



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

Brad Wagenknecht
Director, Ward One

Ryan Gregory
Director, Ward Two

Patricia Clarey
Director, Ward Three

Nancy Lewis-Heliotis
Director, Ward Four

Barry Christian
Director, Ward Five

AGENDA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Monday, January 13, 2025 at 2:00 P.M.

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

This is an in-person meeting.

You may also attend and provide comments via Zoom Conference Call.

Please Note: Remote participation for members of the public, whether by telephone, Zoom, or any other technology, is provided for convenience only. In the event that the Zoom or other connection is disconnected or malfunctions for any reason, the Board of Directors reserves the right to conduct or to continue a meeting without remote access.

Instructions for Joining Zoom Meeting

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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 info@ncrposd.org.

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, Second Floor, 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.

The Board of Directors of the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District encourages a respectful dialogue that supports freedom of speech and values diversity of opinion. The Board, staff, and members of the public are expected to be civil and courteous, and to refrain from questioning the character or motives of others participating in the meeting. The District requests that speakers not use threatening, profane, or abusive language which disrupts, disturbs, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of a Board meeting. Members of the public may comment on any item on the agenda during Board consideration of the item. The Board President will invite public comment following the staff presentation and prior to final Board deliberations. Each speaker will be allotted time for comment as set by the Board President (generally 3 minutes).

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

Administration of the Oath of Office for incoming Director Ryan Gregory.

4. Administrative Items

- a. Election of officers.
- b. Consideration and potential approval of minutes for Board of Directors regular meeting of December 9, 2024.
- c. Acceptance of final independent audit for FY 23-24 prepared by Brown Armstrong, Certified Public Accountants (final audit materials to be distributed at the meeting).
- d. Consideration and potential approval of a District representative to the Napa Valley Vine Trail Coalition Board.
- e. Update on the buildout of Suscol Headwaters Park.
- f. Consideration and potential approval of Resolution 25-01, approving the grant of funds from the State Coastal Conservancy for the Phinney acquisition.
- g. Receipt of report on expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff for December 2024.
- h. Review of the District Projects Status Report.
- i. 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



STAFF REPORT

By: Chris Cahill
Date: January 13, 2025
Item: **3**
Subject: Administration of the Oath of Office for incoming Director Ryan Gregory.

RECOMMENDATION

The District Secretary will administer the Oath of Office.

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

District Secretary Ryan Ayers, who is an officer of the District as required by Government Code, will administer the Oath consistent with Public Resources Code Sec. 5532(g). *Those taking the Oath should not forget to wet sign the Oath of Office certificate immediately after the Oath is administered.*

Incoming-Director Gregory was appointed, effective January 2025, by a vote of the District Board on September 9, 2024.

Certificate of Election/Appointment of Board of Directors Member

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, } ss.
County of Napa

THIS CERTIFIES that the undersigned, being the members of the Board of Directors of the NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT of Napa County, California, have appointed, pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 5532,

Ryan Gregory

to the office of Member of the Board of Directors for WARD TWO of the NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT to hold office for the term beginning January 6, 2025 and expiring JANUARY 8, 2029.

Dated September 9, 2024

Oath of Office

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, } ss.
County of Napa

I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties upon which I am about to enter.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WARD TWO
(NAME OF OFFICE)

(APPOINTEE CANDIDATE SIGNATURE)

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this _____ day of January, 2025.

(Signature)

Ryan Ayers, District Secretary



STAFF REPORT

By: Chris Cahill
Date: January 13, 2025
Item: **4.a**
Subject: Election of Board President and Vice-President

RECOMMENDATION

Elect Board President and Vice-President for calendar year 2025.

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

According to the District By-Laws (Section II.A) the Board of Directors, “shall elect from among its members a Board President and a Board Vice-President” on an annual basis. Traditionally, the election of officers occurs at the end of the December meeting, but because a new Director was just seated we have delayed the vote to allow the newly-elected Director to participate. Those elected begin their terms of office immediately upon election and serve until their successors are elected.

The President acts as the presiding officer of the Board of Directors and in that capacity preserves order and decorum, decides questions of order subject to being overruled by a four-fifths vote, and performs a variety of other duties. The Vice-President serves as President in the absence of the President.

The District has no rules or set procedures for how these two Board officers are elected. Past practice has generally, but not always, been that the President was elected to serve two consecutive one-year terms, and that the Vice-President was elected into the role of President thereafter.

We have attached a history of the District’s Board members and officers for the Directors to review, in case that is in some way helpful to your deliberations.

History of Board of Directors

	1	2	3	4	5	Pres	VP
2006	Harold Kelly	Tony Norris	Guy Kay	Dave Finigan	Myrna Abramowicz	Guy	Harold
2007							
2008	Harold Kelly	Tony Norris	Guy Kay	Dave Finigan	Myrna Abramowicz	Dave	Harold
2009						Dave	Myrna
2010	Harold Kelly				Myrna Abramowicz	Myrna	Tony
2011						Myrna	Tony
2012		Tony Norris	Michael Haley	Dave Finigan		Tony	Harold
2013	Karen Bower Turjanis				Barry Christian	Tony	Dave
2014	Karen Bower Turjanis				Barry Christian	Dave	Michael
2015			Brent Randol			Dave	Karen
2016		Tony Norris	Brent Randol	Dave Finigan		Karen	Brent
2017						Karen	Brent
2018	Karen Bower Turjanis				Barry Christian	Brent	Barry
2019						Brent	Barry
2020		Tony Norris	Brent Randol	Nancy Lewis-Heliotas		Barry	Tony
2021			Brent Randol			Barry	Tony
2022	Andrew Brooks		Patricia Clarey		Barry Christian	Tony	Nancy
2023	Brad Wagenknecht					Tony	Nancy
2024	Brad Wagenknecht	Ryan Gregory	Patricia Clarey	Nancy Lewis-Heliotas		Nancy	Pat
2025						TBD	TBD
2026	Election				Election		



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

Brad Wagenknecht
Director, Ward One

Tony Norris
Director, Ward Two

Patricia Clarey
Director, Ward Three

Nancy Lewis-Heliotas
Director, Ward Four

Barry Christian
Director, Ward Five

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Monday, December 9, 2024 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: Brad Wagenknecht, Tony Norris, Patricia Clarey, Nancy Heliotas, Barry Christian

Staff Present: Chris Cahill, Andrew Brooks, Ryan Ayers

2. Public Comment

Michael Haley, Former NCRPOSD Director of Ward 3, thanked Director Norris for his many years of service to the District.

