

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942649
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0033
(916) 319-2033
FAX (916) 319-2133

Assembly
California Legislature

DISTRICT OFFICE
1104 PALM STREET
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401
(805) 549-3381
FAX (805) 549-3400



SAM BLAKESLEE
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-THIRD DISTRICT

December 18, 2007

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Support for acquisition of East Sweet Springs by Morro Coast Audobon Society

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Conservancy grant to the Morro Coast Audubon Society for their planned acquisition of the East Sweet Springs property.

This property, located on the south shore of Morro Bay, adjacent to the existing 24-acre Sweet Springs Nature Preserve, has been owned and managed by Audubon since 1985. Audubon's acquisition of the property will serve to permanently protect the site's outstanding coastal wetland and wildlife habitat values, including several state and federally listed plant and animal species, and migratory birds. Audubon will manage the property as an expansion of the existing Sweet Springs Nature Preserve, increasing its size by more than a third.

The project takes advantage of a unique opportunity to expand the preserve, protect a contiguous corridor of coastal wetlands, and broaden Audubon's current education, recreation, and restoration programs at the site. Audubon is well positioned to carry out this project. Audubon currently owns and manages four properties in the project area covering 30 acres, including the Sweet Springs Nature Preserve which it has owned and managed for more than 20 years.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Blakeslee", written over a large, stylized flourish.

Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee, 33rd District

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 651-4015
(916) 445-8081 FAX



California State Senate

ABEL MALDONADO
FIFTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

December 13, 2007

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my support for the Morro Coast Audubon Society (Audubon) for their planned acquisition grant in the amount of \$564,000 for the East Sweet Springs property located on the south shore of Morro Bay adjacent to the existing 24-acre Sweet Springs Nature Preserve. The Audubon has owned and managed this property since 1985. The acquisition of the property will serve to permanently protect the site's outstanding coastal wetland and wildlife habitat values, including several state and federally listed plant and animal species, and migratory birds. The Audubon will manage the property as an expansion of the existing Sweet Springs Nature Preserve, increasing its size by more than a third.

The project takes advantage of a unique opportunity to expand the preserve, protect a contiguous corridor of coastal wetlands, and broaden Audubon's current education, recreation, and restoration programs at the site. The Audubon is well positioned to carry out this project.

I hope that in evaluating the requests for grants you will give every possible consideration to this grant proposal. If I can provide any additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

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

ABEL MALDONADO
Senator, 15th District

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DEC 17 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



December 21, 2007 | *Via Email and US Post*

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: *Morro Coast Audubon Society – Sweet Springs Acquisition*

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express our support for, and urge your board to approve, the proposed Conservancy grant to the Morro Coast Audubon Society for their planned acquisition of the East Sweet Springs property located on the south shore of Morro Bay adjacent to the existing 24-acre Sweet Springs Nature Preserve, a property that Audubon has owned and managed since 1985. Audubon's acquisition of the property will serve to permanently protect the site's outstanding coastal wetland and wildlife habitat values, including several state and federally listed plant and animal species, and migratory birds. Audubon will manage the property as an expansion of the existing Sweet Springs Nature Preserve, increasing its size by more than a third.

The project takes advantage of a unique opportunity to expand the preserve, protect a contiguous corridor of coastal wetlands, and broaden Audubon's current education, recreation, and restoration programs at the site. Audubon is well positioned to carry out this project. Audubon currently owns and manages four properties in the project area covering 30 acres, including the Sweet Springs Nature Preserve which it has owned and managed for over 20 years.

The Sweet Springs Nature Preserve is truly one of San Luis Obispo County's most cherished locations for bird-watching, quiet contemplation, education, and scenic vistas. The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County offers it unconditional support for this acquisition. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert A. Hill".

