

SACRAMENTO ADDRESS
STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 3070
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4019
FAX (916) 324-7544

DISTRICT OFFICE
223 E. THOUSAND OAKS BLVD.
SUITE 400
THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91360
TEL (805) 494-8808
FAX (805) 494-8812
TOLL FREE (800) 458-8500

HTTP://WWW.SEN.CA.GOV/MCCLINTOCK
EMAIL: TOM.MCCLINTOCK@SEN.CA.GOV

California State Senate

SENATOR
THOMAS MCCLINTOCK
NINETEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES
VICE CHAIRMAN
TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING

MEMBER OF
BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

SUBCOMMITTEE
BUDGET SUB 4
(STATE ADMINISTRATION, GOVERNMENT
& TRANSPORTATION)

JOINT COMMITTEES
LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET

March 26, 2007

Doug Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I strongly urge the Coastal Conservancy to approve the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County's application and proposal for the eradication of *Arundo donax* from Refugio Creek during Phase II of the Lower Refugio Creek Restoration Project. *Arundo donax* threatens local natural habitat and is a serious pest of the riparian area in the south coast of Santa Barbara County. The Land Trust has demonstrated a commitment to this project through their implementation of Phase I in the Fall of 2006 and is in need of additional funding to carry out the overall project objectives during Phase II, which will improve habitat conditions for a variety of native flora and fauna located in the surrounding areas.

The project will also receive continued support through in-kind assistance and labor by all of the private agricultural landowners affected. Cachuma Resource Conservation District and the County of Santa Barbara Flood Control District will provide assistance in environmental documentation and bioengineering techniques.

The project is a model of collaboration among non-profit organizations, government agencies and private landowners to improve watershed health and is exactly what the people of California envisioned in the passage of Proposition 50 (Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002). This project will help assure that the lower Refugio Creek ecosystem remain strong and vibrant.

I encourage the Coastal Conservancy to support this proposal being submitted by the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County.

Sincerely,

Tom McClintock

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom McClintock", written over a faint circular stamp.

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APR 04 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0035
(916) 319-2035
FAX (916) 319-2135

DISTRICT OFFICES
101 W. ANAPAMU ST., SUITE A
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101
(805) 564-1649
FAX (805) 564-1651
201 E. FOURTH ST., SUITE 209-A
OXNARD, CA 93030
(805) 483-9808
FAX (805) 483-8182

Assembly
California Legislature



PEDRO NAVA
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-FIFTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:

CHAIR, TRANSPORTATION
CHAIR, JOINT COMMITTEE ON
EMERGENCY SERVICES AND
HOMELAND SECURITY
APPROPRIATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND
TOXIC MATERIALS
WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE
CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION
COUNCIL
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION
LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

April 16, 2007

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Phase II of the Lower Refugio Creek Restoration Project.

Dear Mr. Bosco:

As the California State Assemblymember for the 35th District, I would like to voice my strong support for your continued support for the Refugio Creek Arundo Removal Project. After completing a great round of work in Phase I, the Land Trust has the momentum and demonstrated success to carry out the rest of the project in Phase II, thereby greatly improving the wildlife and water quality values of Lower Refugio Creek. Continuing this project will dramatically improve the wildlife value along the creek by removing the highly invasive weed, Arundo donax (giant reed), stabilizing several major erosion sites and revegetating 17,000 square feet of the riparian corridor.

Arundo donax affects riparian systems with aggressive growth that chokes stream channels and creates debris dams that cause increased bank erosion and clogged road culverts, impeding fish travel during storm flows. This project will attempt to eradicate and control Arundo donax in lower Refugio Creek, where it has spread to about 100 locations that cover over four acres of creek bottom and banks.

The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County, in cooperation with three private agricultural landowners and the Cachuma Resource Conservation District, will dramatically improve the wildlife value along one and one-half miles of the creek with approval of this project. For these reasons, I highly recommend that this valuable project receive the California Coastal Conservancy's support. Please feel free to contact my staff at (805) 564-1649 to discuss this matter further. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pedro Nava
Assemblymember, 35th District





Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Weights & Measures ■ County of Santa Barbara

William D. Gillette
Commissioner/Director

March 20, 2007

Doug Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing in support of the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County's application for Coastal Conservancy funding of their Lower Refugio Creek Restoration Project, Phase II. This project will greatly enhance the habitat quality of the Refugio Creek for native plants, wildlife and fish.

I am a director on the board of the California Invasive Plant Council and the coordinator of the Santa Barbara County Weed Management Area. As such, I encourage any group to conduct invasive and noxious weed management projects especially in Santa Barbara County. This project is fully in line with both the weed management area's and the council's goals and the project targets *Arundo donax* – a priority species for the county and council.

Besides arundo control, the project intends to reduce erosion in the creek, thereby directly enhancing fish habitat. Restoration of areas with native plants will further enhance the area for wildlife.

The California Coastal Conservancy's assistance is important to the success of this project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Chang
Agricultural Program Specialist

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MAR 23 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, California 93003



IN REPLY REFER TO:
PAS: 2145.4657.7157

April 17, 2007

Doug Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Lower Refugio Creek Bank Stabilization and Riparian Restoration Project: Phase II, Refugio Creek, Santa Barbara County

Dear Mr. Bosco:

We would like to express our support for the Land Trust of Santa Barbara County's (Land Trust) subject project, located in riparian habitats that span across three private landowner's property just upstream of Highway 101 on the Gaviota Coast. We have already provided monetary support through our Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (Partners Program) in 2004 for Phase I-related activities on the downstream landowner's property, and we recently provided additional support for Phase II-related activities on yet another landowner's property. In 2004, our Partners Program awarded the Land Trust \$25,000 to implement Phase I-related activities on one of the three private landowner's properties; these activities included removing highly invasive plant species from the property, primarily *Arundo donax*, and installing native riparian plants. In 2007, the Partners Program will award the Land Trust another \$21,450 to assist with implementing Phase II-related activities on another landowner's property which includes stabilizing a 600-foot stream bank and installing native riparian plants.

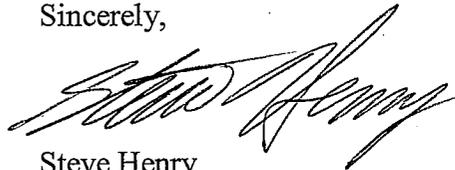
The invasive plant removal, bank stabilization, and native riparian plantings of the Land Trust's overall project, comprising the Phase I and Phase II activities, would directly benefit the federally threatened California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*), which is known to occur in the proposed project area. The endangered least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) and southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax trallii extimus*), occur transiently within riparian corridors that occur along the Gaviota coast and both species may also benefit from the improved habitats resulting from the Land Trust's efforts. The Phase I and Phase II activities would also indirectly benefit the endangered tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*) and southern California steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) by reducing sources of sediment and invasive plant species into downstream riparian habitats known to support both species.

Doug Bosco

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We would like to highlight that the Land Trust's efforts to build partnerships between private landowners and the various resource agencies in the lower Refugio Creek region would likely help to provide an important model for future partnerships in other watersheds along the Gaviota Coast. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Root of my staff at (805) 644-1766, extension 233.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Henry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "S".

Steve Henry
Assistant Field Supervisor

cc: Janet Diehl, Coastal Conservancy