3. Set Matters

- a. Consideration and potential approval of Resolution 24-03, honoring founding Director Tony Norris and thanking him for his more than 18 years of service to the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District.

Following remarks by Chris Cahill, current Directors, retired District staff and past Directors thanking him for his many years of service to the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District and the County of Napa at large, staff presented Director Norris with a plaque to commemorate his tenure.

Directors approved Resolution 24-03 honoring founding Director Tony Norris and thanking him for his more than 18 years of service to the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District.

BW - PC - TN - NH - BC

- b. Administration of the Oath of Office for incoming Directors Brad Wagenknecht, Patricia Clarey, and Nancy Lewis-Heliotas.

District Secretary administered the Oath of Office for incoming Directors Brad Wagenknecht, Patricia Clarey, and Nancy Lewis-Heliotas.

- c. **Public Hearing.** Consideration and potential approval of the Suscol Headwaters Park Phase 2 Development Plan and adoption of the project CEQA Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Report presented by Chris Cahill and Andrew Brooks. Public hearing opened; no public comments.

Directors adopted the Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration based on required findings, approved the proposed Suscol Headwaters Park Phase 2 Development Plan, and approved the additional Suscol Headwaters Park fees and regulations as presented.

TN - BW - PC - NH - BC

4. Administrative Items

- a. Consideration and potential approval of minutes for Board of Directors regular meeting of October 21, 2024.

Minutes for the October 21, 2024 regular meeting were approved as presented.

TN - PC - BW - NH - BC

- b. Consideration and potential adoption of the Board of Directors Regular Meeting Calendar for 2025.

Report presented by Chris Cahill; Directors adopted the Regular Meeting Calendar for 2025 as presented.

BW - PC - TN - NH - BC

- c. Consideration and potential declaration of certain capital asset vehicles as surplus and no longer required for public use.

Report presented by Chris Cahill; Directors voted to declare certain capital asset vehicles as surplus and no longer required for public use, as presented.

BW - PC - TN - NH - BC

- d. Consideration and potential approval of revisions to the District Personnel Manual regarding health and dental insurance.

Report presented by Chris Cahill; Directors approved revisions to the District Personnel Manual regarding health and dental insurance as presented.

PC - TN - BW - NH - BC

- e. Consideration and potential approval of a lease agreement with Samer Ishaq et al. for District front office space at 1443 Main Street, Suite 135, Napa at an initial rent of \$2,100 a month inclusive of utilities.

Report presented by Chris Cahill; Directors approved lease agreement with Samer Ishaq et al. for District front office space at 1443 Main Street, Suite 135, Napa at an initial rent of \$2,100 a month inclusive of utilities as presented.

TN - PC - BW - NH - BC

- f. Receipt of report on expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff for October and November 2024.

Report presented by Chris Cahill; No action taken.

- g. Review of the District Projects Status Report.

Report presented by Andrew Brooks; No action taken.

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

Report presented by Chris Cahill; No action taken.

5. Announcements by Board and Staff

- Director Clarey and Chris Cahill discussed future plans for Old Howell Mountain Road's conversion to a public recreational trail and current volunteer led maintenance efforts.
- Director Christian announced that the American Canyon Community and Parks Foundation's annual Reindeer Run was held on December 7, 2024 with a large number of attendees.
- Director Christian announced that he attended the Watershed Symposium, hosted by the Napa RCD and the Watershed Information & Conservation Council on December 5, 2024 and found the program to be informative and educational.

6. Agenda Planning

- Chris Cahill noted that the incoming Ward 2 Director, Ryan Gregory, will be sworn in at the January Regular Meeting.
- Chris Cahill noted that officer elections will be held during the January Regular Meeting.
- Chris Cahill noted that a presentation about completed work at Suscol Headwaters Park will be coming to the board in a future meeting.

7. Adjournment

SIGNED: _____
Nancy Lewis-Heliotas, Board President

ATTEST: _____
Ryan Ayers, District Secretary

Vote: BW = Brad Wagenknecht; TN = Tony Norris; PC = Patricia Clarey; NH = Nancy Heliotas; 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: Chris Cahill
Date: January 13, 2025
Item: **4.c**
Subject: Acceptance of final independent audit for FY 23-24 prepared by Brown Armstrong, Certified Public Accountants.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Distribution of final independent audit for FY 23-24.
2. Presentation by District Auditor Tracy Schulze.
3. Motion, second, and vote to accept the final independent audit for FY 23-24.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

Not a project. This item does not constitute a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND

Each year the District commissions an independent audit of its finances. The audit evaluates the accuracy of the District's financial reports, the adequacy of District financial controls, and the overall fiscal health of the District. The external audit process is managed by District Auditor Tracy Schulze and her staff in the Napa County Auditor-Controller's office.

Since the District contracts with the County of Napa to process and track all revenues and expenses, the District has, since its inception, made it a practice to contract with the same audit firm as the County; this substantially reduces District costs, because the District and County utilize the same financial procedures.

As with every year since the District was formed in 2006, the independent financial audit for FY 23-24 has resulted in a "clean" report, meaning fiscal controls are adequate and there are no weaknesses or errors in the District financial reports. Overall, our financial position remains stable, with no debt and with reserves sufficient to cover all known District obligations.



STAFF REPORT

By: Chris Cahill
Date: January 13, 2025
Item: **4.d**
Subject: Consideration and potential approval of a District representative to the Napa Valley Vine Trail Coalition Board.

RECOMMENDATION

Select a Director to serve on the Napa Valley Vine Trail Coalition Board on behalf of the District.

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

With the retirement of founding Director Tony Norris at the end of 2024, the District is left without a representative on the Board of Directors of the Napa Valley Vine Trail Coalition. We have partnered with and had a seat on the Board of the Vine Trail Coalition since as far back as 2009. As the Coalition pushes to construct the Yountville-St Helena segment and as the District takes over day-to-day responsibility for upkeep on the St Helena-Calistoga segment, that longstanding relationship is stronger and more important than ever.

