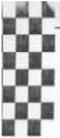


EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support



STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0035  
(916) 319-2035  
FAX (916) 319-2135

DISTRICT OFFICES  
111 W. ANAPAMU STREET, SUITE A  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101  
(805) 564-1849  
FAX (805) 564-1651  
701 E. SANTA CLARA STREET, SUITE 25  
VENTURA, CA 93001  
(805) 648-9943  
FAX (805) 648-9946

Assembly  
California Legislature

HANNAH-BETH JACKSON  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-FIFTH DISTRICT  
CHAIR, NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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BUDGET  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
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AND THE ECONOMY  
JUDICIARY  
JOINT COMMITTEES  
LEGISLATIVE AUDIT  
THE ARTS  
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE  
SELECT COMMITTEES  
CHAIR, COASTAL PROTECTION  
CO-CHAIR, TITLE IX  
STATE BOARDS  
COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD



October 6, 2003

Paul Morabito  
Chair, California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway Ave., Ste. 1100  
Oakland, CA 94612  
Fax: 510-286-0470

**RE: Santa Barbara County Fish Passage Project Development Program**

Dear Mr. Morabito:

I am writing in support of Santa Barbara County Water Agency's (SBCWA) application for grant funding through the California Coastal Conservancy to plan, design and permit a steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) barrier removal project on the South Coast of Santa Barbara County.

The number of steelhead trout in our local streams have dwindled to such a low number that they are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act in Santa Barbara County. I believe that this project should receive a high-priority because it is a collaborative one, designed to alleviate the bottleneck in the process of planning, design and permitting that will help to accelerate recovery of the species. Further, the SBCWA has identified matching funds for leveraging; construction of the project, an important aspect to consider in these constrained budgetary times.

I believe that this project would significantly enhance the recovery of the steelhead trout in the streams of Santa Barbara County, and again, I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Hannah-Beth Jackson  
Assemblymember, 35<sup>th</sup> District  
Chair, Natural Resources Committee

HBj:jb

Cc: Santa Barbara County Water Agency

## EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support

**Santa Barbara County Task Force**  
**Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project**  
930 Miramonte Drive, Santa Barbara 93109



September 30, 2003

Mr. Paul Morabito, Chair  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100  
Oakland, California 94612

*Re: Santa Barbara County Fish Passage Design Grant*

Dear Mr. Morabito:

On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Task Force of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, I am writing to urge the Board of the Coastal Conservancy to approve the proposed grant of \$453,000 to the County of Santa Barbara Water Agency to allow it to prepare engineering designs, environmental documentation, and permit applications for fish passage improvement projects on coastal streams along Santa Barbara County's south coast.

The excellent staff recommendation for this grant discusses in detail the great value of the proposed project. Santa Barbara's south coast streams provide excellent habitat for recovery of endangered steelhead if we can address the low-flow road crossings, culverts, debris basins and other man-made barriers that impede upstream migration to upstream habitat in the Santa Ynez Mountains. Although there is tremendous local interest in and support for steelhead restoration in our county, a lack of adequate funds, staffing and project experience have hampered local efforts to design and implement promising projects. The proposed Conservancy grant would provide the needed tools to address a number of key sites and to create a long-term strategy for barrier removal and modification in South Coast streams. In addition, the proposed project would help build local capacity, expertise and experience that could be transferred to other steelhead restoration projects in Southern California.

Recovery of significant steelhead populations in Santa Barbara's South Coast streams is one of the key regional priorities of the Wetlands Recovery Project. If the proposed grant is awarded by the Coastal Conservancy, the Santa Barbara County Task Force would work actively with Coastal Conservancy and County Water Agency staff to implement the work program under the grant. The Task Force has already made

## EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support

tentative plans to sponsor a workshop that would bring together leading agency and private experts on barrier modification and help develop a comprehensive strategy for steelhead restoration in our area. The workshop---planned for the First Quarter 2004---could incorporate such components as site analyses of specific restoration opportunities, discussions of the Stoecker/CCP report and other literature, and reviews of comparable work programs in other regions as the means of focusing on what needs to be done in our area. By doing so, the workshop could provide the first step in the work program under the proposed grant.

As the Conservancy staff report points out, the proposed grant would also assist other local groups in their own work to promote steelhead recovery. The County Task Force represents more than 25 local agencies and community-based organizations, a number of which (e.g., the Land Trust of Santa Barbara County, Community Environmental Council, and the Cachuma Resource Conservation District) are actively involved in designing and implementing steelhead restoration projects of their own. Unfortunately, local agencies and private consultants in Southern California lack the experience and expertise with fish passage design that exists in Northern California or the Pacific Northwest. The proposed project offers an outstanding mechanism for transferring and adapting such experience to our region so that it can be used not only in our county but throughout the geographic range of the steelhead ESU.

