass happening on the property.

### **The Cove at Mt. Veeder**

*Reconstruction of campground and trails.*

The Cove was severely burned in the October 2017 fires; since then staff has been working on cleanup. Staff hiked most of the property in early January and confirmed that fire damage is severe and extensive. In early February the County Wildlife Commission toured the Cove to inspect fire impacts and discuss ways in which they might direct funding to fire recovery efforts County-wide. Staff worked with a forester to develop a plan for salvage logging to (a) remove hazardous dead trees in the campground area and (b) repair/improve the access road into the site. Doug McConnell (NBC's Open Road) segment on The Cove (and Suscol Headwaters), comparing the effects of the fires in each location and lessons learned, was aired on Sunday June 24, 2018. Salvage logging commenced in late May, 2018 and was completed during the week of July 23<sup>rd</sup> followed by the logger completing his clean-up and erosion control operations. Road rebuilding is complete. A State Employment Development Department funded crew of 4 (using fire emergency job training funds) started work on April 2, 2019 and continued through

the end of 2019 chipping of much of the remaining woody debris and cutting larger logs into rounds for eventual splitting for firewood. In July 2019 we worked with our salvage logging contractor on improvements to the gravel driveway to make it more useable to visitors in 2WD vehicles. We met with a local engineer on site on Sep 5th to begin designing facilities for a rebuilt camp. Staff hiked the property extensively in February of 2019, trying among other things to relocate the old trails, but most have been destroyed by the 2017 fires and resulting erosion. The Mt Veeder Fire Safe Council secured a grant to fund fuel reduction work along the Mayacamas ridge on and near the Cove, and cleared downed and standing-dead trees along our ridgetop fire road. We continue to work on locating improvements (camp sites, water spigots, etc) for the rebuilt camp and have been working through some potentially more cost effective fixes to the gravel road, which is a struggle for some cars to climb when it's dry and dusty. Staff together with Enchanted Hills Camp applied for and received a 13 week AmeriCorps crew this winter to work on The Cove, Amy's Grove and Enchanted Hills Camp. We have paused work on developing a new potable water system and septic system on the site while we reconsider our priorities in light of District finances, and the timeframe in which we think regular ongoing (as opposed to occasional special event-style) public camping will actually be desirable on the property once again. The Americorps team in January and February of 2021 constructed just under a half mile of new trail running up the ridge and towards Mount Veeder from the Cove bowl; it is much more gradual than the old trails (the old trail was 25-30%, new trail is about 9%). 2 volunteer projects were hosted in spring 2021 to reconstruct several of the campsites. Staff hosted a 5/8/21 volunteer project to continue working on the new trail to the peak. The Board hopefully saw the excellent article on the Cove in the Napa Register on July 31, in which Rick and Ryan featured prominently. We have been working with a Girl Scout on a Gold Award project (roughly equivalent to the Eagle Scout process in Boy Scouting) rebuilding camp facilities at the Cove, including shade structures and the like. We now have 8 new benches and three new cook stands along with temporary signage indicating the names and locations of the previous camping areas. Ultimately the temporary signage will be replaced by routed or burned wood signs. Chris and Kyra are meeting with representatives of Merryvale Vineyards, the new owner of the property directly to our west, in early November to discuss potential shared interests in the area. Merryvale is potentially interested in the possibility of a long-term vineyard lease on one of the three Cove parcels. The parcel in question was previously leased out as vineyard land by the Girl Scouts, but for whatever reason no vineyard was ever developed. Staff and volunteers have been working on route-finding and extending flagging on the summit trail.

### **EcoCamp Berryessa**

*Redevelopment and operation of former Boy Scout Camp with a 64 bed group/environmental education camp with 8 tent cabins, 2 covered group activity centers, a canoe/kayak dock, a central amphitheater and campfire ring, and a shower and composting toilet restroom facility.*

A grant for \$50,000 to help with construction was provided by the Mead Foundation, together with a \$1.7 million grant from the State Coastal Conservancy. Construction of Phase I, which includes beds for up to 64 campers was completed in June 2016. Tuleyome. The BOR, and Forest Trails Alliance have completed the adjacent North End Trail, running from +/- Camp Berryessa to the north end of the Lake, approximately 7 miles each way. In early October, 2017 Caltrans delivered (at no cost to the District) the disassembled and individually numbered pieces of a former Monticello Road stone arch bridge to

EcoCamp Berryessa; some have been placed around the property to restrict vehicle access and add character. Issues with the composting toilets and water systems (the result of poor design and power failures) appear to have all been resolved. We are looking into solar battery backups to provide more reliable power as rural blackouts on windy days have become the new normal. Some of the septic system valving and wires was damaged by denning rodents; they have been repaired, and the valve boxes have been hardened to make it more difficult for our furry friends to get into them in the future. The hard water at the camp is causing backflow prevention devices to leak, and repairing them continues to be a challenge. The EcoCamp has been closed to the public since mid-March 2020 due to the pandemic. We have been taking the opportunity of this downtime to get on top of spring mowing and other projects and Sarah Clark has been inspecting the property at least once a week. Staff has completed a survey of rates and policies for other group camps in the region, and will be developing a proposal for expanding camp use to include a broader range of group and family campers, for when the camp is not needed by the non-profit and youth organizations which are the primary target audience for the camp. Camp Berryessa suffered some damage in the August 2020 fires; the camp itself mostly escaped damage, but the power line to the camp was destroyed as was our camp host's mobile home and belongings. Power has now been restored and the water system seems to be working. We have had the water tested for VOCs (which can be created when plastic pipes melt) and the tests came back negative. We have filed for a Right of Entry with the County of Napa, which should mean fire debris are removed as a part of the County/FEMA fire cleanup operation. While the camp is closed due to COVID, we have on three occasions allowed USGS researchers doing post-fire investigations to use the site while working in eastern Napa County. We are starting to take reservations for group camping events starting this summer, contingent on continued improvement in COVID 19 conditions. FEMA ultimately refused to complete the cleanup of the caretaker site at Camp Berryessa under their ROE program, and the County is now appealing that determination. We will either win that appeal and be included in the federal cleanup or will have to rush (and spend) to do it ourselves this summer. Sarah Clark has begun booking new events at the camp effective June 15. The County's thoughtful and carefully worded appeal was submitted to FEMA in late June. Since June 15 we have hosted boy scouts, girl scouts, and the Stonebridge dads. Camp Berryessa has had a few groups use it in August, September and October. Groups are starting to make reservations for the 2022 calendar year, with the first reservation occurring in January. We continue to await results of the County's appeal of the FEMA denial of federal cleanup support for the burned caretaker's residence. Staff from the Bureau of Reclamation have reached out to say they have some money available for post-fire cleanup that they may be able to use to help us with the remains of the caretaker's cottage. Details on that are light at this point, but it's a promising turn of events. We will be meeting with local BOR management in late March to discuss the rebuilding of the camp host location as well as potential federal funding opportunities for the work. As the world opens back up, spring and summer bookings are coming in hot and heavy. We have three bids for cleaning up the burned caretaker site, ranging from \$17,500 to \$33,750. The Bureau of Reclamation is looking into whether or not they can reimburse us for the work out of their fire recovery funding and they're likewise hectoring FEMA about getting some final determination on the County's appeal of the FEMA/CalOES denial of funding for cleanup work at the EcoCamp. BOR has indicated that they can contribute +/- \$20K to the cleanup effort, we await their internal review for approval to proceed.