Robert A. Hill
Conservation Director



EPI-Center, 1013 Monterey Street, Suite 207 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Phone: 805-781-9932 • Fax: 805-781-9384

San Luis Obispo COASTKEEPER®

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

December 24, 2007

VIA FACSIMILE: (510) 286-0470 (Original follows via US Mail)

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I am writing to urge your board to approve the proposed Conservancy grant to the Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) for their planned acquisition of the East Sweet Springs property located on the south shore of Morro Bay adjacent to the existing 24-acre Sweet Springs Nature Preserve, a property that Audubon has owned and managed since 1985.

MCAS has demonstrated success managing the Sweet Springs property, improving habitat values, increasing public access to this beautiful stretch of coastal property, and providing environmental education programs.

Audubon's acquisition of the property will bring permanent protection to the East Sweet Springs property's outstanding coastal wetland and wildlife habitat values, including several state and federally listed plant and animal species, as well as migratory birds. Should the Conservancy approve the grant, Morro Coast Audubon proposes to manage the property as an expansion of the existing Sweet Springs Nature Preserve, increasing its size by more than a third.

This project takes advantage of a unique opportunity to expand the preserve, protect a contiguous corridor of coastal wetlands, and broaden Audubon's current education, recreation, and restoration programs at the site. Audubon is well positioned to carry out this project. Audubon currently owns and manages four properties in the project area covering 30 acres, including the Sweet Springs Nature Preserve which it has owned and managed for over 20 years.

Sincerely,

Gordon R. Hensley, San Luis Obispo Coastkeeper



T. Duff



SANTA LUCIA CHAPTER

P.O. Box 15755 • San Luis Obispo, California 93406
Phone: (805) 543-8717 • Fax: (805) 543-8727
<http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/santalucia>

December 22, 2007

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco,

On behalf of the 2,500 members of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, we urge your board to approve the proposed Conservancy grant to the Morro Coast Audubon Society for their planned acquisition of the East Sweet Springs property, located on the south shore of Morro Bay adjacent to the existing 24-acre Sweet Springs Nature Preserve, a property that Audubon has owned and managed since 1985. This acquisition would expand the existing preserve, increasing its size by more than a third.

Audubon's acquisition of the property will serve to permanently protect the site's coastal wetland and wildlife habitat values, including several state and federally listed plant and animal species and migratory birds. The project takes advantage of a unique opportunity to protect a contiguous corridor of coastal wetlands and broaden current education, recreation, and restoration programs at the site.

Audubon is well positioned to carry out this project, as they currently own and manage four properties in the project area covering 30 acres, in addition to the Sweet Springs Preserve. This is a rare opportunity to expand public access to one of the most beautiful areas of the California coast while protecting environmentally sensitive habitat area in perpetuity.

For the Santa Lucia Chapter,

Andrew Christie
Chapter Director

T. Duff



Audubon CALIFORNIA

Important Bird Areas Program
601 Embarcadero, Suite 14
Morro Bay, CA 93442
Tel: 805-772-1995
Fax: 805-772-1995
<http://ca-audubon-org/IBA.html>

20 December 2007

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I urge your board to approve the proposed Conservancy grant to the Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS), a chapter of National Audubon Society, for their planned acquisition of the East Sweet Springs property located on the south shore of Morro Bay adjacent to the existing 24-acre Sweet Springs Nature Preserve, a property that MCAS has owned and managed since 1985. They currently own and manage four properties in the project area covering 30 acres, including the Sweet Springs Nature Preserve. MCAS will manage the property as an expansion of the existing Sweet Springs Nature Preserve, increasing its size by more than a third.

Acquisition of the property will serve to permanently protect the site's outstanding coastal wetland and wildlife habitat values, including several state and federally listed plant and animal species, and migratory birds. The project takes advantage of a unique opportunity to expand the preserve, protect a contiguous corridor of coastal wetlands, and broaden MCAS's current education, recreation, and restoration programs at the site. Furthermore, the site is part of the Morro Bay Important Bird Area, as designated by Audubon California in 2004, and this site provides protection of significant habitat for migratory and overwintering shorebirds and waterfowl. Morro Coast Audubon is well positioned to carry out this project and I fully support their efforts on this project.

