

EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support

LYNN WOOLSEY
6TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEES:
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS
SCIENCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY

WEB PAGE AND E-MAIL:
<http://www.woolsey.house.gov/>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0506
September 11, 2003

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2263 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0506
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-5161

DISTRICT OFFICES:
1101 COLLEGE AVE., SUITE 200
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
TELEPHONE: (707) 542-7182

NORTHGATE BUILDING
1050 NORTHGATE DRIVE, SUITE 140
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903
TELEPHONE: (415) 507-9554

Paul Moravito, Board President
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Coastal Conservancy
Oakland, California 94612

RE: Project #03-053

Dear Mr. Moravito:

I am writing to express my support for the application submitted by Salmon Creek School, for funding to expand the environmental education program within the Harmony Union School District. This program would focus on transforming the Salmon Creek campus into a laboratory focused on education and observation of the Watershed.

It is my understanding that with this funding, the Salmon Creek School will be able to design a Community Resource Center, conduct a trail feasibility study as well as construct a nursery with a working greenhouse and a creek observance deck. This facility will engage hundreds of visitors a year, both children and adults, in the ecological sciences. As a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, I wholeheartedly support environmental education and laud the efforts put forth by Salmon Creek School to increase awareness of this sensitive habitat.

This project will greatly benefit the people and wildlife of California's Sixth Congressional District and I urge you to give this application your full and careful consideration. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Tom Roth in my Santa Rosa office at (707) 542-7182.

Sincerely,



Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress

LW: sk

✓ Cc: Richard Retecki, Coastal Conservancy
Jane McDonough, Superintendent, Harmony School District.

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SEP 15 2003

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

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EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support

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SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 445-3375
FAX (916) 323-6958

California State Senate

SENATOR
WESLEY CHESBRO
SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT



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HOMES
RURAL EDUCATION
JOINT COMMITTEES:
JOINT COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET

September 9, 2003

RICHARD RETECKI

Mr. Sam Schucat
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Schucat:

I am writing in support of Harmony Union School District's grant request for creating a model program and educational center with state-of-the-art environmentally designed buildings dedicated to the preservation and study of the watershed, habitat and all inter-related environmental studies to serve the K-8 population of the district and county.

This funding grant will enable Harmony Union School District to complete Phase One of the vision which includes a creek observation deck, a nursery, a Community Resource Center, an outdoor classroom area, a trail feasibility study, the nature trail, and public access to designated elements of the property.

The school district already has a track record of partnering with local agencies including the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, the Salmon Creek Watershed group, The Center for Ecoliteracy, Fish and Game, Sonoma State University, State Department of Environmental Education, Sonoma County Jail Industries and Sonoma County Water Agency.

This project will benefit the community as well as the students while preserving, protecting and restoring the resources of this part of the coastal region. I urge the Coastal Conservancy to authorize the necessary funding for this project. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

WESLEY CHESBRO,
State Senator, 2nd District

WC:la

cc: Richard Retecki

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

444 GEORGIA STREET
VALLEJO, CA 94590
TEL (707) 648-5312
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50 D STREET, SUITE 120A
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FAX (707) 576-2773

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GEAR



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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION • SONOMA COUNTY
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Tel. (707)565-2621 Fax (707)565-2623 4-H (707)565-2681
Master Gardeners (707)565-2608 <http://cesonoma.ucdavis.edu>



June 12, 2003

Sam Schuchat, Exective Director
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Coastal Conservancy
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Schuchat,

I strongly support the Salmon Creek School Grant #0-043 which would improve the watershed and provide a foundation for long-term understanding and stewardship of natural resources in the region. This approach, which integrates elementary education with volunteer efforts for environmental protection is a sure way to cement values of resource protection and conservation in a multi-generational framework.

The infrastructure of an observation deck, native nursery and interpretive nature trail will provide a focal point for learning. In addition, designs for a "Green" building and trail from Occidental to Freestone will connect with the greater coastal community.

I hope the Coastal Conservancy is able to support this important program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul G. Olin'.

