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California State Senate



SENATOR
S. JOSEPH SIMITIAN
ELEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT

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June 9, 2006

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairperson
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for Tucker Ford Removal and Replacement Project

I am writing to express my strong support for the Tucker Ford removal and replacement project on the west branch of Soquel Creek in the Soquel Creek Watershed. This project is referred to as "Tillie's Ford" and has been identified as a high priority fish passage improvement project in the *Soquel Creek Watershed Assessment and Enhancement Plan*, completed in November 2003.

This project has received substantial support from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Packard Foundation, American Rivers, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the landowner. The designs have been extensively reviewed by resource agency staff for the best improvement to fisheries.

The purpose of this project is the removal of the two man-made fish passage impediments on the west branch of Soquel Creek in order to open up habitat for salmonids. The existing 5-foot high ford without culvert is passable only at 200-300 cubic feet per second, obstructing fish passage during much of the salmonid migration season. The existing ford without culvert will be removed and replaced with a bridge to allow fish passage, to improve fish habitat, and to provide primary vehicle access to the adjacent properties. Implementation of a fish passage improvement project here is listed as Priority 1 (1-5 scale) with immediate benefit to fish. The west branch of Soquel Creek is an important rearing habitat for salmonids.

I encourage you to give this project every consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Joseph Simitian".

S. Joseph Simitian
State Senator, Eleventh District

SJS:mm
CC: Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District

COMMITTEES
CHAIR, BUDGET
JUDICIARY
LABOR & EMPLOYMENT
NATURAL RESOURCES

Assembly
California Legislature

JOHN LAIRD
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

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May 23, 2006

Chair Douglas Bosco
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for Tucker Ford Removal and Replacement Project

Dear Chair Bosco,

I am writing in support of the Tucker Ford Removal and Replacement Project which will result in a bridge on the west branch of Soquel Creek in the Soquel Creek Watershed. The west branch of Soquel Creek is an important rearing habitat for salmonids.

This fish passage impediment, also known as Tillie's Ford, is identified in the *Soquel Creek Watershed Assessment and Enhancement Project Plan*, completed in November 2003. This project has been identified as a high priority fish passage improvement project and has received substantial support from the Natural Resources Conservation District, Packard Foundation, American Rivers and National Marine Fisheries. The designs have been extensively reviewed by resource agency staff.

The purpose of this project is to remove one of the two artificial fish passage impediments on the West Branch of Soquel Creek in order to open up habitat for salmonids. The existing 5-foot high ford, which lacks a culvert, obstructs fish passage during much of the salmonid migration season. This project will result in the existing ford being removed and replaced with a bridge in order to allow fish passage, improve fish habitat and to provide the primary vehicle access to the adjacent properties. Implementation of a fish passage improvement project here is listed as Priority 1 on a scale from 1 to 5 (with 1 being the highest) and the project provides an immediate benefit to fish.

I support this project and hope you will give it every consideration for funding.

Sincerely,



JOHN LAIRD
Assemblymember, 27th District

JL:ae

RECEIVED

MAY 25 2006

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA Restoration Center
777 Sonoma Ave., Room 325
Santa Rosa, CA 95404-6528
Tel (707) 575-6080
Cell (707) 478-5789

Fax (707) 578-3435
Kit.Crump@noaa.gov

May 22, 2006

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairperson
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for Tucker Ford Removal and Replacement Project

I am writing in support of the Tucker Ford (referred to as Tillie's Ford in the *Soquel Creek Watershed Assessment and Enhancement Plan*) replacement with bridge project on the west branch of Soquel Creek in the Soquel Creek Watershed.

This fish passage impediment is identified in the *Soquel Creek Watershed Assessment and Enhancement Project Plan*, completed in November 2003. This project has received substantial implementation and oversight support from the Natural Resources Conservation District, Packard Foundation, American Rivers and National Marine Fisheries. The Santa Cruz RCD is a strong ally in our efforts to regain Salmonid populations in Santa Cruz, Santa Clara and San Benito counties. They are willing to work with us to focus their efforts in areas where the need is greatest.

