

## EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
5630 South Broadway  
Eureka, Ca. 95503

707-442-6058 x.3  
707-442-7514 (FAX)  
[www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov)

November 18, 2003

Michael Bowen  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Coastal Conservancy Board of Directors:

I am writing to express my support for the grant proposal by Sustainable Conservation. The proposal entails development of a Partners in Restoration permit coordination program for the implementation of restoration projects and Best Management Practices in Humboldt County.

The USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical as well as financial assistance to farmers and ranchers to integrate conservation technology into their land management operations. Our mission is to work in partnership with people to help them improve and sustain natural resources and the environment. This proposal, if funded, would go hand in hand with the mission of the NRCS.

I applaud the leadership taken through this proposal, and feel the far sighted action will be of great value to all those who are working together to address conservation issues here in Humboldt County. Expediting and coordinating the regulatory review process for landowners who are trying to do the right thing will both make our jobs significantly easier and encourage more private landowners to engage professionals in restoration activities. As it stands currently, the time and cost of assisting them in complying with the permitting process is a significant drain on our resources, and their good will.

Sustainable Conservation has developed similar programs in Mendocino County and the Central Coast. Their experience, and the dedicated staff they can devote to this project, is critical to success. Sustainable Conservation's relationships and experience with regulatory entities will help assure that restoration activities critical to watershed health in Humboldt County such as riparian restoration, fish stream improvement, wetland restoration, and rural road maintenance, will be covered under the expected programmatic agreements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas Hedt", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas Hedt  
District Conservationist  
Eureka Field Office

**RECEIVED**  
NOV 24 2003  
COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

## EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support



Simpson-Vance House 1892

# Redwood Community Action Agency

Monday, Nov. 24, 2003

Michael Bowen,  
State Coastal Conservancy,  
1330 Broadway, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Reference: Sustainable Conservation – permit coordination

The Natural Resources Services Division (NRS) of Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA) supports Sustainable Conservation's grant proposal to develop a Partners in Restoration permit coordination program for restoration projects and the implementation of Best Management Practices in Humboldt County.

NRS has been implementing watershed restoration projects for over 20 years and has implemented over 350 projects in north-west California. NRS works in community planning, watershed planning, outreach and education, and implementation of watershed restoration and community access projects. NRS works cooperatively with government agencies, tribes, and private landowners in planning and implementing a wide range of projects.

NRS works extensively with landowners, assisting them in designing and implementing projects aimed at restoring and enhancing natural resources. Unfortunately the existing regulatory requirements for these restoration projects is no different than for development projects, and landowners are frequently discouraged by the lengthy and cumbersome process they must follow, even when they are trying to correct problems caused by poor management practices of the past. Expediting and coordinating the regulatory review process for landowners who are trying to implement restoration/enhancement projects will encourage more private landowners to participate and will save money that can be applied to implementation, putting more money "on-the-ground". Currently, the time and cost of assisting landowners in complying with the permitting process is a significant drain on our resources and their good will. Ultimately, the money we spend on permitting is money we don't spend helping the resources.

Sustainable Conservation has a track record of implementing similar programs in Mendocino County and the Central Coast. Their experience and the dedicated staff that they can devote to this project will help ensure success. They have laid out a collaborative process for developing the Humboldt County program that answers a

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## Redwood Community Action Agency

critical need. Their efforts to include NGO watershed and restoration organizations like ours, and the landowners and projects we support, will be of significant benefit to Humboldt County's natural and community resources. Sustainable Conservation's relationships and experience with the regulators will help assure that the activities most needed in Humboldt County - riparian restoration, fish habitat restoration and enhancement, wetland restoration, and upslope erosion control - will be covered under the expected programmatic agreements. This is especially relevant with the current sources of funding and the lack of programmatic permitting at some of the agencies administering the funds.

The ultimate beneficiaries of this program and the projects completed under it will be the natural resources that restoration funds are intended to protect and enhance. We encourage you to provide the funding needed to bring the Partners in Restoration permit coordination program to Humboldt County.

Sincerely,

Don Allan,

Contracts Manager, on behalf of  
Natural Resources Services Division of RCAA,  
904 G Street, Eureka, CA 95501  
Phone: 707-269-2063  
Fax: 707-445-0884

E-mail: don@rcaa.org

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

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