Paul Olin
Marine Advisor

PO/kp

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

University of California and the United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating

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Sam Schuchat
Executive Officer
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

September 9, 2003

Re: #03-053 Salmon Creek Environmental Education Project

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

I am happy to provide a letter of support for the Salmon Creek Middle School's Environmental Education Project. This project will not only be an incredible addition to the school, but will be a valuable community resource as well.

This proposal features innovative planning, design and construction features. I have been asked in my capacity as Faculty member of the EcoDwelling Program at New College of California's Santa Rosa campus to support this project with my expertise and network of colleagues in the natural building and ecological design field. I am most happy to do so, and look forward to the opportunity to partner our BA and MA students with the students of Salmon Creek as this exciting project unfolds. Salmon Creek Middle School has certainly "done its homework" – this is one of the most sophisticated proposals of its type that I have ever seen.

The resulting project will certainly become a destination in its own right for students of ecological design, architects, designers and planners, as well as for the students for which it is designed. I expect it will draw many more visitors than anticipated.

I hope that the Coastal Conservancy grants this project the funding it deserves. It certainly gets my full-fledged support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph F. Kennedy'.

Joseph F. Kennedy
EcoDwelling Faculty
New College of California

CC: Richard Retecki
Jane McDonough, Superintendent

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OAKLAND, CALIF.



EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support



Over 20 years of protecting and restoring the Bay-Delta-Rivers ecosystem

September 8, 2003

Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

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- Nancy C. Swadesh

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

On behalf of the Board and staff of The Bay Institute, I am writing to express our support of The Harmony Union School District's proposal to expand its environmental education program. Over the past few years, The Bay Institute, through its STRAW Project (Students and Teachers Restoring A Watershed), has worked with teachers and students in the Harmony School District to do riparian restoration and other watershed projects. The STRAW Project coordinates and sustains a network of teachers, students, community members and restoration specialists as they plan and implement riparian studies and restoration projects in Marin and Sonoma counties.

Harmony Union School District has a history of providing a rich environmental education program to its students. Students have worked on Salmon Creek to do creek studies, and restore native habitat. It is important that this effective model of environmental education be allowed to expand and progress. This proposal provides important resources that will greatly enhance the environmental program, including an observation deck over the creek, a greenhouse to grow native plants and an outdoor classroom.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Grant Davis

We highly recommend the Salmon Creek proposal, and are poised to support the school district as it expands its successful environmental education program. Thank you for your consideration.

FOUNDER

Bill Davoren

Sincerely,

Grant Davis
Executive Director

cc: Richard Retecki
cc: Jane McDonough, Superintendent

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OAKLAND, CALIF.



EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support

the
collaborative
for high
performance
schools

September 11, 2003
Ricardo Retzki
Paul Moravito, Board President
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Coastal Conservancy
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Salmon Creek School Project #03-053

Dear Mr. Schuchat,

I am writing to express the Collaborative for High Performance Schools' (CHPS) strong support for the Harmony School Districts' grant to build the Salmon Creek School. CHPS aims to increase the energy efficiency of schools by providing information, services, and incentive programs directly to school districts and designers. The goal of CHPS is to facilitate the design of high performance schools: environments that are not only energy efficient, but also healthy, comfortable, well-lit and contain the amenities needed for a quality education. CHPS also believes that schools should serve as learning tools for the community. It is evident that Salmon Creek School intends to serve as an excellent example of high performance design.

CHPS is a partnership of federal, state, and local government agencies, investor-owned and municipal utilities, and nonprofit organizations formed under a common goal of improving the quality of educational facilities in California. Some of the benefits of high performance schools include: improved student and teacher health, heightened student performance, decreased operating costs, lower absenteeism, and enhanced indoor and outdoor environments.