Director Clarey already serves on the Vine Trail Board as a representative of the Napa Valley State Parks Association. Director Christian stepped down from a seat representing the Friends of the Napa River on the Vine Trail Board in 2023 in order to ensure that the District had at least three board members not serving on both boards. A combination of quorum and conflict of interest rules makes it impossible, or at least very hard, to enter into contracts between our two organizations with three or more Directors acting in two capacities. So long as no more than two members of the Parks Board ultimately also serve on the Vine Trail Board, we should have no quorum problems entering into contracts with the Vine Trail Coalition going forward.



STAFF REPORT

By: Andrew Brooks
Date: January 13, 2025
Item: **4.e**
Subject: Receipt of report on Suscol Headwaters Park

RECOMMENDATION

Receive the report, no action required.

BACKGROUND

The District acquired 709 acres at the headwaters of Suscol Creek in southern Napa between 2015 and 2017, filed a use permit, and opened Suscol Headwaters Park to the public in February of 2020, with access provided via Skyline Park and the NOSD-owned Bay Area Ridge Trail easement across the Tuteur Ranch. In March of 2023 the District was awarded a State of California Prop 68 grant totaling \$1.17 million to construct a 14-mile trail system, purchase an easement and build a parking lot on North Kelly Road.

Significant park planning and construction work has occurred since the grant was awarded, and staff has been actively engaged in planning work including botanical surveys, parking lot design, trail design work, and easement purchase. Additionally, The District together with contractors has completed more than 5 miles of trail in Phase 1 of the buildout, with approximately three more miles to build in phase 1 and approximately nine additional miles of trail in phase 2 to complete the park.

This report is intended to give Board members a clear picture of the work completed in the last two years and the work still to do before the December 31, 2027 deadline for work to be completed in the Grant Performance Period.



STAFF REPORT

By: Chris Cahill and Ryan Ayers
Date: January 13, 2025
Item: **4.f**
Subject: State Coastal Conservancy Phinney Acquisition Grant Resolution

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution 25-01 (attached).

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

Categorically Exempt. The acquisition of land or interests in land to create parks is exempt from the application of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under State CEQA Guidelines, Class 16 (*Transfer of Ownership of Land in Order to Create Parks*) and the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District’s Local CEQA Guidelines, Class 5, Sub 2 (*Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations - Acceptance of Interest in Property*). No management plan has been prepared for the subject property. There are no unusual circumstances associated with the acquisition of the subject property that would cause it to have a significant effect on the environment.

BACKGROUND

Quoting, at length, from a recent District press release on the Phinney acquisition:

On November 22, the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District, working in partnership with the Land Trust of Napa County, announced that it has secured \$1.7 million in funding to acquire 523 acres of property adjacent to Moore Creek Park. Slated for completion in spring of 2025, the acquisition will expand the total size of the popular park to over 2,100 acres, connect its trail system to the Pacific Union College Demonstration Forest, protect the entire length of Moore Creek, and complete a corridor of permanently protected lands along the eastern ridgeline of the Napa Valley.

Grant funding for this project has been awarded by the State Coastal Conservancy and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, totaling \$1.7 million. While this project and property align with the climate and conservation goals of both organizations, securing grant funding of this scope has been challenging in the tight State budget climate of the past several years. The Napa Open Space District operates without a dedicated funding source and has worked hard to develop a reputation as a worthy grantee capable of executing large acquisition and development projects.

“It’s very much a vote of confidence in our District,” said Napa Open Space District’s General Manger Chris Cahill, “This is an outstanding conservation opportunity, and given our normal operating revenue we wouldn’t be able to tackle this without grant funding. Thankfully, our staff has been

diligent in planning for a project like this for some time and working with our colleagues at the Land Trust of Napa County for this exact eventuality.”

The Napa Open Space District has a long history of identifying grantworthy local projects and securing funding for projects that might otherwise be out of reach. Past projects completed with State Coastal Conservancy funding include the original acquisition of Moore Creek Park, the construction of the youth group camp Eco Camp Berryessa, and the acquisition of the 709 acre Suscol Headwaters Park addition to Skyline Park.

The new property is in a key location that connects over 9,000 acres of existing protected land and fills a gap in a priority wildlife corridor. The acquisition will create an unbroken protected area from the Pacific Union College Demonstration Forest to Lake Hennessey, a major local drinking water reservoir owned by the City of Napa.

In recent years, the Napa Open Space District, Land Trust of Napa County, and other partners have been making progress in securing protection along the east ridge of the Napa Valley, and this property is the final remaining piece needed to protect the length of Moore Creek.

This acquisition will increase the size of Moore Creek Park to over 2,100 acres, connect its 25 mile trail network to the 35 mile Pacific Union College Demonstration Forest network, and allow for 4 new miles of dedicated Bay Area Ridge Trail. The new trail connections will represent the final step in a long-term effort to secure a recreational trail between Moore Creek Park and Angwin that dates back to the Napa Crest Trail plan of the 1970s.

“The conservation value alone makes this a phenomenal project,” said Napa Open Space District Deputy General Manager Andrew Brooks, “but the opportunity to connect regional trail networks and join two destination recreational parks together makes it extraordinary.”

As part of their grant-making process, the Coastal Conservancy requires a resolution of approval from our Board of Directors. Among other things, it delegates authority to District staff to negotiate and finalize the grant. The attached resolution accomplishes these goals.

RESOLUTION N^o 25-01

NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVING THE GRANT OF FUNDS FROM THE STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY FOR THE PHINNEY ACQUISITION AND ADDITION TO MOORE CREEK PARK.

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

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of California has established the State Coastal Conservancy (“Conservancy”) under Division 21 of the California Public Resources Code, and has authorized the Conservancy to award grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations to implement the provisions of Division 21; and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy awards grants for projects that it determines are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code and with the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan and that best achieve the Conservancy’s statutory objectives, in light of limited funding; and

WHEREAS, at its November 21, 2024 meeting, the Conservancy adopted a resolution authorizing a grant to the Land Trust of Napa County (“grantee”) for the Phinney Acquisition and Addition to Moore Creek Park (“the project”). Pursuant to that resolution, grantee will transfer the property to the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District (“transferee”) and assign the grant to transferee. The resolution was adopted by the Conservancy pursuant to and is included in the Conservancy November 21, 2024 staff recommendation, a copy of which is on file with the transferee and with the Conservancy; and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy requires that governing body of the transferee to certify through a resolution that it authorizes the execution by a representative of the transferee of a grant agreement on terms and conditions required by the Conservancy grant agreement number G24-048.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District hereby:

1. Acknowledges that it has or will have sufficient funds to complete the project and, if any property is acquired as part of the project to operate and maintain the property, and, if any facilities are constructed as a part of the project, to operate and maintain the facilities for a reasonable period, not less than the useful life of the facilities.