Sincerely,

Andrea L. Jones
Director, Important Bird Areas Program

Exhibit 7: Letters of Support

1204 Nipomo Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Phone: (805) 544-1777
Fax: (805) 544-1871
www.ecoslo.org



ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Protecting and enhancing the Central Coast since 1971

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
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Bob Lavelle
Clint Slaughter, MD
Cal Wilvert

December 20, 2007

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco,

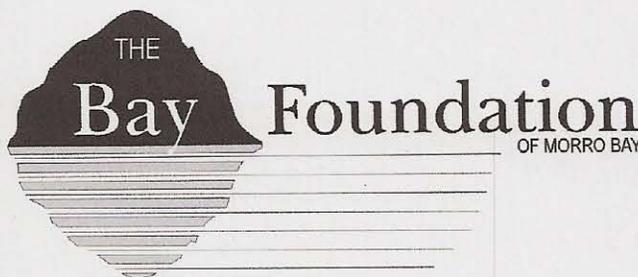
The Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo County (ECOSLO) strives to support and create resilient, healthy natural systems and life styles in San Luis Obispo County. We are committed to a sustainable future while working to improve our quality of life and economic vitality in our communities. Through education, advocacy, and community building, ECOSLO acts to protect the natural environment and environmental health on the Central Coast.

It is for these reasons that we are very supportive of the proposed Conservancy grant to the Morro Coast Audubon Society to underwrite the purchase of the 8-acre Corr/Donovan property adjacent to Sweet Springs Nature Preserve along the shores of Morro Bay. Audubon has proven to be an excellent steward of the Sweet Springs Nature Preserve in the twenty plus years it has owned and managed the property. They have promoted public access and enjoyment of this highly scenic area, while protecting the very sensitive coastal scrub and salt marsh habitats that are found there. We have every reason to believe that they will manage the proposed parcel with equal care. The acquisition of the property by Audubon will forever protect the outstanding coastal wetland and wildlife habitat values found on the site, including a number of critically threatened plant and animal species.

I am pleased to express my support for your efforts and your vision for expanded coastal access and protection of our coastal wetlands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morgan Rafferty".
Morgan Rafferty
Executive Director



601 Embarcadero • Morro Bay, California 93442

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

December 28, 2007

RE: East Sweet Springs Acquisition

Dear Chairman Bosco,

The Bay Foundation of Morro Bay strongly endorses the proposed Conservancy grant to the Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) for the acquisition of the East Sweet Springs property. This land has significant undeveloped shoreline wetland frontage, and that alone makes its permanent protection a very high priority for the long term health of the Morro Bay Estuary and the many species that depend on this coastal treasure.

Audubon's acquisition of the property will serve to permanently protect the site's outstanding coastal wetland and wildlife habitat values, including several state and federally listed plant and animal species, and migratory birds. Audubon will manage the property as an expansion of the existing Sweet Springs Nature Preserve, increasing its size by more than a third.

The permanent protection of rare habitats including bay frontage falls within the highest priority actions called for in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Morro Bay; a State and Federally approved watershed plan created and implemented through the Morro Bay National Estuary Program.

The project takes advantage of a unique opportunity to expand the preserve, protect a contiguous corridor of coastal wetlands, and broaden Audubon's current education, recreation, and restoration programs at the site. Audubon is well positioned to carry out this project. Audubon currently owns and manages four properties in the project area covering 30 acres, including the Sweet Springs Nature Preserve which it has owned and managed for over 20 years.

Thank you for helping to protect the Morro Bay Estuary,

Sincerely,

Joel Neel
President,
The Bay Foundation of Morro Bay



Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

December 28, 2007

RE: East Sweet Springs Acquisition
Dear Chairman Bosco,

On behalf of the Morro Bay National Estuary Program, I urge your board to approve the proposed Conservancy grant to the Morro Coast Audubon Society for their planned acquisition of the East Sweet Springs property located on the south shore of the Morro Bay Estuary. The permanent protection of this property falls within the highest priority actions called for in the Estuary Program's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Morro Bay; a State and Federally approved watershed management plan.

