

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 651-4015
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California State Senate

ABEL MALDONADO
FIFTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

September 18, 2006

Douglas Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Fl.
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I wish to express my support for the Elkhorn Slough Foundation's request of up to \$200,000 for a Wetland Program Development Grant to develop a Parsons Slough Wetland Restoration Plan.

The grant will help address the serious loss and degradation of Elkhorn Slough's tidal wetlands. The Elkhorn Slough estuary, containing California's second largest tract of salt marsh, is currently facing unprecedented rates of tidal marsh loss and tidal creek, mudflat, and channel habitat degradation. Fifty percent of the tidal salt marsh in Elkhorn Slough has been lost in the past 70 years and will continue in the near future if no management actions are taken.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Abel Maldonado".

ABEL MALDONADO
Senator, 15th District

AM/rg

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SEP 21 2006

**COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.**

COMMITTEES
 CHAIR, BUDGET
 JUDICIARY
 LABOR & EMPLOYMENT
 NATURAL RESOURCES

Assembly
 California Legislature

JOHN LAIRD
 ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT



STATE CAPITOL
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 SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0027
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DISTRICT OFFICES

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
 701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 318B
 SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
 (831) 425-1503
 FAX: (831) 425-2570

MONTEREY AND SANTA CLARA COUNTIES

98 PACIFIC STREET, SUITE 555-D
 MONTEREY, CA 93940
 (831) 649-2832
 (408) 782-0647
 FAX: (831) 649-2935

September 18, 2006

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman, Board of Directors
 California Coastal Conservancy
 Attn: Trish Chapman
 1330 Broadway
 Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to recommend the California Coastal Conservancy's Board of Directors authorize the disbursement of up to \$200,000 to the Elkhorn Slough Foundation to develop a *Parsons Slough Wetland Restoration Plan*. The funding has been awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through a Wetland Program Development Grant.

The grant will help address the serious loss and degradation of Elkhorn Slough's tidal wetlands. The Elkhorn Slough estuary, containing California's second largest tract of salt marsh, is currently facing unprecedented rates of tidal marsh loss and tidal creek, mudflat and channel habitat degradation. Fifty percent of the tidal salt marsh in Elkhorn Slough has been lost in the past 70 years. If no management actions are taken, tidal salt marsh loss is expected to continue.

I make this recommendation because of the collaborative effort undertaken by coastal decision-makers, resource managers, scientists and stakeholders to conserve, enhance and restore tidal wetlands in the Elkhorn Slough watershed. This wetland planning effort has resulted in great strides made in the past years. The ability to make sound management decisions about different restoration alternatives for Parsons Slough has been limited by a lack of scientifically-based information.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

JOHN LAIRD
 Assemblymember, 27th District
 JL:co



State of California – The Resources Agency

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>POST OFFICE BOX 47
YOUNTVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94599
(707) 944-5500

March 20, 2006

Cheryl McGovern
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Southwest Border Office, WTR-4
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Ms. McGovern:

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) recommends that you fund the proposal submitted by the California Coastal Conservancy for the Elkhorn Slough project entitled Parsons Slough Wetland Restoration Plan. The requested funding is from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's Wetland Development Grant Program. This funding would help address the serious loss of tidal wetlands in this estuary. Elkhorn Slough, containing California's second largest tract of salt marsh, is currently facing unprecedented rates of tidal marsh loss and tidal creek, mudflat, and channel habitat degradation. Fifty percent of the tidal salt marsh in Elkhorn Slough has been lost in the past 70 years and will continue in the near future if no management actions are taken.

We support the collaborative effort that coastal decision-makers, resource managers, scientists, engineers, and stakeholders have been working on to conserve, enhance, and restore tidal wetlands in the Elkhorn Slough watershed. This wetland planning effort, initiated with funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to DFG, has made great strides in the past few years. The ability to make sound management decisions about different restoration alternatives has been limited by a lack of scientific-based information. We request your assistance to move the process forward efficiently in order to help us manage state tidal wetlands and meet your national objectives of "no net loss of wetlands and wetland functions."

DFG will assist this project through oversight on a regional scale and direct involvement of Becky Christensen, our DFG Elkhorn Slough Reserve Manager. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Christensen at (831) 728-2822; or Mr. Rick Parmer, Interpretive Services Supervisor, at (707) 944-5565.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Floerke".