2. Agrees to be bound by all terms and conditions of the grant agreement and any other agreement or instrument as may be required by the Conservancy and as may be necessary to fulfill the terms of the grant agreement and to complete the project.

3. Authorizes any of the following named officers or employees of the grantee to act as a representative of the grantee, to negotiate and execute on behalf of the grantee all agreements and instruments necessary to complete the project and to comply with the Conservancy's grant requirements, including, without limitation, the grant agreement:

Christopher M. Cahill, General Manager

Andrew H. Brooks, Deputy General Manager

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 13th day of January, 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: __ DIRECTORS _____

NOES: __ DIRECTORS _____

ABSTAIN: __ DIRECTORS _____

ABSENT: __ DIRECTORS _____

Date: _____ Signed: _____, President

APPROVED BY THE NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS Date: Processed by: _____ District Secretary
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STAFF REPORT

By: Chris Cahill and Barb Ruffino
Date: January 13, 2025
Item: **4.g**
Subject: Receipt of report on expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff for December 2024.

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 \$53,060.40, 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 **December 2024**. All Cal-Card purchases are itemized in the financial report.

- Agreement 24-14** With County Appraisals, Inc for an appraisal of the Fern Springs property. (Not to exceed \$6,800).
- Agreement 24-15** With Pacific Tree Care for tree removal at Bothe-Napa Valley State Park (Not to exceed \$10,188.50).
- Agreement 24-16** With Samer Ishaq, et al., for the five-year lease of an administrative office at 1443 Main Street, Suite 135, Napa (\$2,100 monthly for the first year inclusive of utilities, 3.5% annual rent increases, \$3,000 security deposit).
- Agreement 24-17** With Seymour Electric for installation of a level 2 electric vehicle charging station at Bothe-Napa Valley State Park (Not to exceed \$4,550).
- Agreement 25-01** With Pacific Tree Care for tree removal at Suscol Headwaters Park (Not to exceed \$4,834.42).

Grants and donations for **December**:

Large Donations (≥ \$500)	
Verso Law Group	\$1,750
Claire Neilan	\$1,000

Linda and Tony McClimans	\$800
John and Renata Woodbury	\$500
David Pollard	\$500

Online Donations

ReLeaf	\$5,365
Moore Creek Shirts	\$65.40

Iron Ranger Donations

Moore Creek Park	\$334.26
Oat Hill Mine Trail	\$145

PARKS & OPEN SPACE DISTRICT - DECEMBER 2024 EXPENSE REPORT

Gen Admin Dept - 85000-00

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
12/3/2024	Office Supplies	Book	Us Bank National Association	\$ 29.44
12/3/2024	Computer Software	10/24 Google	Us Bank National Association	\$ 7.20
12/3/2024	Computer Software	12/24 Zoom	Us Bank National Association	\$ 15.99
12/3/2024	Office Supplies	Plaque-T Norris	Us Bank National Association	\$ 72.06
12/3/2024	Printing & Binding	Truck decals	Us Bank National Association	\$ 54.04
12/3/2024	Insurance Premiums	Volunteer Insurance Premium-2024/25	Alliant Insurance Service	\$ 704.00
12/13/2024	Rents/Leases-Buildings/Land	1443 Main St, Ste 135-Security Deposit	Knm Properties, Inc.	\$ 3,000.00
12/19/2024	Administration services	11/24 Volunteer fingerprinting	Department Of Justice	\$ 15.00
12/19/2024	Health Insurance Premiums	1/25 Kaiser Premiums	Kaiser Permanente	\$ 3,215.41
12/30/2024	Rents/Leases-Buildings/Land	Feb 2025 Rent-1443 Main St	Knm Properties, Inc.	\$ 2,100.00

Moore Creek Dept - 85010-00

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
12/3/2024	Other Professional Services	12/24 Monthly wastewater sampling	Heritage Systems, Inc	\$ 128.33
12/3/2024	Maintenance Supplies	Wood seat, duct tape, toilet flapper	Central Valley Builders	\$ 40.23
12/3/2024	Maintenance Supplies	Gloves, assorted sizes	Central Valley Builders	\$ 37.66
12/12/2024	Maint - Infrastructure/Land	Chimney cleaning-2607 Chiles Pope Vly Rd	Village Chimney Service	\$ 289.00
12/12/2024	Maint - Infrastructure/Land	Chimney cleaning-2613 Chiles Pope Vly Rd	Village Chimney Service	\$ 289.00
12/12/2024	Maintenance Supplies	Water filter supplies	Oakville Pump Service	\$ 523.26
12/19/2024	Maintenance Supplies	Chain loop, bar oil	Napa Power Equipment	\$ 169.11

Camp Berryessa 85010-03

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
12/3/2024	Waste Disposal Services	11/24 Garbage Service	Berryessa Garbage Service	\$ 126.10
12/19/2024	Other Professional Services	Lab Order #Z120464-Camp Berryessa	Caltest Analytical Labs	\$ 58.00

NRER - 85010-05

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
12/5/2024	Other Professional Services	11/24 Litter Abatement	Napa Valley Support	\$ 500.00