Morro Bay is recognized as a State and National Estuary because of the diverse and rare habitats still found here. The land under consideration for protection is immediately adjacent to the existing 24-acre Sweet Springs Nature Preserve, a property that Audubon has owned and managed since 1985. Audubon's acquisition of the property will serve to permanently protect the site's outstanding coastal wetland and wildlife habitat values, including several state and federally listed plant and animal species, and migratory birds. Audubon will manage the property as an expansion of the existing Sweet Springs Nature Preserve, increasing its size by more than a third.

The project takes advantage of a unique opportunity to expand the preserve, protect a contiguous corridor of coastal wetlands, and broaden Audubon's current education, recreation, and restoration programs at the site. Audubon is well positioned to carry out this project. Audubon currently owns and manages four properties in the project area covering 30 acres, including the Sweet Springs Nature Preserve which it has owned and managed for over 20 years.

Thank you for your consideration of this opportunity to further the protection of the Morro Bay National Estuary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Berman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

Daniel Berman
Program Director



City of Morro Bay

Morro Bay, CA 93442

(805) 772-6200

December 26, 2007

Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

While our City Council has not discussed this matter, I wanted to personally encourage your board to approve the proposed Conservancy grant to the Morro Coast Audubon Society for their planned acquisition of the East Sweet Springs property located on the south shore of Morro Bay adjacent to the existing 24-acre Sweet Springs Nature Preserve.

I also serve as Coordinator of the annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, and this property, which Audubon has owned and managed since 1985, is one of our most popular birding sites. Audubon's acquisition of the property will serve to permanently protect the site's outstanding coastal wetland and wildlife habitat values, including several state and federally listed plant and animal species, and migratory birds.

The project offers a unique opportunity to protect a contiguous corridor of coastal wetlands, and broaden Audubon's current education, recreation, and restoration programs at the site. Audubon is well equipped to carry out this project, as they currently own and manage four properties in the project area, including the Sweet Springs Nature Preserve, which they have managed for over 20 years.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Approval of this grant will provide a life long benefit for the visitors to and residents of this community, as well as the animal and plant species that flourish here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janice Peters". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janice Peters
Mayor

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DEC 28 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



**Surfrider
Foundation.**

San Luis Bay Chapter

December 27, 2007

Attn: Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Surfrider Foundation
San Luis Bay Chapter
PO Box 13222
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Subject: Conservancy Grant of East Sweet Springs (Los Osos, CA) - Morro Audubon

The San Luis Bay Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation urges your board to approve the proposed Conservancy grant to the Morro Coast Audubon Society for their planned acquisition of the East Sweet Springs property located on the south shore of Morro Bay adjacent to the existing 24-acre Sweet Springs Nature Preserve, a property that Audubon has owned and managed since 1985. Audubon's acquisition of the property will serve to permanently protect the site's outstanding coastal wetland and wildlife habitat values, including several state and federally listed plant and animal species, migratory birds and the State Marine Reserve Morro Bay National Estuary. Audubon will manage the property as an expansion of the existing Sweet Springs Nature Preserve, increasing its size by more than a third.

The project takes advantage of a unique opportunity to expand the preserve, protect a contiguous corridor of coastal wetlands, and broaden Audubon's current education, recreation, and restoration programs at the site. Audubon is well positioned to carry out this project. Audubon currently owns and manages four properties in the project area covering 30 acres, including the Sweet Springs Nature Preserve which it has owned and managed for over 20 years.

Given the global challenges to water quality and supply, SLB Surfrider sees the East Sweet Springs Grant as a critical component to the preservation and enhancement efforts of the vital elements in our local watersheds. We appreciate your ongoing efforts to help sustain our environment, and thus, our social and economic health.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Noah Smukler".

Noah Smukler
Chapter Chair
(805) 772-7668

slb@surfrider.org
www.slosurfrider.org

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DEC 31 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's waves, oceans, and beaches for all people, via conservation, activism, research & education.