Robert W. Floerke
Regional Manager
Central Coast Region

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
OFFICE OF OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

March 20, 2006

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Southwest Border Office, WTR-4
Attn: Cheryl McGovern
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA, 94105

Dear Ms. McGovern:

I recommend funding an Elkhorn Slough project through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Wetland Program Development Grant Program. The project is titled, Parson's Slough Wetland Restoration Plan. This funding would help address the serious loss of tidal wetlands in this estuary. Elkhorn Slough, containing California's second largest tract of salt marsh, is currently facing unprecedented rates of tidal marsh loss and tidal creek, mudflat, and channel habitat degradation. Fifty percent of the tidal salt marsh in Elkhorn Slough has been lost in the past 70 years and will continue in the near future if no management actions are taken.

I support the collaborative effort that coastal decision-makers, resource managers, scientists, engineers, and stakeholders that have been working on to conserve, enhance, and restore tidal wetlands in the Elkhorn Slough watershed. This wetland planning effort, initiated with funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to the Department of Fish and Game, has made great strides in the past years. The ability to make sound management decisions about different restoration alternatives has been limited by a lack of scientific-based information. I request your assistance to move the process forward efficiently in order to help us restore estuarine wetlands that are part of our National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) system and meet your national objectives of "no net loss of wetlands and wetland functions".

NOAA's NERR staff will assist this project by providing relevant information from completed restoration projects nationwide, an integrated network to share research results with other Reserves, and direct involvement of Becky Christensen the Elkhorn Slough NERR Manager and Kerstin Wasson, the Elkhorn Slough NERR Research Coordinator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia Delgado".

Patricia Delgado
NOAA, Program Specialist



CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT OFFICE
725 FRONT STREET, SUITE 300
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 427-4863



March 20, 2006

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Southwest Border Office, WTR-4
Attn: Cheryl McGovern
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA, 94105

Dear Cheryl:

I recommend funding an Elkhorn Slough project through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Wetland Program Development Grant Program. This grant would help address the serious loss of tidal wetlands in this estuary. As you know, Elkhorn Slough, containing California's second largest tract of salt marsh, is currently facing unprecedented rates of tidal marsh loss and tidal creek, mudflat, and channel habitat degradation. Fifty percent of the tidal salt marsh in Elkhorn Slough has been lost in the past 70 years and will continue in the near future if no management actions are taken.

The collaborative team of coastal decision-makers, resource managers, scientists, engineers, and stakeholders has been working to make decisions about different restoration alternatives, limited by a lack of scientific-based information about the feasibility of different restoration alternatives. I request your assistance to move our tidal wetland planning process forward efficiently in order to meet your national objectives of "no net loss of wetlands and wetland functions".

The California Coastal Commission will continue to assist this project by continuing to provide guidance through technical support, will participate as a member of the Strategic Planning Team. In addition, I believe that a forum on central Monterey Bay wetland issues, as described in this proposal, would be an excellent next step in expanding central coast wetland planning and could set the stage for the expansion of the Central Coast Wetland Working Group efforts.

The States efforts to restore Central Coast Wetlands must be done in tandem with the preservation of our most precious existing resources. Support of the Parsons Slough Wetland Restoration planning efforts is essential to our work to exceed a no-net-loss in wetlands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ross Clark".

Ross Clark
Central Coast Water Quality Coordinator
California Coastal Commission

Advocates for Wild, Healthy Oceans

55 C Municipal Wharf
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831.425.1363 Telephone
831.425-5604 Facsimile
www.oceanconservancy.org

Formerly the Center for
Marine Conservation

March 20, 2006

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Southwest Border Office, WTR-4
Attn: Cheryl McGovern
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA, 94105



Dear Ms. McGovern:

On behalf of The Ocean Conservancy, please accept the following letter of recommendation for funding an Elkhorn Slough project through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Wetland Program Development Grant Program. The Elkhorn Slough provides important habitat to a wide diversity of fish, invertebrates, birds, and marine mammals, including several listed species. Unfortunately, the Slough is threatened by extremely high rates of tidal marsh loss and tidal creek, mudflat, and channel habitat degradation. Action is needed to reverse these trends.

