California’s Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act, passed in 2006. Proposition 84 made $20 million in state bond funding available to the UC Natural Reserve System to fund land acquisition and facilities projects. Matched by university and donor contributions, the measure fueled $40 million in improvements at 16 NRS reserves. NRS reserves are now utilizing $10 million from a second round of state funding provided by Proposition 68, the Parks, Environment, and Water Bond passed in 2019. State bond funding is essential to the continued safety and utility of the NRS.
Two Prop. 84 successes

Angelo Coast Range Reserve

Built 70+ years ago from scavenged materials and nearby lumber mill scraps, and heated by wood stove, Headquarters House provided only basic shelter for visitors. Two NSF grants, donations from private sources and foundations, in-kind staff time, and a gift of 160 acres provided $640,000 in required matching Prop. 84 funding. The $1.28M project replaced the old structure with three easier-to-maintain and energy efficient structures: two ADA-accessible, 2BR/1BA plus kitchen apartments; and a bunkhouse sleeping eight. The buildings are fire-resistant, with cement board siding, metal roofs, and overhead sprinklers; insulated; and feature accessible walkways and parking.

Blue Oak Ranch Reserve

Proposition 84 transformed an old ranch and its one structure, a barn, into a state-of-the-art field station. The value of the ranch qualified the reserve to receive nearly $4.9M in Prop. 84 funds. The project added housing; subdivided the barn; built utilities; and improved the access road. The barn now holds a fully equipped laboratory; commercial-scale kitchen; classroom; central meeting room, bathing, bathroom, and laundry space; and offices. Modular prefabricated buildings include two staff residences; two 1BR/1BA cabins; and two eight-bed 2BA dormitories. Eight indoor-outdoor cabins house up to 30. Power from a photovoltaic array is stored in a battery wall. A utility building houses vehicles, tools, water treatment, and a fire suppression system fed by tanks holding 40,000 gallons.

To learn more, go to ucnrs.org/nrs-reserves-transformed-by-proposition-84-funds