State Park - 85010-08

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
12/3/2024	Goods for Resale	Visitor Center books	Us Bank National Association	\$ 288.92
12/3/2024	Office Supplies	Toner, office supplies	Us Bank National Association	\$ 1,107.72
12/3/2024	Waste Disposal Services	11/24 Garbage Service	Upper Valley Disposal	\$ 2,536.17
12/3/2024	Maintenance Supplies	Pressure treated wood	Central Valley Builders	\$ 53.42
12/3/2024	Communications/Telephone	10/10/24-11/9/24 Internet	At&T	\$ 315.98
12/3/2024	Maintenance Supplies	Antifreeze	Brown's Auto Parts	\$ 11.90
12/3/2024	Construction Services	Furnace replacement-Wright House	Bragg Home Services	\$ 8,000.00
12/5/2024	Communications/Telephone	10/28/24-11/27/24 Phone	At&T	\$ 30.65
12/12/2024	Other Professional Services	Lab Order #Z111127 Bale Mill	Caltest Analytical Labs	\$ 58.00
12/12/2024	Other Professional Services	Lab Order #Z111126 - Bothe	Caltest Analytical Labs	\$ 113.00
12/12/2024	Maintenance Supplies	Plumbing supplies	Silverado Ace Hardware	\$ 86.58
12/12/2024	Other Professional Services	Lab Order #Z111125-Bothe	Caltest Analytical Labs	\$ 219.00
12/12/2024	Other Professional Services	Lab Order #Z111150-Bale Mill	Caltest Analytical Labs	\$ 274.00
12/12/2024	Goods for Resale	Bale Mill souvenirs	Historical Folk Toys	\$ 680.91
12/13/2024	Utilites-Propane	Propane Delivery	Ferrellgas, Lp	\$ 340.87
12/19/2024	Other Professional Services	Lab Order Z120690-Bale Mill	Caltest Analytical Labs	\$ 58.00
12/19/2024	Communications/Telephone	11/13/24-12/12/24 Alarm	At&T	\$ 155.84
12/19/2024	Special Department Expense	Sonora Wheat, 50lb bag	Riverdog Farm, Inc	\$ 500.00
12/19/2024	Health Insurance Premiums	1/25 Kaiser Premiums	Kaiser Permanente	\$ 2,924.39

Other Projects - 85010-90

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
12/3/2024	Maintenance Supplies	Concrete-Pump Track skyline	Us Bank National Association	\$ 243.17
12/13/2024	Other Professional Services	Fern Springs Land Appraisal-50% Retainer	County Appraisals, Inc	\$ 3,400.00



Projects Status Report

January 13, 2025

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. 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. 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. 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. On July 29th 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. In early February 2023 the County of Napa began the extended process of updating its Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (or ALUCP), a document that is relevant to the District because adopted policies could impact our ability to someday complete the Napa River Trail, which would run through the Airport Land Use Compatibility planning area. District staff inspected the entire trail from American Canyon to Fagan Marsh in late January and has had initial conversations with the County planners running the project. Chris, Ryan, and Jessica toured the Am Can Parks Foundation's

Napa River Eco Center project in late April and had fruitful conversations with ACCPF and Napa RCD staff about the facility and outdoor education generally. The Napa StoryWalk will be in residence in American Canyon at Wetlands Edge Park for the month of August. Staff inspected the segment between Suscol Ferry Road and Anselmo Court in August 2024 in response to a Vine Trail request for \$167k in planning funds and found the segment to be not only planned but constructed and in good, operable, ADA-compliant shape. King tides in December resulted in flooding and significant debris accumulation along parts of the trail. Rick Fessenden and super-volunteer Wayne Grout got the trail cleaned up along with some help from an anonymous local who had raked much of the debris into piles.

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 early 2023 indicated the property is in good shape. Staff has lifted the closure on the property we put in place after the LNU Fire. With lake levels being what they now are the property is only accessible by boat.

The Cove at Mt. Veeder

Conversion of a former Girl Scout camp into a park 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. 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 23rd 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. 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 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%). The Turkovich acquisition (Hirth/Turkovich to Land Trust) closed in August and the Purchase and Sale Agreement between the Land Trust and the District was executed on August 30, 2023. We have three years to complete the purchase. Staff filed a General Plan Consistency Determination request with the Napa County Planning Director on November 29 regarding the Turkovich acquisition. While the District no longer needs to secure County land use approvals for our parks, we are still obligated to check in with the County on General Plan consistency. The County formally determined that the Turkovich acquisition was consistent with the General Plan on December 12, 2023. Staff executed a license agreement with the Land Trust allowing us to do initial surveying work, etc on the former Turkovich property. Kevin Smallman made a preliminary trail planning visit to The Cove and Turkovich in May and found the ground travel difficult due to downed trees and post-fire growth. We have partnered with the California Climate Action Corps to do vegetation management and clear old jeep roads across the Cove and Turkovich properties. An operator will be provided by the Climate Action Corps and the District will rent equipment for their use. August's volunteer day is focused on vegetation management to restore administrative entry to the Turkovich property. Vegetation management/fire abatement work and preliminary trail planning work is slated to begin at year's end. Trail planning work is now significantly underway at the Cove despite very challenging conditions (lots of brushy regrowth).

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. The EcoCamp has been closed to the public since mid-March 2020 due to the pandemic. 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. Reclamation has begun work on the camp host site electrical rehabilitation and Sarah has been working to repair tent cabins, which are starting to show some signs of age in what is a tough environment. Napa County 4H successfully hosted their summer camp July 9 – 14, 2023 and campers reportedly thoroughly enjoyed the new location. This was one of the largest groups to utilize the facility for this duration and staff is evaluating infrastructure needs for groups this size at the camp. 4H summer camp will be relocating to Enchanted Hills for the 2024 season, keeping the Bay Area 4H camp tradition alive and located in Napa County. This is a great outcome and staff is very thankful to Lighthouse for the Blind for their help and support in making the move work. September 2024: Repair for failed electrical panel is contracted and should be completed this month.

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. 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. 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. Several volunteer work parties have since made even further progress on tearing down old buildings and salvaging the materials that can be reused. 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. 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. 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. The heavy rains of the winter of 2022/2023 evidenced significant drainage issues in the Kateley Finger staging area; it now appears that drainage improvements, potentially even engineered drainage improvements, will be necessary if we are ever to allow regular wintertime vehicular traffic in and out of

that area. The local Napa Firewise council is conducting fuel reduction along Dry Creek Road abutting the Mayacamas and Amy's Grove properties and requested authorization from the District to do significant clearing 110 feet from the center line of the road. The District was not comfortable with the level of planned tree removal, so has agreed to a reduced project, which includes removing brush, trees that pose a hazard to the road, and trees </- 6" dbh, and limbing up of trees >6" dbh to reduce ladder fuels. Staff hosted the first public opening of the Mayacamas Preserve/Amy's Grove on September 16, and the event was a success.