The purpose of this project is to remove one of the two man-made fish passage impediments on the West Branch of Soquel Creek in order to open up habitat for Salmonids. The other fish passage impediment is the Olson Road culvert, which is the next barrier downstream. The existing 5-foot high ford without culvert is passable only at 200-300 cfs, obstructing fish passage during much of the Salmonid migration season. The existing ford without culvert will be removed and replaced with a bridge to allow fish passage, to improve fish habitat, and to provide the primary vehicle access to the adjacent properties. The landowners and resource agencies are supportive of this project. In addition, the West Branch of Soquel Creek is an important rearing habitat for Salmonids, and this project, in combination with the Olson Road project downstream will make a significant contribution to fish passage in the Soquel Creek Watershed and the West Branch tributary in particular.

I strongly support this project. We at NOAA are very appreciative of the continuing support the Coastal Conservancy has demonstrated toward getting fish passage for listed Salmonids on coastal streams. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DK', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Donald "Kit" Crump
NOAA Restoration Center

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
California State Office
820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128
Capitola, CA 95010
(831) 475-1967
(831) 475-3215 (Fax)

America's Conservation Agency

May 23, 2006

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairperson
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for Tucker Ford Removal and Replacement Project

I am writing to support the Tucker Ford removal and replacement project on the west branch of Soquel Creek in the Soquel Creek Watershed. This project is referred to as Tillie's Ford and has been identified as a high priority fish passage improvement project in the *Soquel Creek Watershed Assessment and Enhancement Plan*, completed in November 2003.

As a Soil Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Santa Cruz County, I have been actively involved with the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program, the Coastal Conservancy program which has funded the designs and permits for this project. The NRCS has funded a large part the implementation of this project through the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, a Farm Bill Program. I have been very involved in reviewing and feel this project is the best solution to improve fish passage.

The purpose of this project is to remove one of the two man-made fish passage impediments on the West Branch of Soquel Creek in order to open up habitat for salmonids. The existing 5-foot high ford without culvert is passable only at 200-300 cfs, obstructing fish passage during much of the salmonid migration season. The existing ford without culvert will be removed and replaced with a bridge to allow fish passage, to improve fish habitat, and to provide the primary vehicle access to the adjacent properties.

Another important strength of this project is that the landowners are very dedicated to the implementation of the project and maintenance of the project once constructed. The landowners have spent many hours in meetings with RCD staff and hours on various tasks associated with project development and requests for funding.

As the West Branch of Soquel Creek is an important rearing habitat for salmonids, I strongly support this project and hope to see its implementation this summer. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
USDA-Natural Resources
Conservation Service

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K Camara".

Kelli Camara
Soil Conservationist



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-2580 FAX: (831) 454-2131 TDD: (831) 454-2123

TOM BURNS, PLANNING DIRECTOR

May 30, 2006

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairperson
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for Tucker Ford Removal and Replacement Project

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the Tucker's Ford Replacement with Bridge project on the West Branch of Soquel Creek in the Soquel Creek Watershed. The purpose of this project is to remove one of the two human-caused fish passage impediments on the West Branch of Soquel Creek in order to improve migration passage and watershed processes.

As the Fishery Resource Planner for the County of Santa Cruz, I was involved with the development of the *Soquel Creek Watershed Assessment and Enhancement Project Plan*. This project was given a high priority for both the West Branch Soquel Creek Resource Unit and watershed wide. In addition, I participated in the IWRP site visit to Tucker's Ford and believe this project will improve fish passage and the movement of spawning gravels downstream in the West Branch of Soquel Creek. In addition, I was impressed by the landowner's commitment to this project during the site visit.

I strongly support this project and hope to see its implementation in the near future.

Sincerely,

Kristen Kittleson
Fishery Resource Planner
701 Ocean Street, Room 310
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-3154
kristen.kittleson@co.santa-cruz.ca.us