## **Mayacamas Preserve and Amy's Grove**

*Planning and permits for public use of the Mayacamas Preserve, of which Amy's Grove is part.*

The archaeological survey has been completed and did not find evidence of Native American activity. The botanical survey has been completed and submitted for review. Much of Amy's Grove burned in the October 2017 fires, but the damage appears to be limited. In Sept 2018 the Board approved placing a restrictive covenant over a portion of Amy's Grove, accepting the donation of an adjacent 7 acres of land, approving an option to acquire 164 acres north of Amy's Grove, and applying for a grant to help fund the purchase. Grant awards are expected to be announced in mid-2019. A legal description of the conservation area covering the meadow at Amy's Grove has been completed. PG&E is marking trees for transmission line clearance trimming in the right of way adjacent to our property. We have attempted to limit the scope of that work, but ultimately we have little say in the process. In late July 2019 we learned that we did not receive the Habitat Conservation Fund grant we had applied for to assist with the purchase of the 164 acres to the north. The purchase has been completed using District reserve funds. State Parks in June 2020 released the announcement of the per capita grant funds, which the District will use to reimburse about half the cost of the 164 acre purchase. An application for \$400,000 from the Prop 68 per capita grant program has been submitted, the grant agreement has been signed by the District, and a \$400,000 check from the State finally arrived in mid-February. Staff submitted a proposal in partnership with Enchanted Hills Camp to share an AmeriCorps team next January through March, which was approved on December 8th. The team arrived in mid-January and cleared brush from the future staging area on Dry Creek Road. Several volunteer work parties have since made even further progress on tearing down old buildings and salvaging the materials that can be reused. We have paused delivery of debris boxes and work on cleaning up the staging area pending the outcome of the June Board of Supervisors budget hearings as part of our broader campaign to limit spending until the budget issue is resolved. Ryan facilitated ICARE/SFBRWQCB fish surveying and creek assessment in Dry Creek at the Chamberlain acquisition in late May. To clarify project boundaries, sometime in the new fiscal year we will be renaming the Chamberlain and Kateley acquisitions the Mayacamas Preserve; Amy's Grove will be a named part of the park. As of early July we have recommenced demolition and cleanup activities at the Kateley donation. We have been working on clearing downed trees and brush blocking ranch roads to improve fire access and prepare for the eventual opening of the park. Unfortunately, in late July we discovered that a trespasser had been practicing their chainsawing on the property and dropped at least one living tree. Staff has been doing extensive vegetation management and fuels reduction, along with scouting and mapping in support of the development of an eventual park plan. Rick and Ryan hosted a number of additional volunteer projects focused on clearing remaining debris on the Kateley donation. Rick reports that the water in Dry Creek has been running very high, which is a good reminder that without some sort of bridge Mayacamas and Amy's Grove will be seasonally inaccessible. We are scouting for bridge locations and beginning to think about permitting and costs if we went that route. Also, the location of the proposed parking lot on the Kateley donation has gotten quite mucky, so drainage improvements of some kind will be necessary there if we are going to develop it into a parking lot. The January and early February Diablo wind events resulted in extensive tree fall in previously burned areas, with Bay laurel seeing the brunt of the damage. We have begun initial planning work on opening the Mayacamas Preserve and Amy's Grove to the public; the trailbuilder who did the initial alignment work for the Suscol Headwaters trail system has contracted to do similar work at Mayacamas, which is a great outcome. Staff met with Ryan Gregory on-site in early April to get his

experienced civil engineer's advice on parking lot logistics and the possibility of building a pedestrian bridge over Dry Creek. Neighboring property owners have been mowing the meadow portion of the Amy's Grove property with District permission to mitigate fire risks this summer and fall. We had 15 volunteers from Opus One out to pull broom at Mayacamas on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chris and Kyra completed a full wetfoot survey of Dry Creek from property boundary to property boundary in late May and discovered a number of useful and interesting things, including pools as deep as 8 feet and the remnants of a creek-spanning suspension bridge. We also did an initial planning survey of Amy's Grove and Mayacamas with trail guru Kevin Smallman. John Woodbury (as a volunteer) and Chris spent some time in the creek in late June working on engineering questions related to bridge construction. Rick and Ryan hosted a volunteer project to clear invasive broom near the potential suspension bridge site on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 10 volunteers attended. On September 10 we hosted volunteers on the Kateley finger, removing woody debris and doing fuels management.

