



## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Fort Mason # 201  
San Francisco, California 94123

IN REPLY REFER TO:

N-16 (GOGA-NRMR)

JUN - 6 2005

Michael Bowen  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
11th Floor, 1330 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bowen:

This letter is written in support of the County of Marin's proposal to the State Coastal Conservancy to fund engineering plans and permits to replace a County culvert, which is an anadromous fish passage barrier. The culvert is located on Kent Canyon Creek, a tributary to Redwood Creek downstream of Muir Woods National Monument.

Kent Creek is a small anadromous fish stream, which flows into Redwood Creek 500 feet below the culverted crossing. Redwood Creek is regionally significant because it supports the southernmost healthy population of coho salmon in the United States. Coho is a state and federally listed species. Redwood Creek also supports the federally listed steelhead.

The culvert is rated as a high priority (number 17 out of 90) in Marin County's fish passage study prepared by fisheries biologist Ross Taylor and Associates (2003). The Taylor report estimates that approximately 3,900 linear feet of potential fish-bearing habitat lie upstream of the site. The replacement of this extremely undersized culvert will restore access to essential salmonid habitat. The Taylor report estimated that adult salmon and steelhead are only able to pass upstream on 28% of the range of estimated migration flows and the culvert fails to meet passage criteria for all age classes of juvenile salmon.

The State Coho Recovery Strategy Implementation Plan encourages landowners and partners in Redwood Creek to:

- "Identify and prioritize coho salmon passage barriers in the Redwood Creek drainage" (BM-BO-07), and
- "Treat coho salmon passage barriers in the Redwood Creek drainage" (BM-BO-08).

The proposed project allows the County to collaborate with the National Park Service to remediate the fish passage barrier and fulfill these goals of the Coho Recovery Strategy. The National Park Service looks forward to collaborating with the County on this project and lends full support to this proposal.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Carolyn Shoulders at (415) 331-0771, NPS Natural Resource Specialist, or Darren Fong, NPS Aquatic Ecologist, at (415) 331-8716.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian O'Neill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "B".

Brian O'Neill  
General Superintendent

**RECEIVED**

JUN 07 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.