

EXHIBIT 3: Letters of Support



*Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515*

*Anna G. Eshoo
Fourteenth District
California*

December 16, 2003

Mr. Paul Morabito, Chair
Mr. Prentice Williams, Project Manager
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Mr. Morabito and Mr. Williams,

I'm proud to write to you in support of the proposed \$300,000 grant for the Coast Dairies Water Supply Project that will be under review at your January 29th meeting.

Over the last several decades, the North Coast of Santa Cruz County has struggled to save its agricultural land while protecting the home of endangered species. Many have said that it's impossible to protect the environment while continuing agricultural production, but countless individuals from Santa Cruz County have worked tirelessly to see that both agriculture and the environment continue to benefit the people living in the area.

Over the years, the Coast Dairies property has become the center of this debate. The property consists of 760 acres of farmland, 700 acres of forest and over 5 miles of coastline. It is home to the Coho Salmon, the Steelhead Trout and the Red-Legged Frog, as well as deer, coyotes and bobcats. Tributaries and streams in the area cannot fall below levels determined by U.S. Fish and Wildlife because of concerns about Coho Salmon and Steelhead Trout, so farmers are constantly worried about water supplies.

In an effort to remedy the situation, California Assemblyman John Laird and Santa Cruz County Supervisor Mardi Womhoudt have proposed a grant to help facilitate off-stream water storage reservoirs that can allow farmers to do their important work while keeping endangered species free from harm. These reservoirs would trap water that normally would wash into the ocean during the rainy season and allow farmers to use the water during the dry season. Thus, the project could allow the community to enjoy a thriving Coho Salmon and Steelhead Trout population while helping the agricultural community flourish.

I strongly support the Coast Dairies Water Supply Project and I urge you to do the same. It is a project worthy of this investment.

Sincerely,

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



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COMMITTEES
CHAIR, ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY &
TOXIC MATERIALS
JUDICIARY
LABOR & EMPLOYMENT
NATURAL RESOURCES
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, RETIREMENT
& SOCIAL SECURITY
REVENUE & TAXATION
SELECT COMMITTEES:
CHAIR, CALIFORNIA WATER NEEDS &
CLIMATE CHANGE
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

**Assembly
California Legislature**

JOHN LAIRD
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT



STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0027
(916) 319-2027
FAX (916) 319-2127

DISTRICT OFFICES
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 318B
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95080
PHONE: (831) 425-1503
FAX: (831) 425-2570
MONTEREY AND SANTA CLARA COUNTIES
99 PACIFIC STREET, SUITE 555-D
MONTEREY, CA 93940
PHONE: (831) 649-2832
FAX: (831) 649-2935

December 18, 2003

Paul Morabito, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chair Morabito,

I am writing in support of Santa Cruz County's request for a \$300,000 grant to fund the Coast Dairies Water Supply Project (Project).

As you may know, some of the California coast's most scenic farmland was protected from the pressure of development with the purchase of the Coast Dairies property. The property includes more than 7000 acres and seven miles of stunning coastline with six beaches, approximately 700 acres of agricultural lands, redwood forests, endangered species habitats, and other critical resources that are now permanently protected.

At the time of the purchase, a commitment was made to preserve the agricultural uses on the property to the extent possible. Now, due to the listing of coho salmon and steelhead as endangered species and the realization that farmers on the property lacked the legal rights to access the water they traditionally used, serious threats to the continuation of agriculture at Coast Dairies exist.

The first step to a long-term solution to address the agricultural water needs on the Coast Dairies property is to secure water rights and conduct a feasibility study for off-stream irrigation reservoirs. The feasibility study will involve close cooperation with all of the regulatory and partner agencies in order to develop a Project that will be approved and supported by all. Hydrologic studies, environmental documents, funding plans and cost/benefit analyses will also be conducted as part of this project. The end goal of this Project is to secure water rights and other necessary permits for the reservoirs, which will provide a feasible, permanent solution to preserving agricultural land uses on the Coast Dairies property while protecting the endangered species in the streams on the property.

Sustaining agriculture on this property is essential to maintaining a healthy regional economy, enhancing and restoring the unique flora and fauna of this region. This Project will well serve as a model program for resolving conflicts between irrigated agriculture and protected fisheries in coastal areas.

<http://www.assembly.ca.gov/demweb/members/a27/>



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I am proud to express my support for this effort. I hope that you will give this Project every consideration for funding.