### **Moore Creek Park Development**

*Improvements and operations at our 1,500 acre regional park in the Lake Hennessey watershed. Includes the Moore Creek unit on land owned by the District and the Lake Hennessey Unit on land owned by the City of Napa.*

The District's Moore Creek property (Moore Creek Unit) was expanded in 2012 through a lease agreement and operations plan with the City of Napa (Lake Hennessey Unit). The combined park opened on June 30, 2013. Many miles of trails have been constructed, fencing installed, emergency communications capacity set up, repairs made to the two houses on the property, and invasive French broom removal has been ongoing. Work was completed on the Conn Creek connector trail between the Moore Creek and Lake Hennessey units in June 2013. Lake Hennessey North Shore Trails formally opened with a ribbon cutting in October 2014. The Sam the Eagle Trail was completed in April 2015. District staff and volunteers installed the Harold Kelly bench in early June 2015 and constructed a short ADA-compliant access trail to it that July. The County Wildlife Conservation Commission awarded the District a +/- \$2,000 grant to fund installation of an interpretive birding trail developed in partnership with Napa Solano Audubon along the north shore of the lake, signage was installed in May 2015. The eastern boundary survey and fencing project was completed June 2014. The property owner to the east of Moore Creek filed suit in June 2017 claiming the District owed additional money for the boundary survey and fence separating his property from ours. After several interim victories, the judge in early April 2018 issued the final ruling in support of the District's position. Staff hosted trail scouting and trail building volunteer events focused on the Madrone Trail in late May and early June, 2018. The Gate House was re-roofed in November 2018 using the Moore Creek maintenance/repair reserve fund. Staff coordinated a meeting with CalFire and a neighbor to determine what level of tree trimming is needed on the neighbor's property next to the ranch house to comply with Firewise regulations and the trimming work is now underway. Napa Marble and Granite installed (well, carved) new trail signage for the Shoreline and Sam the Eagle trails in early September 2017. Old Man's Beard Trail was completed in February 2018. The Whiskey Ridge and Conn Peak Trails (along with the Conn Peak Spur), nearly three miles of new singletrack all-in, was completed in 2019. As of early January 2021 work on Catacoula is almost complete and, thanks to some well-timed precipitation, it's looking and riding great. The Conservation Corps North Bay (CCNB) returned to the property in April and has put finishing touches on



Catacoula Trail and begun clearing work along the Madrone Tr corridor, all under Rick Fessenden's able leadership. To help ensure public safety in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, staff and volunteers monitored both entrances to Moore Creek Park for most Fridays and weekends in March through July of 2020. By late July this extra monitoring was stopped because park usage while still very high had returned to more manageable levels. Staff is working with the County of Napa and the City of Napa to make improvements to the end of Conn Valley Road to be able to better accommodate demand going forward, though planned work has been postponed indefinitely while everyone works on recovering from the LNU and Glass Fires of August and September of 2020. The two tenants at Moore Creek Park had to evacuate for about two weeks as a result of the August 2020 fires, but were able to return just before Labor Day. They then had to evacuate again on September 28 due to the Glass Fire. Despite a number of additional autumn red flag days and closures, and a rare December red flag event, Moore Creek Park is unburned and in good shape. Visitation number have remained very heavy, right through the early winter, with the parking lot full all day most weekends. Our grant with the CCNB is projected to have three weeks of funding left at the completion of Catacoula, so we are working with them to pivot to working the Madrone Trail closer to completion with District oversight of the fieldwork provided by Ryan and/or Kyra. We launched a survey of park users aimed at gauging public sentiment about e-bikes, powered skateboards, and other battery-powered devices that are starting to show up on our trails in greater numbers. We hope to have results to report out to the Board over the next few months. In March 2021 volunteers installed striping for the main parking lot (marked with pinned used fire hose segments) to make parking more efficient. The first weekend in April 2021 staff and volunteers installed a new iron ranger and signage at the main parking lot to encourage donations. A second iron ranger will soon be installed at the Conn Valley entrance. Initial response to the new voluntary donation system has been excellent. Our first collection netted +/- \$2,000 in small denomination donations and may collections once again totaled approximately \$2,000. Fuel management activities, focused on removing invasive broom and funded by a grant by the County Ag Commissioner are ongoing in the upper reaches of the park. Rick closed out remaining funds in our CCNB grant by brushing most of the remaining Madrone Trail corridor with the CCNB crew. The well went dry at the Ranch House in mid-July and we are having to purchase water and have it delivered. Rick hosted a chainsaw training with a crew from the Sonoma Ecology Center, focusing on tree felling. Because we held the training at Moore Creek we got quite a bit of free chainsaw work out of the deal, dropping standing dead oaks. Visitation is noticeably down from its Covid peak. The Dan's Wild Ride use permit application was filed with the County in early September. We hope to get to County approval this calendar year. As noted in their recent comment letter, CalFire is concerned that a portion of the proposed trail (this is a section that uses an existing deeded access drive) is located on Las Posadas property. We are working with the Land Trust to survey or otherwise establish that the trail and driveway are not located on State land. We have completed inspections of the trail network at Moore Creek after the 100+ year storm of October 24<sup>th</sup> and though there are a number of trees down, the trails themselves held up remarkably well. On February 3<sup>rd</sup> Rick, Kyra, and Chris met with staff of the RCD to begin work on a Vegetation Treatment Plan funded by a major Coastal Conservancy fire readiness grant. The North Bay Bohemian annual readers' poll has named Moore Creek Park the best hiking park in Napa County for 2022. District staff have begun extensive and grant funded fuel management on the property, focused thus far on thinning Douglas fir saplings in the Moore Creek canyon. We have closed the Conn Peak Spur Trail until at least mid-June, due to its proximity to an active Bald eagle nest. Ryan reports the Easter weekend VO-Cal volunteer trail building event was a rousing success, with excellent residual soil moisture. We had 14

volunteers from Trincherro Winery out on May 19<sup>th</sup> eradicating Himalayan Blackberry and 9 volunteers earlier in the month who did cleanup on the VO-Cal Yip Trip trail project. The Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution establishing new no-parking zones at the end of Conn Valley Road in late July. Conn Peak Trail has been reopened as our neighborhood eagle family finally finished nesting and Ryan and a crew of volunteers installed a new bench.

## **Napa River Ecological Reserve**

*Manage public access and improve habitat for this State-owned property*

The District has been maintaining the parking lot and front meadow since 2008, after assuming a responsibility that had previously been handled by the County. Staff recently discovered that the agreement between the District and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, authorizing this partnership, expired at the end of 2017. Staff has approached CDFW about renewing the agreement, and continues to wait patiently for a decision from CDFW. In a telling sign of what can happen in unmanaged public open spaces, someone attempted to fell a young oak tree with a shotgun and perhaps a dozen rifled slugs in late December 2021. We have retained a number of casings as evidence. We have removed the porta-potty from the parking lot, both to reduce management costs (on a property that we no longer have an agreement to manage) and to mitigate some of the ongoing trash issues that have been associated with it. In early August we hosted an in-service day for the Justin Siena High School teaching staff in partnership with Chip Bouril focusing on removing invasive oblong leaf spurge. Volunteers collected and properly disposed of fully nine 50-gallon contractor garbage bags of spurge. Mowing season has arrived, Rick reports needing to mow/weed whip the property every few weeks due to the heavy grass growth this winter. The recent wind event resulted in some oak damage that we have been working to buck and clear. Rick has been working with Chip Bouril on rehabbing the nature trail and plant signage at the reserve, as well as dealing with a fresh crop of graffiti.

