

Exhibit 4: Letters of Support



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Point Reyes National Seashore
Point Reyes, California 94956

N14

December 27, 2004

Doug Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

We are writing on behalf of the Point Reyes National Seashore, located in western Marin County, in support of the Marin Conservation Corps' Elephant Seal Overlook project. The project is located on the Point Reyes Headlands that is visited by an estimated 300,000 visitors per year. As a feature on the Headlands, the Overlook Trail is extremely popular and was established to allow safe viewing of the threatened elephant seal population at the National Seashore. Once hunted to near extinction, the elephant seal population at Point Reyes has grown in the past decade to approximately 1,500 animals. Last year, about 500 pups were born at several locations at the Point Reyes Headlands, which is a great accomplishment. This dramatic species recovery is a direct result of environmental protections and the creation of buffers between human activity and the elephant seals' habitat such as that presented in MCC's application to you.

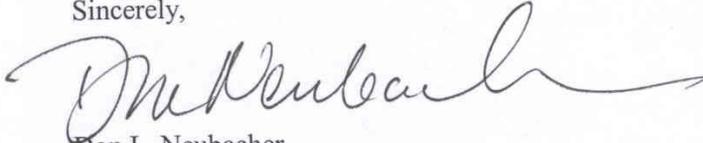
We strongly support the MCC's project because it will improve the trail and overlook to include an access route for persons with physical disabilities, an expanded visitor overlook to accommodate increasing numbers of visitors including Bay Area schools, and construction of exclusionary fencing that will *both* prevent trail degradation *and* protect the endemic Point Reyes Rain orchid (*Piperia elegans* subsp. *decurtata*). We have worked with MCC corpsmembers in the past and found their work to be of the highest quality. Therefore, we look forward to undertaking this project with them as soon as possible to prepare the overlook and trail for high-traffic tourist and visitor season of late spring and summer.

The National Park Service completed its environmental review process of the project and, in May of this year, the project received a "categorical exemption" from additional CEQA/NEPA requirements. Select scientists and other professionals from my staff will provide technical expertise to the MCC corpsmembers who will undertake the project.

Exhibit 4: Letters of Support

We hope you will look favorably on this project and look forward to better habitat preservation for the elephant seals. Thank you for your consideration of this important project. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (415) 464-5101 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Don L. Neubacher
Superintendent

cc: Carl Sanders, MCC

RECEIVED
DEC 29 2004
STATE CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 4: Letters of Support

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0006
(916) 319-2006
DISTRICT OFFICE
3501 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE
ROOM 412
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903
(415) 479-4920
(707) 576-2631



STANDING COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS
JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND THE ECONOMY

January 3, 2005

Doug Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to respectfully request your support for the Marin Conservation Corps' Elephant Seal Overlook project. Point Reyes National Seashore and the Elephant Seal Rookery specifically, are important resources that need as much protection as we can give them. The Marin Conservation Corps' proposal to improve the trail and overlook, provide access for physically disabled people and add a barrier fence, will further enhance the protection needed and ensure that the public will still have great access to the area.

Marilee Eckert and the Marin Conservation Corps members undertake their work professionally; they do an outstanding job in aiding in conservation and education. The work skills development program that the Marin Conservation Corps offers young people, changes their lives for the better, every day. The Elephant Seal Overlook project is just the kind of work that the Marin Conservation Corps' young people thrive on.

I urge the California Coastal Conservancy to fund the Elephant Seal Overlook project. Thank you for your attention and serious consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Joe Nation".

JOE NATION
Assemblyman, Marin & Sonoma Counties

JN:ajw
R1

cc: Marilee Eckert, Executive Director, Marin Conservation Corps

Exhibit 4: Letters of Support

STEVE KINSEY
SUPERVISOR
4th District County of Marin

23 December 2004

Doug Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

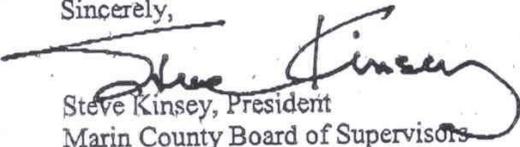
Dear Mr. Bosco:

As a Marin County Supervisor, I am very sensitive to the importance of protecting species, habitat and fragile lands while ensuring that the public, particularly school-aged children, have access to these special areas. That's why I am writing to support the Marin Conservation Corps' Elephant Seal Overlook project. Point Reyes National Seashore is a Marin County gem. It is one of those incredibly precious areas that people who visit Marin must see. In the past, there were no safeguards to protect the coastline from human encroachment, and we know that the Elephant seal population suffered as a direct result. Now, our laws and advocacy strategies are better, and the Elephant seal population is on the rebound. The work of improving the overlook and trail will provide an excellent combination of species buffer and public access, particularly for those people with special needs. This is a win-win project and I hope you fund it.