Moore Creek Park

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. 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. 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. 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. In March 2021 volunteers installed striping for the main parking lot (marked with pinned used fire hose segments) to make parking more efficient. 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. The Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution establishing new no-parking zones at the end of Conn Valley Road in late July, 2022. The Dan's Wild Ride use permit modification was approved on March 22nd, against the objections of two neighbors (one of whom was a representative of CalFire's Las Posadas forest) who were concerned about the adequacy of our parking lots on busy weekend days. We have launched a social media campaign to alert visitors about the full parking lots and busy trails they can expect to experience at Moore Creek in a superbloom spring. Staff met with the Napa County DPW and their landscape architect to discuss tree planting in the area of the main parking lot to mitigate off-site tree removal resulting from a County bridge replacement project on Chiles Creek.

The County would be responsible for watering the trees and would cover all costs. A native plant garden is being developed adjacent to the main parking lot in partnership with Napa County First 5 and with funding from First 5's climate initiative. The early February 2024 wind storm resulted in a great many downed oaks and a lot of required clean-up by staff. The water pressure pump at the Ranch House failed in mid-February and was replaced by Oakville Pump on an emergency basis. Volunteers built a split-rail fence around the native plant garden at the March workday and it really adds a sense of place to the entrance. Redwood Trails Alliance completed work on Washing Machine Trail with the help of some District volunteers and it's now open for use. RTA hosted a ribbon-cutting event for donors and users for the recently-completed Washing Machine Trail on 8/3/24. Staff toured the Phinney property with our State Coastal Conservancy grant administrator and Land Trust partners in order to familiarize SCC with the property and the area. Electrical panel at the Bussey house has been replaced by Buzz Electric, not only very expediently but also slightly under his quoted price. Both State Coastal Conservancy and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission awarded us grants and the Phinney acquisition will add 523 acres to Moore Creek Park. Final details will be buttoned up by spring 2025. Trails weathered the ~15 inches of late November rain surprisingly well with only minimal impacts. Although the trails are holding up well to winter weather and use, staff continues to be busy managing wind/rain-felled trees and drainage-related trail issues in Moore Creek and throughout our parks.

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. 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. Staff has purchased and installed new metal native plant signs. We cleared out an uninhabited illegal campsite that appeared at the Eco Reserve in early February. Weed whipping season has begun in earnest at the EcoReserve and will roll out to other parks as the grass reaches its peak for the year. Thanks to Rick for all the hard work this spring and every spring.

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. 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. 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. Replacement trail signs for the Holms-to-Aetna segment of the trail have been ordered to replace the ones lost to fire in 2020. In December, 2023 Jason and the State Parks crew made improvements to drainage on the trail, near the gate and parking area, to address winter erosion and wear and tear. State Parks staff tackled brushing and other trail repairs on Palisades Trail in an effort to keep it in usable condition. Directional signage was installed on the Aetna side of OHMT at the regular April volunteer project. Eagle Scouts installed new (and more accurately measured!) trail markers between Calistoga and Holm's Place. Staff brushed/scouted Palisades trail and inventoried projects for fall trailwork on Palisades. Two rescues took place on OHMT/Palisades trail in late July. Oat Hill Mine Trail will be closed from Holms' Place to Aetna Springs trailhead during deer season 8/10-9/22.

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. 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. 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. 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 2nd and was attended by many well wishers and dignitaries. Surveyors have been on the property since the week before Thanksgiving and the County has contracted with a geologist to complete a mineral resources report in support of a potential State Lands Commission action to surplus the mineral rights to the County along with fee title. The State Phase 1 environmental analysis is complete and did not identify any serious issues. The pump track is complete and, while not yet formally open to the public, it is getting occasional "soft opening" type use and has proven extremely popular with children and adults alike. We are looking to a potential October grand opening. Redwood Trails Alliance and the Skyline Park Citizens Association are collaborating on hardening the pump track with crushed rock and trail plasticizer, largely using private funds donated by the Clif Family Foundation. This work will greatly decrease both water use and the maintenance work that goes into keeping it in good shape going forward. The District is purchasing fencing and signage materials and the installation work will be completed by District staff. The pump track grand opening was held on December 16, with a great turn out of adult cyclists, kids, and dignitaries. The State has informed Napa County that it is willing to consider selling Camp Coombs, an outcome that District staff has been advocating for several years; the County is pursuing legislation through Senator Dodd's office that would make the sale of Camp Coombs possible. The County hopes that the sale of the remainder of the Park, minus 5 acres the State wishes to retain for low income public housing, may be completed as early as the first half of 2024. Senator Dodd introduced SB 958 which deletes the specific exemption of Camp Coombs from the Skyline Park purchase authorization, which would make Camp Coombs eligible for purchase as part of Skyline Park. District Staff has been very busy working with County staff on the Camp Coombs purchase. We have been meeting with surveyors at least weekly and will be attending a State Senate Governmental Organization Committee hearing in support of SB 958 in early March. SB958 passed out of committee on March 12th and was re-referred to appropriations with a recommendation to consent calendar. Staff visited Camp Coombs with additional County Supervisors and answered

questions about the property and the District's role at Skyline and Camp Coombs post-purchase. SB958 passed Senate unanimously and has made it through the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee as of 7/2/24. The State has provided the County with a draft sale agreement for Skyline Park proper and final checks on legal descriptions and deeds are underway as a final step to hopefully completing the sale this summer. SB 958 passed out of state legislature and is headed to Governor Newsom's desk for signature. Governor Newsom signed SB958 and final work now begins to complete the purchase of Camp Coombs immediately following the purchase of Skyline Park. Construction work on the "jail trail" happened on River to Ridge in late September and left the side entrance to Skyline looking much nicer and more welcoming. Skyline Park Citizens Association signed a revised concessionaire's agreement and it's headed to Napa County Board of Supervisors for signature on 12/17/24. Board of Supervisors approved the PSA for skyline park on 12/17 and we're in the due diligence period. Final payment is scheduled for Spring 2025.

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. 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). 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. It appears that there has been some trespassing and poaching on the property during the 2022 deer season, we are in communication with CaDFW wardens about the situation. Rick has posted a new closed to the public sign on the front gate, replacing the one that was stolen during deer season. Rick and the Napa County

Sheriff ran an armed trespasser (who purported to be hunting quail) off the property in early November. Great heads-up work by Rick in what was otherwise a fairly iffy situation. The Federal Highway Administration has approved Napa County Public Works' application for the California Federal Lands Access Program to fund work on Knoxville-Berryessa Road near Smittle Creek. Public Works' project includes funding for the Smittle Creek trail, the crossing of Knoxville-Berryessa Road from the existing BOR parking lot, and parking lot rehabilitation. We continue to see some trespassing and illegal camping on this property.