## **Oat Hill Mine Trail**

*Various improvements to the historic Oat Hill Mine Road.*

The District opened 8 miles of the historic Oat Hill Mine Road as a non-motorized trail in 2007 with the assistance of 130+ volunteers from Volunteers for Outdoor California. Cleanup of mercury contamination north of the opened section of trail, led by Tuleyome, was partly but not fully successful, delaying when the northern section of the road leading to Lake County can be completed. A 40 acre Randy Lee Johnson property along the route of the trail was donated in December 2014. Volunteers have over the years done extensive erosion control and vegetation clearing projects. The first 1.3 miles of the trail was bulldozed as a result of CalFire efforts to suppress the October 2017 wildfires, and this was extended further while fighting the 2020 Glass fire. Nearly all of the forest along the first 4 miles of the trail out of Calistoga burned in the Glass fire. Visitation at OHMT has been very high since mid-March of 2020. We staffed the trailhead on weekends in late March and early April, but have determined that the dispersed nature of the parking in Calistoga means that it handles the higher level of traffic well and we have since reduced monitoring to occasional check-ins. Staff has cleared the trail of downed trees and the trail is open between Calistoga and Holm's place. Repairs to the Aetna Springs

trailhead kiosk as well as replacement of wayfinding signs that burned in the 2020 fires are now underway. John Woodbury (as a volunteer) and Rick have repaired the Aetna side kiosk and replaced the trail map, all of which were damaged in the 2020 fires. Field staff has been focusing on removing dead standing trees that could fall and potentially impact the trail. Tree mortality seems to be increasing as we near a year from last year's fire. The County and the District have been receiving calls from an adjacent property owner who would like to "improve" the trail to make it easier to drive to his property by Jeep. The annual deer season closure of the upper trail is now in place.

## **Putah Creek Properties**

*Acquire 480 acres next to Berryessa Estates from BLM at no fee through their Recreation and Public Purpose Act procedure. Manage Spanish Valley, Crystal Flats and Stone Corral (2,500 acres) open space preserves.*

The District in 2009 applied to BLM for a no-fee transfer of this property to the District; while this transfer was supported by BLM staff, the formal approval was delayed because of property title issues between BLM and BOR. By the time these issues were resolved personnel and priorities had changed at BLM, and the transfer application is stalled. The District completed the donation to the District of a small, 0.2 acre property that provides critical access to the northeast corner of the property. Prescribed burns were attempted for Spanish Valley in 2019 and 2020, but both had to be cancelled due to a combination of permit delays and uncooperative weather. Shortly after the 2020 prescribed burn was cancelled, the LNU Fire burned the entire valley. The district in the spring of 2020 completed the donation of a conservation easement over Spanish Valley to the Land Trust. The Lake Berryessa Estates Property Owners Association in June 2020 retained an attorney to help them develop an agreement between the District and the Association authorizing the Association to manage and enforce regulations for use of the campground and boat launch areas of Crystal Flats and Stone Corral. The current President for the Association reached out to District staff just before the LNU fire, indicating a willingness to restart discussions about an agreement between the two. However, the LNU fire put those discussions on hold, and staff efforts in February and March of 2021 to reach out to the Association have not been responded to. Field inspection completed on August 30<sup>th</sup>; Spanish Valley looks surprisingly good given burn intensity. Less tree mortality than would be expected thus far. We have discovered what looks to be an illegal small scale mining operation on one corner of the Crystal Flats property. Staff removed all of the mining material in early December. Inexplicably, it had already been smashed by some unknown party, perhaps a claim jumper? The Berryessa Estates Fire Safe Council reached out to the General Manager and was given permission to burn a number of debris piles in and around the marina, all with required CalFire and BAAQMD approvals. District staff has been contacted by LBRID staff, who are concerned that a lack of rainfall this spring could leave Berryessa Estates without a source of drinking water. The General Manager has preliminarily ok'd the use District-owned properties to do hydrogeological assessments in hopes of finding alternate emergency water sources. Proposed exploratory work is focused on the Marina and adjacent to the Crystal Flats access drive. We have likewise given the local Fire Safe Council permission to access our properties to complete planning work on various fuel reduction projects. A two-person experimental aircraft crashed directly adjacent to our Stone Corral property in mid-July, starting a several acre fire. Unfortunately both occupants of the plane perished. The GM has given Napa County permission to do additional exploratory drilling in hopes

of finding reliable emergency water for the community of Berryessa Estates. Senator Dodd-funded veg management on our property, planned and undertaken by the local Berryessa Estates Fire Safe Council, is complete for the season.

## **Skyline Park**

*Permanent protection of Skyline Park and support for Skyline operations.*

Three past legislative efforts to authorize sale to the County failed due to unrelated disagreements between the state legislature and administration. Separately, the County in September 2009 approved a new park overlay zone and an updated Master Plan for Skyline Park. A fourth legislative effort by Assembly member Evans in 2010, sponsored by Napa County and supported by the District, was approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor, but the County and State General Services were unable to agree on the fair market value of the property, negotiations stalled, and the legislative authorization expired. In October 2015, the State applied to the county to rezone Skyline Park by removing the Skyline Wilderness Park Combining District overlay, which would make it easier for the State to sell for development and at a higher price. However, the State never completed the application. Legislation introduced by Senator Wolk in January 2016 to authorize us to purchase the property stalled when the State announced it was opposed to any sale of Skyline Park to the District until completion of a state planning process for future health and welfare services; that planning process has apparently not progressed. SB 20 by Senator Dodd was approved in 2019, which again authorizes the State to sell Skyline Park to the District and/or county for the sole purpose of it continuing to be a public park. The Governor in late 2019 issued an Executive Order directing the State use surplus State Lands to develop affordable housing, and included 20 acres of Skyline Park as surplus land that could be used for this purpose, which complicates our efforts to purchase the park. In January 2019 the District sponsored the filming of a short feature for Doug McConnell's Open Road TV series to help build support for the purchase of Skyline. District staff began meeting with the State of California (Departments of General Services and State Hospitals) in July 2020 to discuss the purchase of Skyline Park pursuant to SB 20, but in October DGS informed the District they were too busy to work on this until early 2021. DGS in February 2021 assigned state staff to work on the appraisal of the property in anticipation of selling it; District staff is now in receipt of proposed appraisal instructions and has asked that they be revised to include a whole-park option. The District in 2019 obtained a TBID grant of \$20,000 to assist Skyline Park upgrade their web site including an on-line reservation system, improve their park map and brochure, and install an automatic pay machine on the River to Ridge Trail; the work was completed in the fall of 2019. Staff has been working with bicycle advocates and Skyline Park Citizens Association to plan and develop a bicycle skills course on a 1/4 acre portion of Skyline Park; despite repeated efforts over two years, this project is still waiting for DGS approval and there has been no movement. Skyline Park staff in the fall of 2020 completed the repair and hardening of a stretch to the Skyline Trail above Lake Marie so that it can be used year-round. This trail is currently the only way to access Suscol Headwaters Park. The reconstructed trail is now largely done and it is a truly impressive piece of work. Newly appointed County Assistant Executive Officer Becky Craig has been tasked with overseeing the Skyline purchase on the County side and we had a productive discussion with her in late June including John Woodbury, who continues to manage the Skyline appraisal and purchase project for the District as a volunteer. Kyra, Chris, and Rick spent a day assessing recent overuse damage to the River to Ridge Trail including some