In addition to this great service to allow public access to the Seashore while preserving and improving the protections the seals need, Marin Conservation Corps adds another important element to the equation. Every year, MCC hires at-risk teens and young adults to perform these kinds of intricate and invaluable environmental services. These young people receive academic educational support as well as life skills opportunities and referrals to help them overcome barriers that have prevented their success in life to this point. By joining MCC, they get their lives back on track – they learn skills that could lead to quality jobs with the Forest Service or other land steward agencies, they improve their literacy and numeracy skills leading to high school graduation and, for some, even college, and they develop a strong link to their community and the natural world. This is a great program, and the California Coastal Conservancy has a unique opportunity, by funding MCC's work, to combine the important coastal benefits with great opportunities for at-risk youth.

My office staff and I are big fans of MCC. I urge you to fund their Elephant seal proposal. If I can be of additional assistance, please contact my Marin office at 415-499-7331.

Sincerely,


Steve Kinsey, President
Marin County Board of Supervisors

Marin County Civic Center
3501 Civic Center Dr., Suite 329
San Rafael, CA 94903
Phone 499-7331 Fax 499-1645
E-mail: skinsey@marin.org
Officeholder ID# 970527

Exhibit 4: Letters of Support

Explore. Discover. Connect.



December 23, 2004

Doug Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94618

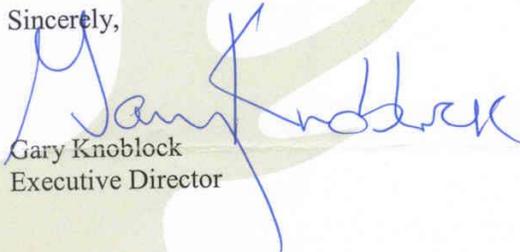
Dear Mr. Bosco,

I am writing today in support of the Marin Conservation Corps request for support to rehabilitate the elephant seal overlook trail at Point Reyes National Seashore. This is a much-needed project as the current trail is washing out and it provides an extremely valuable education opportunity by taking the public to an excellent spot from which to view the elephant seal colony.

The Seashore Association has raised \$15,528 in individual donations from the community to repair this walking trail and we will contribute that as a match towards the overall project budget.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,


Gary Knoblock
Executive Director

Building #70
Point Reyes Station
CA 94956

Field Seminars
415.663.1200

Environmental Ed Center
415.663.1224

Summer Camp
415.663.1224

Business Office
415.663.1155

Fax
415.663.8174

www.ptreyes.org

RECEIVED

DEC 24 2004

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 4: Letters of Support

Explore. Discover. Connect.



December 27, 2004

Doug Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA) enthusiastically supports Marin Conservation Corps' Elephant Seal Overlook project. We are a nonprofit advocacy group that has provided the Point Reyes National Seashore with thousands of dollars in both cash and volunteer services to improve the interpretive qualities of the Seashore. We have provided resources to the elephant seal overlook and trail in the past, and have pledged matching in-kind and cash support for the MCC project should the Coastal Conservancy choose to fund it. The elephant seal population is extremely important to us. Having been witness to the population's recovery, we can't express enough how much MCC's proposal to improve the trail and overlook will do to further our work on behalf of this large marine mamma. The project will also help preserve habitat for the fragile and beautiful Point Reyes rain orchid, a species of concern to the park.

PRNSA volunteers have worked side by side with corps members from MCC on other projects. Their work is exceptionally reliable and always professional. MCC has been an excellent partner, and we hope the Conservancy will look favorably on the project and add one more element of public accessibility and species protection for this rare and rugged seashore.

I personally invite you to visit the site and understand both the work we have undertaken in the past as well as the urgent need for additional improvements right away. On behalf of my fellow Seashore advocates at PRNSA, please know that we heartily support MCC's application. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (415) 663-1835 if you have any questions or concerns.

Very truly yours,

Gary Knoblock, Business Manager, for Gary Knoblock
Gary Knoblock
Executive Director

Building #70
Point Reyes Station
CA 94956
Field Seminars
415.663.1200
Environmental Ed Center
415.663.1224
Summer Camp
415.663.1224
Business Office
415.663.1155
Fax
415.663.8174
www.ptreyes.org

RECEIVED
DEC 28 2004
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.