Suscol Headwaters Park

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. 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. 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. We have signed a contract with Applied Civil Engineering for design and engineering services for the new Suscol Headwaters parking lot. We met onsite with Applied Civil Engineering to review parking lot design and subsequently received preliminary designs from them. We have signed contracts with Redwood Trails Alliance for construction of the Perdida Trail and with Kevin Smallman for equipment rental for construction of the Zane Trail, as well as the grant agreement with the State. Colliers is proceeding with the appraisal of the trail and parking lot easement on Napa San land. Jake Rugyt has completed his botanical report for the Phase II portion of the property. Napa Sanitation District has indicated they are comfortable with the appraisal. The Perdida (RTA) and Zane (NCRPOSD/Smallman) trails are under construction and we hosted the Napa Register in late May as they put together an article, due in July, on the Suscol project. RTA and District staff have determined that the western end of the Perdida Trail would be better resolved if it crossed over the existing ranch road and made a number of descending switchbacks on District property to the west. That work is well outside the scope of the Perdida contract, so we will be issuing a separate contract for it and awarding it to RTA on a sole-source basis due to the presence of their equipment right there and the ease with which they could pivot to that build from Perdida upon completion. Construction of the Perdida Trail is complete and the RTA trail crew have begun work on the Perdida+ extension and the Chance the Cowboy Trail. Final Napa San approval of the easement purchase has been delayed, as Napa San is

asking for a surveyed legal description of the parking lot area, requiring an RFP and securing a (generally busy) surveyor. RTA has pulled their equipment out of Suscol until the rains return as the soils and fuels have gotten too dry. Staff approved a change order to clarify the scope of the Chance the Cowboy build in late September. We have entered into a surveying contract to develop a legal description of the lower parking lot area, which Napa San is requiring before we can complete acquisition of that easement. Twenty volunteers worked the Zane Trail on December 9 in a project led by Ryan Ayers and Kevin Smallman from our staff. Ryan met with Napa County Fire in early December to orient them to the vineyard road access to Suscol. There were several volunteer trail building events on the Zane Trail, led by Kevin Smallman of our staff, in early January. We have a draft of the construction site plan from the engineer for the parking lot. We are hoping to have initial parking lot plans and a legal description of the parking lot and trail easement done in draft and ready for Napa San approval in April. We would then proceed to drafting a Park Plan for Suscol Phase 2 and bringing that, along with a CEQA action, to the Board by late Spring or early Summer. RTA returned to Suscol Headwaters to finish work on Chance the Cowboy and to complete Perdida Connector. Staff submitted requests for bids for three additional trail segments, Chance West, Suscol Ridge South, and Amphitheater. RTA is building in Suscol and was awarded an additional bid for Chance West Trail. Two additional bids were awarded to Johnson Trails. Additional construction is complete on Amphitheater and Suscol Ridge South trails and RTA is wrapping up Chance West. On June 24th NapaSan's board voted to extend our option to purchase the North Kelly Rd trailhead until January 1, 2025. Trail construction at Suscol is mostly on pause at the moment due to dry soils and fire weather conditions. Staff installed temporary directional signage to help users navigate the newly opened trails which are already proving to be very popular. Construction and planning work continues at Suscol with RTA slated to wrap up construction on Chance West Trail this month. Frog pond liner is slated to be installed by staff and volunteers this month. Napa San easement purchase is inching towards completion; legal description is complete and updated easement deed and purchase and sale agreement is undergoing final legal review. Frog pond liner is installed thanks to staff and volunteers and our partners at Skyline Park. Escrow is opened on the easement purchase, CEQA is launched for phase 2, another invoice went to OGALS and a slate of bids is queued and ready to send to potential contractors for this season's trail construction. Planning work for parking lot construction is underway and we expect to launch formal bid for that work around the new year in anticipation of summer 2025 parking lot construction. Staff received comments from Ca Dept of Fish and Wildlife on Phase 2 CEQA and integrated those comments into a revised document whose comment period ends 12/7/24. Trailbuilding work in phase 1 continues while staff and volunteers are keeping existing trails clear and in good shape. Escrow closed on the acquisition of the Napa San trailhead easement on December 2 and we are now the proud owners of .75 acres of sprayfield, or sprayfield easement. Staff removed several trees along North Kelly Road in December and a final Eucalyptus is slated for removal in January in anticipation of a summer 2025 parking lot build. Biosurveying is slated to begin in spring in advance of parking lot and trail construction in phase 2 this spring and summer.

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. Staff 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. Groundbreaking for the St Helena to Calistoga Vine Trail segment took place on May 24th at the State Park. Tony Norris and Jason Jordan represented the District. The NCRPOSD/Vine Trail/County of Napa Up Valley Vine Trail maintenance agreement was approved by the Board of Supervisors in June and is now (finally) fully executed. Paving of the Vine Trail through the State Park is now complete, but associated work needed to actually open the Trail to the public is now slated to be finished in Spring 2024. State Parks staff, who will be managing maintenance on the Vine Trail are doing market research on the equipment needed to actually do the work, with an eye to purchasing in early 2024. Signs have been installed on-trail identifying that the Vine Trail is not yet open to the public but use continues to be very enticing due to the fresh pavement. Maintenance contract is in its final stages as the segment readies for opening later in June 2024; construction is back on inside Bothe as of 6/3/24, preparing to install Park Tread. Celebrations for the opening of the St. Helena to Calistoga segment are planned for the 8/17 weekend. Vine Trail St. Helena to Calistoga segment is opened and traffic through Bothe has been a steady stream both on weekends and weekdays. Staff is slated to begin maintenance on the St. Helena to Calistoga segment in January and final preparations are underway to complete punchlist and identify any last construction-related issues. Discussions about Vine Trail construction and ongoing maintenance continue as the last construction

punch list items are debated. Winter rains exposed several design-related drainage issues and other challenges with the trail surface.