trail widening and erosion that is clearly being caused by the growing number of e-bikes. We are working on plans for minor trail improvements that might mitigate the damage going forward and look forward to pulling Skyline Park's extremely competent trail staff into that conversation. The bicycle skills course was approved by the Board of Supervisors on January 11 and was fully executed in late February. The Redwood Trails Alliance has begun fundraising for the project and the plan is for them to construct the skills course as a voluntary cooperator at no cost to the District. The County of Napa Assistant CEO has taken lead on negotiating the Skyline purchase appraisal with the Department of General Services. Chris participated in an extensive site tour (interestingly including Camp Coombs and the Coombs Ranch Dam canyon) in late March with the appraiser and representatives from the Department of General Services, the State Hospital, and Skyline. The final appraisal is slated to be completed in June. In early May, +/-5 acres of the flat lower portion of Skyline Park was included in a list of potential affordable housing sites presented to the Board of Supervisors by the County's Planning Director. On July 11 the Planning Commission hosted a hearing on the Housing Element that featured much discussion of the Skyline (County staff prefers the term "Imola") public housing site. Ryan has been collaborating with a number of individuals and community organizations to develop a StoryWalk that will be hosted by Skyline Park and Wetlands Edge Park over the next several months. Opening day was at Skyline on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and was attended by many well wishers and dignitaries.

### **Smittle Creek**

*Planning and permits to open this 411 acre holding for public use.*

The District completed purchase of this property in December 2015. A botanist was retained in early 2016 to do a reconnaissance level survey of plant resources as the first step in planning for the property; his report was received in January 2017; the report describes the property as one of the best locations in the County for native grasses. A group of 20+ people from Tuleyome were given a hiking tour of the property in December 2016, as a way to build interest in the property and build a pool of volunteers to help with restoration and improvement of the property. On March 4 2017, Tuleyome volunteers brushed the Iron Mountain trail (in the Cedar Roughs Wilderness, but accessed via Smittle Creek.) US Geological Survey in 2017 placed a seismic monitoring station on the property. The State Fish and Wildlife Game Warden for this area has been most helpful in patrolling the property looking for illegal poaching. A well-attended volunteer cleanup project was held in October of 2018, more than filling a 30 yard dumpster with debris. Our volunteer caretaker for this property has made repairs to the dirt roads and the perimeter fencing. Staff in January 2020 flagged a route for the proposed new trail access into the property from Reclamation's Smittle Creek Day Use Area parking lot, and a botanist has been retained to conduct a floristic survey this winter and spring. Kyra Purvis is working on the CEQA analysis and on putting together a use permit application to the County of Napa to open Smittle Creek to the public. Kyra also continues to work with Reclamation on an agreement to authorize the public to use their Smittle Creek Day Use Area parking lot to access our property. All of Smittle Creek burned in the August 2020 fires. The entry gate and fence the District shares with Reclamation was burned; a temporary fix has been made, but further work will be needed. Staff has had initial discussion with County Public Works about including access improvements at Smittle in a larger grant application aimed at funding work on Knoxville-Berryessa Road. It would apparently make the County's road grant application more attractive to funders and would of course mean new District money for opening the

park (if the grants come through). The County expects to hear whether or not it has been shortlisted for the grant sometime in mid to late summer 2021. If award of the grant seems likely we would potentially have most of our development costs funded, but would unfortunately need to slow progress on the property to mesh up with the more measured pace of Federal funded transportation projects. Federal DOT funding officials completed a site visit of the Smittle Creek parking area and potential trail improvements in late April, preliminary reports from County DPW indicate it went well and we may be on a path to funding.

## **State Parks**

*Operate Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park, and RLS State Park.*

The District, with assistance from the Napa Valley State Parks Association, took over management of the parks on April 1, 2012. Since then the District has obtained permits and done improvements to the pool, installed 7 yurts, instituted recycling in the campground and day use areas, pumped all septic system tanks annually, repaired the historic Wright House for use as a rental property, restored 5 cabins, constructed a new shower/toilet facility, and made a large dent in the backlog of deferred maintenance. District efforts to pass legislation allowing the sale of grain for human consumption from the Bale Mill were unsuccessful. In 2014 the District started the process of extending the District's 5 year Operating Agreement and including RLS in the agreement, that new 20 year agreement was signed in April 2020. The District repaired the Silverado House at RLS, which a District employee now rents and maintains. The District is working with the Vine Trail on the proposed alignment of the Vine Trail through Bothe. As noted elsewhere, visitation at Robert Louis Stevenson State Park has been very high in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Between March and June of 2020 staff and volunteers monitored the parking lot off Highway 29 during peak times to assist the influx of new users. The majority of Bothe State Park burned in September's Glass Fire, though none of the buildings were damaged. Ridge Trail Day occurred on Saturday November 6<sup>th</sup>; volunteers worked to delete and restore a number of switchback-cutting social trails on Mount St Helena.

