

Exhibit 2: Letters of Support

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DISTRICT OFFICES:
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Assembly California Legislature



PATTY BERG
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIRST DISTRICT

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ELDER ABUSE
RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

April 18, 2005

Doug Bosco, Chair
Attn: Michael Bowen
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

RE: Support for Humboldt County's fish passage projects funding request

Dear Chairman Bosco: *Dwg*

I am writing to express my support for the request by Humboldt County to fund fish passage projects on Saunders Creek, Warren Creek, Rocky Gulch and the design of a culvert replacement on a county road culvert on Rocky Gulch.

Humboldt County has completed sixteen barrier removal projects to date, reopening twenty-five miles of habitat for coho and steelhead salmonids. The Department of Fish and Game staff, Humboldt County, the California Coastal Conservancy, and several private landowners have worked closely to implement these projects.

As part of the current effort to remove fish migration barriers from the road system, the County is applying for funding to complete three barrier removal projects on tributaries to the Mad River, Humboldt Bay and the Mattole River. The potential project benefits to fish and wildlife and to the people of California will be significant. In addition to benefiting fish, these projects assist the local economy and help the County revitalize its infrastructure.

I urge the Coastal Conservancy's favorable consideration of Humboldt County's funding request to implement these fish passage improvement projects. If I can provide any further information, please do not hesitate to contact my District Office at (707) 445-7014.

Sincerely,

PATTY BERG
Assemblymember, 1st District

PB: ns

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



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State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>
601 Locust Street
Redding, CA 96001
(530) 225-2300



March 29, 2005

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Bosco:

Humboldt County's Funding Request for Fish Passage Projects Department of Fish and Game Support

The California Department of Fish and Game (Department) supports the request by Humboldt County to the Coastal Conservancy to fund fish passage projects on Saunders Creek (tributary to Mattole River), Warren Creek (tributary to Mad River), Rocky Gulch (tributary to Humboldt Bay), and the design of a culvert replacement on a county road culvert also on Rocky Gulch. All four of these projects would restore or improve passage for coho salmon and steelhead trout. As you know, projects that restore or improve passage for coho salmon are listed as a high priority in the Department's *Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon*, February 2004.

The Saunders Creek culvert project on Mattole Road was identified as a barrier during the Department funded barrier assessment for Humboldt County roads (Taylor 2000). It received a priority ranking of 16 out of the 67 crossing locations which were identified in the study as being in need of treatment to provide unimpeded fish passage to upstream spawning and rearing habitat. Saunders Creek is a coho and steelhead stream with approximately 3,600 feet of habitat that will be opened to fish. The project has Department funding of \$259,540 and a NOAA Fisheries match of \$50,000. It was included in the Department's mitigated negative declaration for the 2003 Fishery Restoration Grants Program. All necessary project approvals have already been secured including a stream alteration agreement (1602), US Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit and North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board 401 certification.

The Warren Creek culvert on Warren Creek Road received a priority ranking of 24 out of the 67 crossing locations identified in the Humboldt County road survey. Warren Creek supports coho salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout. There is over two miles of anadromous fish habitat above this crossing. This project was the highest rated fish passage project in 2004 by the California Coastal Salmonid Restoration Grants Peer Review Committee.

The Rocky Gulch Barrier Culvert Replacement Project is located on private property approximately 0.3 mile above Old Arcata Road. Extensive restoration efforts are in progress below this site on Rocky Gulch. This is the uppermost barrier on the stream and, once the

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870



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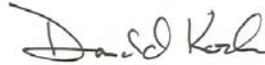
culvert is replaced with a bridge, approximately 1.5 miles of coho and steelhead habitat will be opened to fish. In 2004 a barrier tide gate located further downstream was replaced with one that will pass salmonids. In 2005 construction will begin to restore the channel below Old Arcata Road and will include: dredging fine sediment; installing fish habitat improvement structures; moving the existing levees back 50 feet from the channel to reestablish the floodplain and riparian corridor; installing exclusionary livestock fencing, and providing off-site water for cattle.

The other Rocky Gulch project is for a design to replace an undersized county road culvert at Old Arcata Road and engineer an appropriately sized stream channel on the private lands immediately above and below the county road culvert. Currently the flow from Rocky Gulch splits just above the county road culvert and the flow goes under the county road in two locations. The present crossing configuration utilizing two separate culverts is undersized as evidenced by flows less than a five-year flood event going over the county road and spreading out on the adjacent fields. This creates a problem for both upstream migration of adult salmonids and downstream migration of juvenile salmonids. The new culvert will be designed to keep the flow in one channel and large enough to carry the 100-year storm event. Until recently this was not possible since the downstream landowner was opposed to the project. The downstream property has changed ownership and the new landowner is very willing to cooperate and is excited about restoring the stream through her property.

Department staff has been working closely with Humboldt County, the California Coastal Conservancy, and several private landowners to implement these four projects. We believe the potential project benefits to fish and wildlife and to the people of California will be significant. The Department urges the Coastal Conservancy to support Humboldt County's funding request to implement these critically important fish passage improvement projects.

Please contact Mr. Gary Flosi of my staff if you wish further clarification or have any questions regarding these comments. He can be reached by phone at (707) 725-1072 or by E-mail at gflosi@dfg.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



DONALD B. KOCH
Regional Manager

cc: See page three.

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

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cc: Mr. Michael Bowen, Project Manager
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Native Anadromous Fish and Watershed Branch
Department of Fish and Game
830 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Larry Week, Chief
Ms. Gail Newton, Environmental Program Manger
Ms. Holly Sheradin, Environmental Scientist

Central Coast Region
Department of Fish and Game
Post Office Box 47
Yountville, CA 94599-0047

Mr. Robert Floerke, Regional Manager
Mr. Robert Coey, Senior Biologist Supervisor

South Coast Region
Department of Fish and Game
4949 View Ridge Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123

Mr. Charles Raysbrook, Regional Manager
Ms. Mary Larson, Senior Biologist

Northern California-North Coast Region
Department of Fish and Game
601 Locust Street
Redding, CA 96001

Mr. Gary Stacey, Supervising Biologist
Mr. Gary Flosi, Senior Biologist Supervisor
Ms. Shirley Lipa, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Mr. David Scott, Associate Governmental Program Analyst