Woodbury 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 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 30th; 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? 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. 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. We were contacted by a neighboring property owner who had concerns about a large Gray pine on our property in mid-May. Staff is getting bids to have it removed. In the last months we've additionally been contacted about two large oaks located on our property that neighbors have concerns about, we'll be up to inspect those as well. Staff is securing quotes for the removal of the trees, the large Gray pine will likely be expensive. We received a weed abatement notice from Napa County Fire for a small undeveloped residential property in Berryessa Estates, which served as a useful reminder to current staff that we owned such a property. The Fire Marshal retracted the abatement notice, which was issued pursuant to Napa County Code Sec 8.36.060, following a conversation about the District's *Save Lafayette Trees* exemption. District staff weed whipped the abated parcel in mid-November. Two large hazard trees adjacent neighboring properties were removed in May 2024.

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.

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.

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.

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: January 13, 2025
Item: **4.i**
Subject: Monthly report for Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park, and Robert Louis Stevenson State Park.

PARK STATUS

Bothe Napa Valley SP- Camping numbers dropped in December with weather and time of year.

Bale Mill SHP- Visitation continues to be light, very light on rainy days.

Robert Louis Stevenson SP- Use increasing over winter break when weather is good.

PARK UPDATES

- Vine Trail Update:
 - Maintenance agreement to take effect in January, contractor still working.
 - Mile Markers installed in Bothe.
 - NVTA is out of funding so several punch list items/ storm damage will not be completed.
 - A fir large tree fell across the trail and into highway.
- Kerry Brackett's Eco fitness hike was cancelled on the 14th due to heavy rain/wind.
- NVSPA and NOSD staff met to revise an implementation plan for awarded Crocker Grant for restoration efforts of the Native American Plant Garden. Planning underway on equipment purchases, signage and interpretive improvements.
- Storms around the holidays left a lot of down trees. Staff has begun trail clearing with a break in the rain.
- NOSD staff assisted NVSPA with the release of an RFP for Interpretive Master Plan for all three state parks in December. This project is possible with funding from NVSPA's Fund A Need Campaign at this year's Harvest Dinner. Three consultants submitted proposals, and the Interpretive Planning team continues to meet and review proposals.
 - The Interpretive Team did a site visit to Jack London State Park to meet with staff and tour their recently remodeled visitor center and learn about their process.

- Environmental Education:
 - One field trip was held at Bothe in December a total of 12 students from Palisades High School.
- The 3rd Saturday Hike this month was at Pacific Union College and led by Napa RCD.
- The remaining hazard trees from the 2024 State Park assessment were removed through contract awarded to Pacific Tree Care.
- Staff continued to seek prevailing wage bids for emergency repairs of a section of the Wright House roof but none of the many contractors have submitted a prevailing wage bid.
- A contract was awarded to Seymour Electric for installation of an 240W electric vehicle charging station at the Bothe Visitor Center.
- State Parks and CCC crews continued fuel reduction/pile creation behind the buildings in the Visitor Center complex. The work looks great, and the plan is to continue into cabin areas in January.
- Long sleeve Bale shirts and new Bothe logo T-shirts were ordered and are being sold at park visitor centers in an effort to continue improving merchandise options.
- Staff presented to the Kiwanis Club of St Helena to identify projects in need for partnership and promote volunteer opportunities at the parks.
- Emergency repair of failed heater in the Wright House (employee housing) was replaced by contractor in late November.
- A grant application was submitted to the California State Parks Foundation for funding to hold an “Arts in Parks” themed event State Parks Week event on Saturday June 14th.
- Napa County Public Works completed grading work and drainage reestablishment to the fire road on Mount St Helena to address storm damage.
- Caltrans graded and spread gravel to re-open the Table Rock Trailhead at RLS. The parking area was closed for several weeks with mud and debris from storms staged in the parking lot.
- Staff has had discussion with local bike shop about potential bike concession opportunities at Bothe and is researching State Parks concession process requirements.



Brad Wagenknecht
Director Ward One

Ryan Gregory
Director Ward Two

Patricia Clarey
Director Ward Three

Nancy Helioles
Director Ward Four

Barry Christian
Director Ward Five

January 2, 2025

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

As regards: Letter of Commitment for **Public-Private Partnerships to Improve Forest Health and Resilience in Napa and Lake Counties** - CAL FIRE Forest Health Grant Program

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of the Napa County Regional Parks and Open Space District (NOSD), I am pleased to submit this letter of commitment in support of the Napa County Resource Conservation District (Napa RCD) and Lake County Resource Conservation District's (Lake RCD) grant application to the CAL FIRE Forest Health program for the **Public-Private Partnerships to Improve Forest Health and Resilience in Napa and Lake Counties** project.

The proposed project is a large-scale, 800+ acre vegetation management effort that spans Lake Hennessey, Moore Creek Park, and Snowden Vineyards in Napa County and Six Sigma Ranch in Lake County. The project leverages a variety of ecologically-minded methods, including manual thinning and pruning, prescribed fire, and invasive species removal, to improve forest health and resilience to climate change, protect and steward the region's precious biodiversity and natural resources, and reduce the devastating impacts of wildfire. Additionally, the project seeks to support traditional indigenous practices by conducting vegetation management to support willow harvesting, as well as collaborating with the Suscol Intertribal Council and to host educational workshops to deepen cultural connections and understanding of the project areas and their cultural significance to local tribal communities.

NOSD's mission is to protect and preserve natural areas, wildlife habitat and other open space resources, and to plan, improve and operate a system of public parks, trails, outdoor recreational facilities, and outdoor science and conservation education programs. This project builds off of prior partnerships with Napa RCD and advances NOSD's goals and priorities by bringing critical resources to improve the health and resilience of the well-loved forest and recreational spaces of the NOSD's Moore Creek Park. The planned treatments are informed by a Forest Management Plan for Moore Creek developed by Napa RCD and Dogwood Springs Forestry and expands on 110 acres of vegetation management completed earlier this year through a State Coastal Conservancy grant awarded to Napa RCD.

As a partner of this project, NOSD is committed to providing \$20,000 in matching funds to support necessary surveys to advance CEQA requirements. We are committed to providing

property access for Napa RCD and their contractors to carry out the vegetation management activities and facilitate educational programming as well as any necessary NOSD staff time to support the successful execution of the project scope.

NOSD fully supports this project and is committed to collaborating with Napa RCD and Lake RCD on the project, if awarded. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Cahill', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christopher M. Cahill
General Manager