## **Suscol Headwaters Preserve**

*Improvements to Suscol Headwaters Preserve and opening the property as a public park.*

The purchase of the Preserve was completed in November, 2017. The one remaining improvement to satisfy funding requirements is the construction of a California red legged frog (CRLF) breeding pond and various habitat improvements focused on, but not exclusively in, the pond area. A reserve fund has been set aside to do the work, but the actual work has been delayed while design and construction details are worked out. Most of the property burned in the October 2017 firestorm; some trees were killed, and a perimeter grazing fence was destroyed, but otherwise damage was not catastrophic. We have installed No Trespassing signs adjacent to ranch roads descending off of Suscol Knob to further limit access to the lower portions of the preserve, where property lines are not necessarily well marked or fenced. The District hired local trail builder Kevin Smallman to help with trail corridor planning and spent May 10 and 11 of 2019 hiking and flagging the property. A Use Permit for Suscol Headwaters Park was approved by the County Planning Commission in February 2020 and the northern portion of the property is now

officially open to the public via Skyline Park. In July of 2015 the board of the Napa Sanitation District approved an easement option agreement which would allow us to construct a trail and trailhead parking lot on the eastern and southern edges of their Kelly Road treated water spray field property. However, that alignment is not ideal, so alternate access routes and staging areas have been pursued. Negotiations with the City of American Canyon and an adjacent property owner regarding the potential to relocate the access easement to our property from Highway 12 did not work out because of a change of mind by the property owner. Kyra has obtained conceptual agreement from another property owner on revising the access easement through their property to facilitate construction of a staging area on North Kelly Road rather than along Kirkland Ranch Road, and has drafted a grant deed that will accomplish this. The Napa Sanitation District Manager has indicated support for the location and design for such a staging area off North Kelly Road and a trail leading to the park following the western and northern edge of their treated water spray field. District staff has prepared and submitted to Napa San draft easement language for their review and approval. Chris met with REMBA's Executive Director on the property in early July 2020 to discuss funding opportunities and partnerships that may allow some new singletrack trails to be constructed at Suscol Headwaters. Rick and Ryan in spring 2020 installed signage in hopes of dissuading the public from riding off trail, especially in the area of the knob at the very top of the park, because of the erosion that it causes. Our partners at REMBA have been on-site, beginning to tight flag some of the trail alignments in hope of beginning construction this winter/spring. REMBA has also been fundraising to support their work, as the District unfortunately has no funds available for trail building at Suscol at this time. We have begun installing the Park Boundary signs promised to the adjoining property owner along our eastern property line. Kyra and Supervisor Ryan Gregory were interviewed on site by Doug McConnell in late May as part of his Open Road series on NBC Bay Area. The segment focuses on the ongoing expansion of the Ridge Trail and is expected to air on July 18<sup>th</sup>. District staff and volunteers were trained on safe chainsaw use by Rick in an all-day colloquium in mid-July. Kyra did a starring turn along with Supervisor Gregory in an Open Road segment on the Ridge Trail and Suscol Headwaters which aired on NBC Bay Area. Our friends and partners at the Redwood Trails Alliance (formerly REMBA) are currently at work on the property doing corridor clearing in advance of trail construction that may begin as early as this winter. Staff repaired the latch system on the gate between the Tuteur Loop and Suscol headwaters, which sees heavy and sometimes rough use. John Woodbury was out in the field in early February, and again in March and April, working on the design and (hopefully) future construction of the red legged frog pond. Jeff Alvarez, a renowned Red-legged frog specialist has been working with John on the plans. Kyra finalized and submitted a \$1.2M Prop 68 Regional Park Program grant application to fund development of a N Kelly Road trailhead and the complete Suscol Headwaters trail network. Kyra and Chris conducted a site visit with State grant reviewers on May 24<sup>th</sup> and it went extremely well. They expect to announce grant awards late this summer. We have been awarded the \$1.17M Prop 68 grant to fund the development and opening of Phase 2 of Suscol Headwaters! Now the real work begins. An American Canyon Eagle Scout installed an entry kiosk at the NSRT/Suscol Headwaters gate.

## **Vine Trail**

*A Class I bicycle/pedestrian path extending from Calistoga to the Vallejo Ferry Terminal sponsored by the Vine Trail Coalition, of which the District is a participating member.*

The District has an MOU with the Vine Trail Coalition to provide assistance as requested by the Coalition in receiving funds, preparing plans and environmental documents, and constructing and operating the trail. The District, the Bay Area Ridge Trail, the San Francisco Bay Trail and the Vine Trail Coalition prepared a joint Case Statement for the combined trail network for fundraising purposes. Over the years the District has submitted numerous letters of support for Vine Trail grant applications. The District continues to coordinate with the Vine Trail on plans to route the Vine Trail through Bothe-Napa Valley State Park. A joint Vine Trail/Ridge Trail dedication event was held at Bothe in 2014. In March 2015 the Vine Trail initiated discussions with district staff about the possibility of the District providing maintenance for the entire Vine Trail, but in the end the cities and the county decided that each entity will maintain the section within their jurisdiction, rather than paying into a common fund for common maintenance. Caltrans is proposing to replace the aging bridge over Mill Creek; since the construction as proposed could have significant adverse effects for both the Vine Trail and the Bale Mill, District and Vine Trail staff meet with Caltrans and NVTa to discuss ways to mitigate the impacts. In Sept 2018 the Vine Trail Coalition requested the District accept an easement to facilitate the trail connection between Kennedy Park and Napa Pipe. Staff met with the Vine Trail and Syar in March 2019 to work out details related to the easement. A revised version of the easement, and an associated agreement allocating responsibilities is still being negotiated. At the request of the Vine Trail Coalition, staff is exploring with the County whether to take on the eventual maintenance of the section between Calistoga and St. Helena, with the costs to be paid 50/50 by the County and the Coalition. A similar agreement between the County, the City of Napa and the Vine Trail was approved by the County Board of Supervisors in January 2021. Jason, Chris, and Kyra met with Philip Sales in early July to inspect the St Helena – Calistoga segment and recommence discussions about the District potentially taking over maintenance responsibility for that section. After much thought and research staff has reached a point where we believe we may be able to take over maintenance of the St Helena to Calistoga section without committing to potentially subsidizing the work out of District funds. We are continuing to scope the initial capital outlay for tools and equipment, which will not be insignificant, and are finalizing the terms of a draft 5-year management agreement between ourselves, the County of Napa, and the Vine Trail Coalition. If that proceeds to agreement at the staff level, the Board should expect to see it this fiscal year sometime. A District draft of the proposed management agreement was submitted for County and Vine Trail review in late March. Groundbreaking for the St Helena to Calistoga Vine Trail segment took place on May 24<sup>th</sup> at the State Park. Tony Norris and Jason Jordan represented the District.