The \$300,000 for Phase I of the Salmon Creek School would allow for the necessary plans and early designs in order to achieve the districts goal of building sustainably. CHPS would like to facilitate this vision by providing the tools necessary. Our three volume set of Best Practices Manuals provide the means to plan, design and rate the performance of the school. In the future, if Harmony School District is in need of design assistance, energy audits or other services this may be provided free of charge. The projected plan for Salmon Creek School will set a president for future schools in the area and motivate environmental responsibility. In so many urban areas where school children do not have the opportunity to learn from their natural surroundings, Salmon Creek would provide a dynamic educational advantage.

Our mission is to provide the tools for the next generation of California Schools. We fully support Harmony School District's determination to build sustainably and teach our youth in the process. Please provide the necessary funding to make this a reality.

Sincerely,

Sara Greenwood
Communications & Outreach Manager

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(877) 642-CHPS
www.chps.net

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support

Occidental Arts and Ecology Center

Brock Dolman

15290 Coleman Valley Road • Occidental, CA 95465
tel: (707) 874-1557 x 206 • fax: (707) 874-1558
www.oeac.org Brock@oeac.org

RICHARD ROSTOCK

Mr. Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

September 10, 2003

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

On behalf of the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center (OAEC), I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the Salmon Creek School grant (#03-053) currently under consideration for funding by the Coastal Conservancy. OAEC has been significantly involved with the Harmony Union School District's Harmony Elementary School Garden Project since 1997. As an active member of the environmental education steering committee we are enthusiastic about the possibility of extending this collaboration at Salmon Creek School.

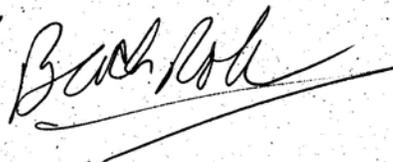
As the Director of OAEC's Basins of Relations Program, I have worked for a number of years with community based watershed education and restoration efforts on California's North Coast. What excites and impresses me most about Salmon Creek School's vision is the opportunity to embody a living watershed restoration classroom on a 67-acre public school campus of unparalleled beauty and ecological diversity. The breadth and scope of elements proposed are astounding. They will provide for a public access interpretive trail; rails to trails study; outdoor classrooms; a hands on native plant nursery; project based restoration learning with K-8 children with on-site redwood forests, wetlands and riparian forest ecosystems; and an observation deck to marvel at leaping salmon and steelhead returning home to spawn.

Additionally, the Phase 1 planning and design ideas for a multi-purpose community restoration center on the campus may include natural daylighting; energy efficient passive solar heating and cooling; photovoltaic electricity; sustainable materials; and on-site stormwater retention. Each of these encompass the highest aspirations of a sustainable development paradigm. Having a public demonstration building of such ecological integrity and foresight will provide profound inspiration and education for the many thousands of visitors and community members who will use and learn from this building over the years.

Thank you for your serious consideration of the Salmon Creek School's grant proposal. If you need further information about OAEC, please do not hesitate to contact me. We very much look forward to working with you and all of the people coming together to see this vision manifest for all future generations of West County children and the health of our coastal Salmon Creek watershed.

Sincerely yours,

Brock Dolman



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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

WATERSHED DAY

September 9, 2003

Mr. Sam Schuchat
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

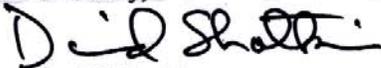
Dear Mr. Schuchat:

I am writing to offer support to the Coastal Conservancy's project # 03-043 for Salmon Creek School. Watershed Day is a one day environmental education event that has taken place at Salmon Creek School for the last two years. (It was held at the local elementary school in 2000). We are already in the planning stages for our next Watershed Day to be held in May, 2004, at Salmon Creek School. Attendance has grown at Watershed Day from 150 attendees in 2000, to 400 in 2003.

Working with our local schools as been a focus of Watershed Day since it's inception. This Coastal Conservancy project will facilitate increased and expanded interactions between the Salmon Creek School, Watershed Day, and the larger community. In addition, projects supported by the grant will become models of school and community cooperation to educate students and adults about the importance of environmental awareness. These model programs and projects will be experienced by the expected 1,200 students and educators who visit the site as well as the by larger community that comes from Sonoma County and beyond for Watershed Day.