Over the past several months, I have served on a collaborative team of coastal decision-makers, resource managers, scientists, engineers, and stakeholders that have been working on the development of a plan to conserve, enhance, and restore tidal wetlands in the Elkhorn Slough watershed. Our group needs access to scientific analysis of restoration alternatives to make informed recommendations on future policy actions. Grant funding is critical to this endeavor.

The Ocean Conservancy will assist this project by participating in planning meetings and helping to communicate the goals of this project to the broader conservation community of the Monterey Bay area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kaitilin Gaffney
California Central Coast Program Manager



Elkhorn Slough Foundation

Conserving and Restoring Elkhorn Slough and its Watershed

March 20, 2006

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Southwest Border Office, WTR-4
Attn: Cheryl McGovern
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA, 94105

Dear Ms. McGovern:

I recommend funding an Elkhorn Slough project through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Wetland Program Development Grant Program. This grant would help address the serious loss of tidal wetlands in this estuary. Elkhorn Slough, containing California's second largest tract of salt marsh, is currently facing unprecedented rates of tidal marsh loss and tidal creek, mudflat, and channel habitat degradation. Fifty percent of the tidal salt marsh in Elkhorn Slough has been lost in the past 70 years and will continue in the near future if no management actions are taken.

I am part of a collaborative team of coastal decision-makers, resource managers, scientists, engineers, and stakeholders that have been working on the development of a plan to conserve, enhance, and restore tidal wetlands in the Elkhorn Slough watershed. Our ability to make decisions about different restoration alternatives has been limited by a lack of scientific-based information about the feasibility of different restoration alternatives. I request your assistance to move our tidal wetland planning process forward efficiently in order to meet your national objectives of "no net loss of wetlands and wetland functions".

The Elkhorn Slough Foundation fully supports this project, which is one of our strategic goals for the next five years. We have and will be attending planning meetings to guide the development of restoration designs, providing expert review of monitoring efforts and technical data, supplying personnel and/or supplies to assist in the collection of field data. We worked with the Reserve to secure funding through the Packard Foundation's Ecosystem Based Management Initiative which will provide matching support for the current request. We urge the full support of this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Mark Silberstein

Mark Silberstein

Mail: P.O. Box 267 • Moss Landing • CA • 95039
Office: 1698 Elkhorn Road • Watsonville • CA • 95076
Tel: (831) 728-5939 • Fax: (831) 728-1056
www.elkhornslough.org



University of San Francisco
Department of Environmental Science
2130 Fulton Street
San Francisco, CA 94117

March 20, 2006

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Southwest Border Office, WTR-4
Attn: Cheryl McGovern
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA, 94105

Dear Ms. McGovern,

I am writing in strong support of Elkhorn Slough's proposal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Wetland Program Development Grant Program to evaluate restoration alternatives for the Slough. This grant would help address the serious loss of tidal wetlands in this estuary. Elkhorn Slough, containing California's second largest tract of salt marsh, is currently facing unprecedented rates of tidal marsh loss and tidal creek, mudflat, and channel habitat degradation. Fifty percent of the tidal salt marsh in Elkhorn Slough has been lost in the past 70 years and will continue in the near future if no management actions are taken.

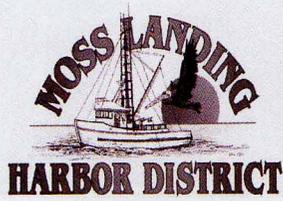
I am part of a collaborative team of coastal decision-makers, resource managers, scientists, engineers, and stakeholders that have been working on the development of a plan to conserve, enhance, and restore tidal wetlands in the Elkhorn Slough watershed. Our ability to make decisions about different restoration alternatives has been limited by a lack of scientific-based information about the feasibility of different restoration alternatives. I request your assistance to move our tidal wetland planning process forward efficiently in order to meet your national objectives of "no net loss of wetlands and wetland functions".

My research experience in wetland plants and sediment dynamics from San Francisco Bay, Morro Bay and southern California brings some scientific input to the process, and I hope to continue to participate in this great, collaborative effort. I encourage you to support this important work to manage and protect the valuable wetlands of Elkhorn Slough.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Callaway". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical red line.