### **Completed Projects**

#### **Amy's Grove**

*Donation of 50 acres along Dry Creek and Wing Creek.*

The donation of approximately 50 acres of open space from the Chamberlain family to the District closed in December 2015.

#### **Bay Area Ridge Trail Realignment**

In December of 2012 the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council approved the proposed realignment of the Ridge Trail through Napa County as requested by the District.



### **Bay Area Ridge Trail Napa-Solano Ridge Trail Loop**

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council obtained a donated easement from the Tuteur family and constructed a section of Bay Area Ridge Trail adjacent to Skyline Park. In March 2018 the Ridge Trail Council transferred the easement to the District, and with the support of the Tuteur family revised the easement to facilitate an extension of the trail south onto the District's Suscol Headwaters Preserve.

### **Bay/River Trail - American Canyon to Napa Phase I**

*Phase One - Eucalyptus Drive to Green Island Road.*

Constructed approximately 5 miles of Class I bicycle and pedestrian path in the vicinity of American Canyon along the Napa River was completed in April 2012, in partnership with the City of American Canyon, Department of Fish and Game and Napa Vallejo Waste Management Authority. A formal opening ceremony was held June 2, 2012.

*Phase Two - Pond 10.*

DFW surfaced the existing levee with gravel and opened the gate to the public in spring 2015.

*Phase Three - Soscol Ferry Road to Napa Pipe*

Completed construction in spring of 2015 of 0.7 miles between Soscol Ferry Road and the Napa Pipe property in the Napa Valley Corporate Park.

### **Berryessa Peak Trail**

*Obtain right of way and construct trail to provide public access to extensive federal lands on Blue Ridge and to Berryessa Peak.*

Obtained donated trail easement from the Ahmann family to close gaps between existing public lands on Blue Ridge. A Negative Declaration and Use Permit hearing was approved December 16, 2009 by the County Planning Commission. An Operations and Management Plan was approved by the property owner and the District. BLM's biologist inspected the alignment on September 17, 2011. The trail was constructed over the course of two years using volunteer crews, and continues to be maintained by volunteers (mostly provided by Tuleyome and Yolo Hiker)

### **Berryessa Vista Acquisition**

Purchase of 224 acres from the Land Trust of Napa County for use as a public park completed in early 2008 using State Prop 12 funds.

### **Cedar Roughs/Smittle Creek**

Purchase of 443 acres of land that will provide public access to Cedar Roughs from the Smittle Creek Day Use Area closed in December 2015.

### **Connolly Ranch**

Construction of patio, restrooms and cooking facilities completed in 2008 using State Prop 12 funds.

### **The Cove at Mt Veeder**

The acquisition of 164 acres from the Girl Scouts was completed in December 2017.

### **Historic ROW Analysis**

Staff has completed a comprehensive review of historic rights-of-way, and is now focusing attention on those that have greatest potential.

### **Linda Falls Conservation Easement**

Conservation easement accepted in spring 2008 from Land Trust of Napa County to provide additional protection for this 39 acre property, which is owned by the land trust. The easement was revised and expanded in 2016 to cover the entire Linda Falls property owned by the Land Trust. This is a continuation of a long-term project for the district and land trust to hold easements over each other's properties to protect against unforeseen circumstances that could threaten the conservation values of the properties.

### **Master Plan Development and Updates**

The Master Plan for 2008-2013 was approved in January 2009. It was updated in 2011 and again in 2019.

### **Moore Creek Open Space Park**

Acquisition of 673 acres in the Moore Creek Watershed completed in December 2008. The City of Napa subsequently approved an agreement with the District to incorporate approximately 900 acres of City of Napa Lake Hennessey watershed lands into Moore Creek Park.

### **Napa River Ecological Reserve Improvements & Restoration**

Parking area paved, and rock barrier installed to control vehicular access in 2007. Trash enclosure constructed and entry signs restored by volunteers in 2008. Deteriorated kiosk and interpretive panels removed in 2008. The District in July 2008 assumed the County's role in managing the preserve under the joint management agreement with DFG. A new maintenance contract with the non-profit organization Options 3 was started in January 2009. A multi-year project resulted in the removal of the bulk of the invasive teasel that had taken over the 5 acre meadow at the entrance to the Reserve, and the construction of a short native plant interpretive trail. In doing this work, several thousand students received a day of environmental education about native and invasive plants and riparian ecology.

### **Napa River Flood Control Easement**

Conservation easement accepted by District in 2007 to facilitate Flood District project and grant funding.

### **Newell Preserve Improvements**

As part of the arrangement with the land trust on the District's purchase of Berryessa Vista, the land trust was willing to use some of the proceeds from the transaction to fund a well pump and distribution system at the Preserve, which is owned by the City of American Canyon. However, the first well drilled by the City of American Canyon came up dry. The City has dropped plans for digging any more test wells.

### **Oat Hill Mine Trail**

The Oat Hill Mine Trail was formally opened in May Of 2008, after a major volunteer work party doing signage installation, brush removal and erosion control. The District in 2008 applied to BLM for a non-fee transfer to the District of a 40 acre parcel at Maple Springs on the Oat Hill Mine Trail; BLM in April 2016 indicated they did not want to transfer this parcel, so the District's application has been dropped.

### **River to Ridge Trail**

Lot line adjustment to legalize River to Ridge Trail as constructed (it had encroached on private property in two locations). Animal silhouettes along the entryway fence illustrating the types of birds and mammals that can be found in the area were installed by an Eagle Scout candidate in 2008. A new information kiosk was installed at the entrance in December 2008 as part of a Boy Scout project. In 2011 volunteers made some drainage improvements.

### **Skyline Park Road and Trail Improvements**

Erosion control work on Lake Marie Road, and paving of campground loop road, completed in 2007 using State Prop 12 funds. The District and the Skyline Park Citizens Association have continued to cooperate on various trail maintenance projects.

### **Skyline Park Concessionaire Agreement Renewal**

District staff negotiated renewal of concessionaire agreement on behalf of the County in 2010, 2015 and 2020. The renewal involved changes to the fee schedule and amendments to and approval of sub agreements with three non-profit partner organizations.