We look forward to your support and encouragement for this project which is of great importance to our coastal ecosystem.

Sincerely,



David Shatkin
Watershed Day Coordinator

Cc: Richard Retecki
Jane McDonough

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support

Paul Moravito, Board President
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Coastal Conservancy
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Support for a grant to Harmony District

Dear Mr. Moravito,

I am writing to express my enthusiasm for the projects being considered for funding by Coastal Conservancy in the Harmony School District. I write both as a local environmental activist, in the neighboring Dutch Bill Creek Watershed Group and as the parent of two children who now and in the future will attend the Harmony School District.

There are so many reasons to fund these projects. I am sure you have been made aware of all of them, but among the most important to me is the huge opportunity given to the Harmony School District with these funds, the opportunity to develop the district as an environmental education magnet school, creating a program which is creative and enriching enough to attract students from within and without our district, a huge boon in the situation the district finds itself in, which is one of declining enrollment and funding. The district is a natural place to pursue such a program. In our immediate environs are many private environmental education camps and centers which will also benefit from the community, several active and thriving watershed groups and other environmental collectives. Environmental preservation and restoration are embedded in the values of the people in our district. Last year, the kindergarten class launched a hugely successful native plants demonstration garden at a local restoration site in Dutch Bill Creek and the level of enthusiasm and participation among parents, kids and staff was very high, There is a desire for such programs to continue and be available at all grade levels.

The funding of this project will make an enormous difference, almost immeasurably, to the school, the children who attend it, the efforts to restore the neighboring environment and the faith and confidence of the community in its school district. Please grant funding to this fantastic project!

Respectfully,



Tara K. Cantua
Parent at Harmony School
cc: Jane McDonough, superintendent Harmony School district

✓ Richard Retecki, Coastal Conservancy

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

PO BOX 118
OCCIDENTAL, CA 95465
IN REGARDS TO PROJECT # 03-053

EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support

Michelle

Michelle Whitman
3535 Joy Rd.
Occidental, CA 95465

September 22, 2003

Paul Moravito, Board President
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Coastal Conservancy
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Moravito:

I am writing to you to express my support for the proposed Salmon Creek School grant. As a member of the Occidental community, a parent of children attending Salmon Creek Middle School and a proponent of sustainable development and resource use, I feel that our partnership with the Coastal Conservancy will produce a state-of-the-art environmental education facility with far-reaching potential. The Salmon Creek site is host to an uncommon ecological wealth that warrants study, protection and thoughtful use. Our community is home to numerous individuals who work in the fields of planning, design, education and environmental sciences who have already demonstrated interest and support for this project. I believe that Salmon Creek has the rare mix of components to produce a facility that will be held up as a triumphant example for projects that will surely follow. The benefits of this project reach beyond the boundaries of the school, our town and even our lifetimes. Thank you for being a part of our vision.

Sincerely,

Michelle Whitman

Michelle Whitman

R. Pefedini

Dear Mr. Moravito,

I am very excited about what is happening to Salmon Creek. It's a very beautiful school and I think everyone should get to see this campus. Also, since kids get to have a say in it, me, my friends, and others can express what we think should happen to the school.

It would be really cool if our environmental ed. program could go even further. All grades could explore the forest and creek then they might learn something that really sticks in their brain. To learn about the environment is almost as important as learning math. I would really love it if we got this grant.

Sincerely,

Harrah Whitman
5th grade
Salmon Creek School

Re: Project #03-053

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support

September 22, 2003

Paul Moravito, Board President
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

This letter is in support of the Salmon Creek School Project (#03-053.) I am the mother of an eight grader whose has been in the Harmony District since Kindergarten and is a sixth generation resident of Occidental. Although environmental preservation for future generations has always been paramount in our house, until two years ago when we began volunteering with Stewarts of Slavianka's Watershed Education Program, we were unaware of amount of education and work that is happening around the Russian River Watershed. Our participation in United Plants Savers, Sonoma County Herb Association, Native Plant Society and our interests in camping, tide pools, basketry, native cultures and medicine are all connected in the Watershed. A Community Resource Center would provide a centralized place where all of the groups could come together and the community could see what is being done.