We commend the initiative shown by the staff of the Coastal Conservancy and Santa Barbara County Water Agency in proposing this important project and would urge the Conservancy Board at your October 2003 meeting to approve the grant needed to fund it.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill Komoto  
Co-chair  
Santa Barbara County Task Force  
Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project

Cc: Mary Travis, SCC

**RECEIVED**  
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COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.



[www.socalsteelhead.org](http://www.socalsteelhead.org)

5436 Westview Court  
Westlake Village, CA 91362  
tel. (818) 865-2888

**COALITION MEMBERS**

American Whitewater Affiliation  
California Trout  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Clean Up Rincon Effluent  
Conception Coast Project  
Conejo Valley Flyfishers  
Ecology Center of Southern California  
Endangered Habitats League  
Environmental Defense Center  
Friends of the Los Angeles River  
Friends of the River  
Friends of the Santa Clara River  
Friends of the Ventura River  
Golden State Fly Casters  
Heal the Bay  
Keep the Sespe Wild Committee  
RCD of Santa Monica Mountains  
National Audubon Society  
(Buena Vista Chapter)  
National Audubon Society  
(Palomar Chapter)  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Pacific Coast Federation of  
Fishermen's Associations  
San Diego Trout  
Santa Barbara SEA  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Sierra Club (Angeles Chapter)  
Sierra Club (San Diego Chapter)  
Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers  
Surfrider Foundation (Malibu Chapter)  
Surfrider Foundation (Ventura Chapter)  
The Audubon Center  
Trout Unlimited  
Wilderness Fly Fishers

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Howard Kern (Trout Unlimited)

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Bo Meyer (Wilderness Fly Fishers)  
Kris Schmidt (Sierra Club)  
David Gottlieb (RCD Santa Monica Mts.)  
John Buse (Environ. Defense Center)

**Coalition Program Coordinator**

David Pritchett, tel. 805-403-8830  
P. O. Box 91034, Santa Barbara 93190

02 October 2003

by email attachment

Paul Morabito, Chair  
California State Coastal Conservancy

Subject: ***Support for Santa Barbara County Fish Passage Program***  
October 2003 Coastal Conservancy Board Meeting

Dear Chair Morabito:

Southern California Steelhead Coalition is extremely pleased to support the proposal by County of Santa Barbara Water Agency to develop a program for planning, designing, and permitting for specific steelhead trout passage projects in southern Santa Barbara County. We have seen the Conservancy's draft staff recommendation and we recommend the Conservancy Board approve the funding request fully as proposed.

The proposed project will be an important step in accomplishing real recovery for endangered steelhead in southern California. Too often, a substantial gap remains between a regional planning assessment, which already has been completed for the project area, and actual on-the-ground project implementation. This effort led by the Water Agency will fill such a gap by advancing several projects so they are ready to go for construction, thereby making them highly competitive for funding through NOAA, CDFG, and other sources. Those funding agencies see too few proposals from southern California with fish passage projects already designed and permitted. Accordingly, we anticipate an enthusiastic response to such proposals and we do not expect that any Conservancy funds will be needed or requested to implement those projects when they are ready build in a year or two.

The Conservancy's investment now in this effort likely will realize a ten-fold financial leveraging when all of the fish passages are funded and constructed. The project will be a splendid recognition by the Conservancy to commemorate *California Salmon and Steelhead Awareness Month*, recognized annually in October and established in 2001 through Resolution no. 2885 by Assemblymember Abel Maldonado.

A few months ago I was glad to assist the Conservancy staff in crafting the project concepts and matching the Conservancy with Santa Barbara County Water Agency as a grantee. I can think of no other organization more qualified and better positioned to conduct this project. The Water Agency staff involved in the effort enjoy an excellent reputation among local agencies and environmental organizations.

The Steelhead Coalition especially is delighted to see the project address a variety of routinely problematic and vexing fish passage barriers, including culverts, open concrete channels, instream road crossings, and debris basin impoundments. Through our participation in Santa Barbara County Wetlands Task Force of Southern California Wetlands Task Force (a Conservancy initiative), we expect to continue our involvement in the project as part of its local Technical Advisory Committee to build consensus on which fish passage opportunities should be addressed first and most effectively.

Please feel free to contact me further about this proposed project. You also may contact Jim Edmondson, the Steelhead Coalition Chair, via the address atop this letter. Unfortunately, we are not able to visit the Board meeting on 23 October, but we always appreciate the Conservancy's support for recovery of southern California steelhead.

Respectfully yours,

David A. Pritchett  
Steelhead Coalition Program Coordinator