### **Skyline Park Facility Improvements**

The proposals for a second greenhouse (from CNPS) and a covered equestrian arena (from Skyline Riders) were approved by the Department of General Services and by the County Board of Supervisors. The sponsors of these projects however ended up not pursuing either project.

### **Suscol Headwaters Preserve Acquisition**

Acquisition of 709 acres of the former Kirkland Ranch in two phases was completed in November 2017.

### **Trinchero/Putah Creek Open Space Acquisition**

The donation by the Trinchero family of 2,500 acres of open space (Spanish Valley, Crystal Flats and Stone Corral) was completed on December 29, 2010. A related granting of an access easement to the Lake Berryessa Resort Improvement District was completed in mid-January 2011.

### **Wild Lake Ranch**

The District participated in the development of a strategic plan for the property, together with other public lands in the area, that was led by the Land Trust of Napa County. The land trust has decided, at least for the near term, to manage the Wildlake-Duff property itself.

## Deferred/Cancelled Projects

### **Milliken Reservoir Trails and Picnic Area Feasibility Study**

The feasibility study to *construct approximately 3 miles of Bay Area Ridge Trail plus additional feeder and loop trails, along with a staging and picnic area* within the City of Napa's Milliken Watershed was completed and accepted by the Board of Directors in 2009. The Napa City Council in November, 2009 approved city staff recommendation to hold off on considering the Milliken Reservoir trails project until the Lake Hennessey Unit of Moore Creek Park is completed.

### **Montesol West**

The District had the opportunity to purchase 1,254 acres west of Highway 29 adjacent to Robert Louis Stevenson State Park. The area's conservation values were protected through an easement negotiated by the Trust for Public Land and now held by the Land Trust of Napa County. Purchase of fee title would permit the area to be used for public recreation. The District prepared and obtained a Habitat Conservation Program grant that, together with a Moore Foundation grant obtained by the Trust for Public Land, would fully fund the purchase. Public outreach to Middletown area residents in 2017 were positively received. Unfortunately, the option expired at the end of February without TPL exercising it, because we were unable to provide the type of liability insurance the seller wanted to protect his interest in carbon credits that they had sold to the State over timber located on the property.

### **Rector Ridge/Stags Leap Ridge Trail**

*Construction of staging area and 6+ miles of Ridge Trail climbing east from Silverado Trail near Rector Creek.*

CEQA on this project was completed several years ago, the project concept was approved by the District Board, and was positively viewed by the Veterans Home administration. However, subsequent changes and controversies within the Department of Veterans Affairs undid the progress we had made. The area in question also involves the Department of Fish and Wildlife, since they have an easement to allow hunters to use the area; the Department was initially supportive of the District pursuing a formal trail through the property, but personnel changes within their Department means their review also needs to be restarted. Finally, with the approval of the Go North alignment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, this segment of trail is no longer part of the officially proposed alignment for the Ridge Trail. For all these reasons, this project is deferred until other District priorities are under control.

### **Vallejo Lakes**

*Possible purchase of 1100 acres of surplus Vallejo Water District lands, of which 200 acres are located in Napa County, and Lake Curry which is entirely in Napa County.*

Discussions between the District, the Land Trust of Napa County, the County of Solano and the Solano Land Trust indicate a common desire to work together to purchase this property adjacent to Skyline

Park. The City Council of the City of Vallejo officially authorized staff to pursue surplussing of the property, and hired an appraiser to prepare an estimate of the property's fair market value, but this was never released. The District GM, together with the County of Solano EO, in February 2012 each sent letters to the City of Vallejo formally expressing interest in the property and requesting notification per state law of any planned surplussing of the property. Sale of the property by the City has been delayed because of complications related to questions about how best to supply water to residents in Green Valley. Staff from the District and its partners met with the Vallejo City Manager in April 2014; the surplussing process has become more complicated and the City does not anticipate any action in the near future. Staff had a very interesting meeting with City of Vallejo water division staff and a tour of Lake Curry in late May. The Lake Curry property can only be described as a jewel, and the City of Vallejo would clearly like to divest it, but doesn't know how to do this. Solano County in 2015 investigated the feasibility of acquiring the lakes and managing their water supplies; as part of this investigation they expressed interest in partnering with the District to manage public recreational access, but no decisions were made. Further progress on this project depends on the City of Vallejo and Solano County; the District cannot do more until they decide what direction to head.



## **STAFF REPORT**

By: Jason Jordan  
Date: September 12, 2022  
Item: **4.h**  
Subject: August 2022 State Park Report for Bothe- Napa Valley SP, Robert Louis Stevenson SP, and Bale Grist Mill SHP.

### PARK STATUS

**Bothe Napa Valley SP-** Campground continues to be steady on weekends, dropping off during the week now that school is back in.

**Bale Mill SHP-** PG&E gas line construction, road repaving and associated signage has impacted visibility and visitation to Bale Mill. Visitation has slowed with warm weather.

**Robert Louis Stevenson SP-** Visitation moderate to low with hot weather.

### PARK UPDATES

- The third Saturday hike this month was virtual featuring an interactive Google hike of Wetlands Edge Park in American Canyon.
- PG&E declared an emergency repair was required and the power line that serves the campground on August 12<sup>th</sup>. This resulted in use of a temporary generator and crews working throughout the campground over the weekend from 8 am to 10 pm. Staff did their best to minimize noise and other impacts and address complaints from campers.
- District and California State Parks held multiple meetings and site visits to discuss planning and coordination for replacement of the pedestrian bridge over Mill Creek at the Bale Grist Mill.
- Staff visited Fuller Park in Napa and met with representatives to look at their QR code style of interpretation. A similar program is being conceptualized for Bothe's Native American Plant garden to improve self-guided interpretation at the site.
- Staff is continuing to meet with a local Eagle Scout on identifying and assisting with developing potential projects.
- Staff is coordinating and meeting with NVSPA on upcoming Harvest Dinner Fundraiser Event.
- Staff is planning and coordinating volunteers for Old Mill Days event in October.
- Temporary closure signs were posted at Holm's Place on the Oat Hill Mine Trail with the start of hunting season.

- NVSPA has been shooting video at the Visitor Center and park areas in preparation for the Fund a Need for the Harvest Dinner Fundraiser.
- Staff was invited to present for the Napa branch of the Sons in Retirement group in August. The presentation introduced the group to what the district does, the properties and parks we manage, and hikes and programs we offer, and included a call for volunteers.