

On the Northern and Central Coasts of California, these investments are helping fight climate change...

# Northern & Central Coasts

## Essential Investments on the Northern and Central Coasts

With California voters' strong support for ballot measures to fund conservation, our state has invested wisely in protecting our land, water and parks. These essential investments have strengthened California's economy by enhancing our environment, attracting tourists and creating jobs.

On the Northern and Central Coasts of California, these investments are helping fight climate change by restoring forests that remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. They're promoting healthier lifestyles by opening coastal lands to the public for hiking and exploring. They're assisting in the recovery of threatened and endangered species, and protecting the Northern and Central Coasts' incredible scenic assets.

Although we have made great improvements, there is still much to be done. The future of all of California — from its wide diversity of plants and animals to the wide diversity of people who live here — depends on these essential investments in the land, water and parks that make the Golden State the unique and promising place we all cherish. Among the noteworthy investments on the Northern and Central Coasts are:

### GARCIA RIVER FOREST & WATERSHED

The purchase and restoration of the 23,780-acre Garcia River Forest in Mendocino County is helping fight climate change by removing dangerous greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. With funding from Proposition 50 and other sources, the forest now has the capacity to store more than 77,000 tons of carbon emissions annually. That is equal to taking more than 14,000 cars off the road every year.

### CARMEL RIVER PARKWAY

By building trails and increasing access to the area, residents and visitors can enjoy the beautiful Carmel River now more than ever. Funds from Propositions 12 and 40 helped establish a network of trails on the Monterey Peninsula to provide safe access and connections to existing public parklands. Ultimately, the Carmel River Parkway will link schools, shopping centers, businesses and parklands in a "walkable town" that will reduce highway traffic and enhance the local community.

### MILL CREEK WATERSHED HABITAT RESTORATION

Restoration of the Mill Creek Watershed, located in the Redwood National and State Parks in Del Norte County, is helping with the recovery of critically important salmon and steelhead populations, including the federally listed Coho salmon. For more than 150 years, timber interests had harvested trees from Mill Creek, constructing an extensive road system and harvesting most of the old growth trees. With \$3 million in Proposition 50 funds, the restoration project eliminated former logging roads and restored habitat in this 25,000-acre watershed. The state's investment attracted additional funding from private sources as well.



**Garcia River Forest & Watershed (Mendocino County)**  
Photo: The Conservation Fund



**Carmel River Lagoon (Monterey County)**  
Photo: Big Sur Land Trust





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### **PALO CORONA RANCH**

The 2004 purchase of Palo Corona Ranch in Monterey County marked the largest land conservation project in the county's history. More than 4,300 acres of the 10,000-acre ranch were transformed into the Palo Corona Regional Park, a seven-mile spread of land that includes 13 watersheds, vast ecosystems, wildlife and more than 500 species of plants. With \$32 million from Proposition 40, the purchase of this land maintained an abundance of California's treasured wildlife and ecosystems.

### **BIG RIVER CONSERVATION PROJECT**

This project permanently protected 7,300 acres of the lower Big River watershed, including the entire 8.2-mile-long estuary in Mendocino County. The acquisition of this extraordinary property linked more than 100 miles of public trails and connected 60,000 acres of wildlife habitats, including habitats for 27 endangered and threatened species. It also protected an outstanding scenic resource at the entrance to the town of Mendocino. The \$25.6 million purchase included \$5.48 million from Proposition 12 with the rest of the funding coming from other governmental and private sources, including the Mendocino Land Trust and the Trust for Wildland Communities.

### **ELKHORN SLOUGH**

At more than 7,000 acres, Elkhorn Slough is one of California's largest wetlands and home to some of the state's most beloved wildlife. With funding from Proposition 50, this ecological treasure at the center of the Monterey Bay coastline provides much-needed habitat for hundreds of species of plants and animals, including more than 340 species of birds. It has also been a great place for local residents and visitors to kayak, canoe, fish, camp and go horseback riding. Public investments from Proposition 50 and other sources preserved and restored this special place for generations to come.

### **CALIFORNIA FISHERIES FUND**

With declining fish populations jeopardizing California's commercial fishing business and the ocean's health, the California Coastal Conservancy invested \$2 million from Proposition 84 in the California Fisheries Fund. It is a first-of-its-kind low-interest revolving loan program to improve the ocean environment and revitalize the ailing fishing industry by helping it develop sustainable fishing practices and management approaches.



**Palo Corona Peak (Monterey County)**  
Photo: Big Sur Land Trust



**Big River Conservation Project (Mendocino County)**  
Photo: Matt Gerhart

#### **CONSERVING CALIFORNIA**

A public education program about our essential investments in land, water and parks presented by Audubon California, California Council of Land Trusts, Ocean Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy and WiLDCOAST.

For more information, please visit our website:  
[www.conservingcalifornia.org](http://www.conservingcalifornia.org)