Sincerely,



JOHN LAIRD
Assemblymember, 27th District

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
Farm Bureau

January 14, 2004

Paul Morabito, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Morabito:

On behalf of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau, I am writing to support your staff's recommendation for the \$300,000 grant to the County of Santa Cruz for the Coast Dairies Water Supply Project. We believe that this funding will allow the County to move toward obtaining the water rights and developing the off-stream reservoirs necessary to preserve traditional irrigated agriculture on the Coast Dairies property.

The north coast of Santa Cruz is an important area to continue production agriculture. We hope you will support your staff's recommendation and approve the grant to Santa Cruz County.

Sincerely,

Edward Ortega
President

EO/rk

cc: Prentice Williams, Coastal Conservancy Project Manager

141 Monte Vista Avenue • Watsonville, CA 95076 • (831) 724-1356 / FAX (831) 724-5821

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Santa Cruz County
Resource Conservation District

820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128
Capitola, California 95010

sccrcd@sccrcd.org

Ph: (831) 464-2950
Fx: (831) 475-3215

December 18, 2003

PRENTISS WILLIAMS

California Coastal Conservancy
Attn: Paul Morabito, Chair
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Coast Dairies Water Supply Project

Dear Chairman Morabito:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District (SCCRCD) to support the County of Santa Cruz's *Coast Dairies Water Supply Project*. The SCCRCD has participated in the County led Working Group to address the continued role of agriculture on the Coast Dairies Properties and believe that this project request is necessary in order to ensure a short and long-term solution for agriculture on the North Coast. This project is a high priority for the agricultural cooperators that we serve on the North Coast of Santa Cruz. So much so, that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has identified the need to develop alternate water sources to protect ground and surface waters from overdraft as one of the five priority resource concerns eligible for USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program Cost-Share Assistance. The Working Group has discussed and agreed that securing water rights and conducting a feasibility study for the establishment of reservoirs is the next critical step for agriculture on the Coast Dairies Property.

This project is a model of statewide and regional importance. We all hope that this project will provide a feasible, permanent solution to preserving agricultural land uses on the Coast Dairies Property while protecting the rare and endangered species in the streams on the property. We strongly support this project and look forward to working with the County of Santa Cruz and the Working Group to ensure a solution that works for agriculture and the environment. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 831-464-2950. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karen Christensen".

Karen Christensen, Executive Director of Programs

CC Supervisor Mardi Wormhoudt
Assemblymember John Laird

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 3: Letters of Support

State of California



Memorandum

To: Mr. Paul Morabito, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Date: December 9, 2003

Attn Mr. **Prentice Williams**, Project Manager

From: Robert W. Floerke, Regional Manager *Jeri Swanson*
Department of Fish and Game - Central Coast Region, Post Office Box 47, Yountville, California 94599

Subject: Coastal Conservancy Grant for the Coast Dairies Water Supply Project Submitted by the County of Santa Cruz

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) would like to take this opportunity to express support for the Coastal Conservancy grant submitted by the County of Santa Cruz for the Coast Dairies Water Supply Project. Upon completion, this water development project will protect sensitive resources while providing reliable sources of water for irrigated agriculture on the Santa Cruz coast.

DFG personnel have been working with the Trust for Public Land (TPL), other State and Federal agencies, the County of Santa Cruz, agricultural water users, and interested parties with the goal of finding viable solutions to the adverse impacts caused by direct diversions from streams on TPL property. These historic water-use practices threaten steelhead trout, coho salmon, and California red-legged frogs by drastically reducing flows and/or dewatering portions of the diverted streams during critical low flow periods in the spring, summer, and fall. Off-stream reservoirs, filled during high winter flow periods for use during the low flow periods, represents the best solution to the challenge of protecting these sensitive biological resources while providing a dependable source of water to support irrigated agriculture.

To reach this goal, TPL has already funded preliminary studies to determine which streams under their ownership could support winter water diversions while maintaining protective flows for aquatic resources. This included an assessment of the quantity of water available for diversion to storage from those streams. In addition, appropriate locations for the storage

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Mr. Paul Morabito

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December 9, 2003

facility have been tentatively identified. The next step in the process is the development of an appropriate document to satisfy the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review required for water rights and other permitting.

What sets this project apart, and provides assurance of its success, is the cooperative effort on the part of all stakeholders that has successfully laid the groundwork for this permanent solution. Approval of this grant will allow coordinated efforts to continue to the point where legitimate water rights for winter water diversion and storage will be available.