John Callaway, Ph.D.
Associate Professor



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Russell Jeffries
Margaret Shirrel, Ph.D.
Yohn Gideon
Vincent Ferrante
Frank Gomes, Jr.

7881 SANDHOLDT ROAD
MOSS LANDING, CA 95039

TELEPHONE – 831.633.5417
FACSIMILE – 831.633.4537

GENERAL MANAGER
HARBORMASTER
Linda G. McIntyre, Esq.

March 20, 2006

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Southwest Border Office, WTR-4
Attn: Cheryl McGovern
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA, 94105

Dear Ms. McGovern:

I recommend funding an Elkhorn Slough project through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Wetland Program Development Grant Program. This grant would help address the serious loss of tidal wetlands in this estuary. Elkhorn Slough, containing California's second largest tract of salt marsh, is currently facing unprecedented rates of tidal marsh loss and tidal creek, mudflat, and channel habitat degradation. Fifty percent of the tidal salt marsh in Elkhorn Slough has been lost in the past 70 years and will continue in the near future if no management actions are taken.

I am part of a collaborative team of coastal decision-makers, resource managers, scientists, engineers, and stakeholders that have been working on the development of a plan to conserve, enhance, and restore tidal wetlands in the Elkhorn Slough watershed. Our ability to make decisions about different restoration alternatives has been limited by a lack of scientific-based information about the feasibility of different restoration alternatives. I request your assistance to move the tidal wetland planning process forward efficiently in order to meet your national objectives of "no net loss of wetlands and wetland functions".

My agency will assist this project by providing input as appropriate. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,
Moss Landing Harbor District

Linda G. McIntyre
General Manager

LGM:mdm

SERVING COMMERCIAL FISHING SINCE 1947



Friends, Artists & Neighbors of
Elkhorn Slough

September 18, 2006

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman, Board of Directors
California Coastal Conservancy
Attn: Trish Chapman
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing today on behalf of Friends, Artists and Neighbors of Elkhorn Slough (FANS) to support funding of the Parsons Slough Wetland Restoration Plan. FANS is an association of citizens committed to preserving and enhancing Elkhorn Slough through public education, citizen activism and advocacy. We are dedicated to supporting efforts that will help to protect the environmental, cultural and agricultural integrity of the slough and its surrounding watershed.

We would like to recommend that the California Coastal Conservancy's Board of Directors authorize the disbursement of up to \$200,000 to the Elkhorn Slough Foundation for the purpose of developing the Parsons Slough Wetland Restoration Plan. It has been brought to our attention that this funding has been awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through a Wetland Program Development Grant.

The Elkhorn Slough estuary is the second largest remaining tract of salt marsh in California. The largest is San Francisco Bay. With well over 90% of all salt water marshes in California already lost due to various negative impacts, Elkhorn Slough simply must not be allowed to follow the same fate. One of the most significant threats to the future of Elkhorn Slough is the loss of tidal wetlands and is currently facing unprecedented rates of tidal marsh loss and tidal creek, mudflat, and channel habitat degradation.

Fifty percent of the tidal salt marsh in Elkhorn Slough has been lost in the past 70 years and will continue in the near future if no management actions are taken. The Wetland Program Development Grant will help address the serious loss and degradation of Elkhorn Slough's tidal wetlands.

It is imperative that immediate action be taken to address this current crisis and a sound plan based on the best available science must inform all future efforts to ensure success for the future. The ability to make sound management decisions about different restoration alternatives for Parsons Slough must not be limited by a lack of scientific-based information

Through public outreach meetings, our organization has been invited to learn more about the collaborative effort that coastal decision-makers, resource managers, scientists, and stakeholders have undertaken to conserve, enhance, and restore tidal wetlands in the Elkhorn Slough watershed.

As local residents living in the watershed, we are committed to advocating for the health of Elkhorn Slough and have been impressed with the wetland planning effort that has made great strides in the past years. I request your assistance to move the process forward efficiently to help manage state tidal wetlands and meet the EPA's national objectives of "no net loss of wetlands and wetland functions".

Sincerely,



Mari Kloeppe
Co-chair, FANS

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SEP 19 2006

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