As a culture we need to rethink how we impact earth, however, change is difficult to most people if a concept is Novel or Unfamiliar. A magnet school, which addresses sustainability in the design and location of the buildings, focuses on restoration of the habitat and is visited daily by children, their families and friends is the ideal place to move the concept into the realm of Familiar so change can happen. It's a FUN concept that will ripple and echo into the larger community. The Salmon Creek project fits this bill and has my support as a parent, Watershed educator and fifth generation resident to the community.


Ginny LaVine Barrera

CC: Richard Retecki, Coastal Conservancy
Jane McDonough, Superintendent Harmony School District

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support

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PAGE 01



Harmony Union School
Box 279 Occidental
CA, 95465



To: Paul Morgvito, Coastal Conservancy Board President Fax: 510-286-0470

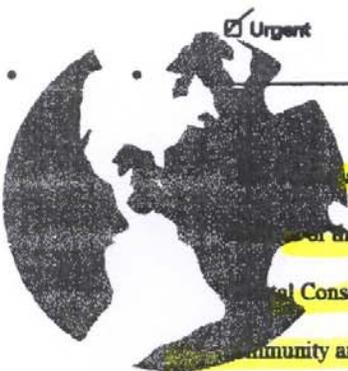
From: Audrey Desky, M.D. Date: 9/15/2003

Re: Salmon Creek School Grant #03-053 Pages: 1

CC: Jane McDonough, Superintendent
Harmony Union School District

Urgent Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

For Review
TODAY



...as a parent of two children at Harmony Elementary School and as community
...of the town of Occidental. I fully support the plans that are being considered by the
...Conservancy to create a program at Salmon Creek. It is a tremendous opportunity for our
...community and the entire Bay Area. This community is an ideal place for such a project to be
developed as we have a history and an infrastructure that supports such an environmentally based
program. The families in the Harmony Union School District and the Occidental Community are
thrilled to be considered a recipient for this grant.

EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support

9-25-03

California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway Suite 1100
Oakland, California 94612

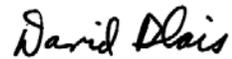
Dear Mr. Retecki:

As the parent of a second-grade student at Harmony School, I am pleased to write a letter in support of the grant request #03-053, asking for \$300,000 in funding for Harmony Union School District's planned expansion of its Salmon Creek environmental studies center and curriculum. I have seen first hand the benefits of having the school garden facility at Harmony elementary school, as I have been involved as a garden docent since my daughter started kindergarten there. The garden time has provided a way to blend the biological science, natural beauty, nutritional and other aspects of studying the environment using the children's natural curiosity to make it all a fun learning experience. Over time I have also seen the work ethic that develops when the children see the results as their efforts literally bear fruit.

So the garden program at Harmony is a great teaching environment, but also it serves as a central meeting ground for the harvest fair and other celebrations throughout the year. As the Harmony campus is soon to be integrated with Salmon Creek, I was wondering about the possibilities for a transition of the garden curriculum. Since viewing this proposal I can definitely see how this planned expansion will be a great asset not only to Salmon Creek School but to the surrounding community and county as well. It will bring the garden curriculum to the 'next level' and widen the scope to include ecological studies in general, in an area with a sensitive ecosystem that needs to be preserved. And since the proposal is geared toward restoration, monitoring and protection, I feel confident that this plan will help preserve the ecosystem, while allowing for human study and enjoyment.

My family's neighborhood is also a region of recovering redwood forest, on some foothills between Occidental and the coast. Although logged about a hundred years ago, it is amazingly vibrant with flora and fauna; I often reflect on how fortunate we are to live here. It seems a natural fit that our relationship with our natural surroundings is a part of my child's education. Since she will be at Salmon Creek in a couple of years or so, I'm glad to see the groundwork being done to make that happen. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter in support of this proposal.

Sincerely,



David Blais

P.O. Box 1319
Occidental, CA
95465

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.