DFG supports this grant and recommends its approval. If you have any additional questions or wish to discuss the issues outlined above, please contact Ms. Linda Hanson, Staff Environmental Scientist, at (707) 944-5562; or Mr. Carl Wilcox, Habitat Conservation Manager, at (707) 944-5525.

cc: Honorable John Laird
Assemblymember, 27th District
701 Ocean Street, 318-B
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Supervisor Mardi Wormhoudt
Attn: Mr. Andy Schiffrin, Administrative Analyst
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

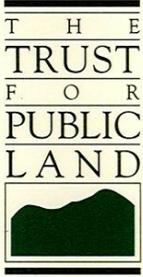
Dr. Stacy Li
Mr. Jonathan Ambrose
National Marine Fisheries Service
777 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 3: Letters of Support



Conserving Land
for People

January 8, 2004

Mr. Paul Morabito, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Coast Dairies Water Supply Project

Dear Chairman Morabito:

On behalf of the Trust for Public Land ("TPL"), I offer my strong support for the County of Santa Cruz's request for a \$300,000 grant from the Coastal Conservancy for the Coast Dairies Water Supply Project. This project will be vital to ensuring that coastal agriculture continues at this magnificent coastal property, and the Conservancy's leadership and funding is essential to the success of this effort.

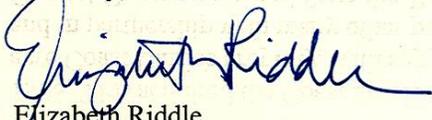
The Coastal Conservancy's financial support, technical assistance, and on-going commitment has been critical to our preservation, planning and management of the Coast Dairies property, which encompasses seven miles of the Santa Cruz County coastline. In 1998, TPL acquired the Coast Dairies and Land Company and its sole asset, the 7,000-acre Coast Dairies property, with support from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and in partnership with many other public and private organizations, including the Coastal Conservancy and Save-the-Redwoods League. Our purchase of Coast Dairies protected it from development, and preserved six beaches, stunning views from Highway 1, endangered wildlife habitat, and agricultural lands.

Farming has been a significant use of the Coast Dairies property for nearly one hundred years, and its continuation is one of the primary goals for this special property. Santa Cruz County's proposed water rights permitting work will determine the appropriate level of sustainable water use and agricultural activity, and lay the groundwork for constructing off-stream storage ponds. This work is essential to agriculture continuing at Coast Dairies and will provide guidance for other agricultural lands throughout coastal Santa Cruz County.

TPL will transfer ownership of Coast Dairies this spring. The coastal areas will be owned and managed by Department of Parks and Recreation, the inland areas by the Bureau of Land Management, and the agricultural areas by the local non-profit organization, "Agri-Culture," which is affiliated with the Santa Cruz Farm Bureau. All partners are committed to working with the County of Santa Cruz on the water supply study, and managing the property for public use, resource protection, and agriculture.

We greatly appreciate the Conservancy's past commitment to Coast Diaries, and strongly urge you to approve funding for the water supply project.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth Riddle
Associate Regional Director

The Trust for Public Land
Western Region
116 New Montgomery
Third Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

(415) 495-5660
Fax (415) 495-0541

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



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THE RURAL BONNY DOON ASSOCIATION
KEEPING BONNY DOON RURAL AND NATURAL SINCE 1957
102 SPLIT LANE BONNY DOON, CALIFORNIA 95060

15 January 2004

Paul Morabito, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, Ca 94612

Re: Coast Dairies Water Supply Project

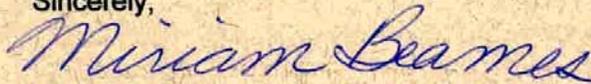
Dear Mr. Morabito:

Watersheds on Ben Lomond Mountain, above the Coast Dairies and Land property, collect the rain diverted downstream that has been used for decades to water the property's row-cropped fields.

The Rural Bonny Doon Association, now representing about three hundred residents of the mountain, was founded almost a half-century ago to respond to land use issues. And so its Executive Board is concerned about the possible demise of agriculture on Coast Dairies land. We believe that this land provides a vital agricultural resource that should be sustained. We recognize that, in order for this to happen, water rights and off-stream reservoirs are a necessity: timely and appropriate diversion of water can restore the viability of the area's unique agricultural enterprises, and protect species that depend on stream flows.

Therefore, we are enthusiastic about your proposed grant to develop water sources and storage on this property. We send you our strongest support for the project.

Sincerely,



Miriam Beames, Corresponding Secretary

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OAKLAND, CALIF.