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FAX (707) 463-5773  
215 4TH STREET, SUITE C  
EUREKA, CA 95501  
PH (707) 445-7014  
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# Assembly California Legislature



**PATTY BERG**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIRST DISTRICT

**COMMITTEES:**  
AGING & LONG-TERM CARE, CHAIR  
BUDGET SUB #1,  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, CHAIR  
BUDGET  
HEALTH  
INSURANCE

April 17, 2008

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612  
VIA FACSIMILE: (510) 286-0470

Dear Chairman Bosco:

As a member of the Coastal Conservancy Oversight Committee I offer my support of the grant proposal, Coastal Prairie Enhancement Feasibility Study, submitted by Ocean Song Farm & Wilderness Center (OSFWC) on behalf of the Sonoma Marin Coastal Grasslands Working Group (SMCGWG). The SMCGWG is an active inter-organizational group dedicated to conservation, restoration and protection of coastal prairie, a highly diverse, threatened plant community.

This grant will address two top priorities for coastal prairie conservation: the mapping of coastal grassland mapping, and the eradication of invasive non-native grasses, along with a long list of other valuable outcomes.

I support the goals of the Coastal Prairie Enhancement Feasibility Study and urge the approval of this application for funding.

Respectfully,

PATTY BERG  
Assemblywoman, 1<sup>st</sup> District

cc: Kathleen Kraft, Ocean Song Farm & Wilderness Center  
Dr. Claudia Luke, Program Development/Bodega Marine Reserve

COUNTY OF SONOMA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
575 ADMINISTRATION DRIVE, RM. 100A  
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95403  
  
(707) 565-2241  
FAX (707) 565-3778



MIKE REILLY  
SUPERVISOR FIFTH DISTRICT  
  
mreilly@sonoma-county.org  
FAX: (707) 565-3392  
  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS  
CAROL MILLS  
DARCY MAJOR

April 16, 2008

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612  
VIA FACSIMILE: (510) 286-0470

Dear *Doug* Chairman Bosco:

I am writing in support of the grant proposal, Coastal Prairie Enhancement Feasibility Study, submitted by Ocean Song Farm & Wilderness Center (OSFWC) on behalf of the Sonoma Marin Coastal Grasslands Working Group (SMCGWG). The SMCGWG is an active inter-organizational group working towards a collaborative regional approach to coastal grasslands conservation. Members of the SMCGWG (Audubon Canyon Ranch, California State Parks, Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Sonoma Land Trust, UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, Marin Resource District, Point Reyes National Seashore, and Bodega Pastures Ranch) are dedicated to conservation, restoration and protection of coastal prairie, a highly diverse, threatened plant community.

This grant will address two top priorities for coastal prairie conservation identified in the 2006 interagency publication "Conservation Priorities for Coastal Prairie in Sonoma and Marin Counties."

1. Coastal grasslands will be mapped, using current CNPS protocols (including aerial photography and ground surveys), to document the condition and location of remaining coastal prairie in Marin and Sonoma Counties. The effort will yield essential information to agencies and landowners engaged in resource management and conservation, provide initial identification of high-priority restoration sites, and serve as the basis for a region-wide prioritization analysis for restoration and protection for each type of coastal prairie identified. The resulting map will be sent to all regional agencies and NGOs with GIS capabilities (e.g., Sonoma Ecology Center, Marin County, Point Reyes National Seashore, etc.) and will be made available as a downloadable pdf via partner websites.

Mr. Doug, Bosco, Chair  
April 16, 2008  
Page two

2. The invasion of non-native perennial grasses (particularly *Holcus lanatus*) was identified at the Sonoma-Marine Coastal Prairie Workshop as one of the greatest immediate threats to native coastal grasslands. Five sites with coastal prairie under immediate threat of perennial grass invasion will be the targets of a 35-acre restoration project. Partners at each site will apply a combination of treatments appropriate to varying levels of infestation, and will use the best information currently available to develop best management practices that can be used to restore other sites invaded by non-native perennial grasses.

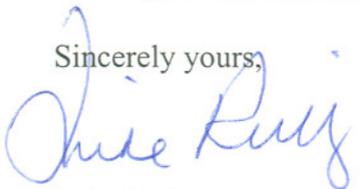
Other valuable outcomes from this grant will be:

- Strengthening an existing information sharing network (SMCGWG),
- Coastal prairie educational and training materials,
- Regional land managers, conservation partners and private land owners who can identify types and quality of coastal prairie habitat,
- A volunteer team trained in grassland restoration,
- A final workshop to present the results of the mapping effort and coastal prairie restoration to at least 25 agencies, academic institutions, NGOs and private land owners in Sonoma and Marin counties.

Implementation of this program will benefit agencies and landowners in Marin, Sonoma, and other coastal counties that are managing their grasslands to preserve coastal prairie, one of the most bio-diverse grasslands in North America.

Thank you very much for considering this grant proposal.

Sincerely yours,



Mike Reilly  
Fifth District Supervisor

MR:ps:21117

**RECEIVED**

APR 18 2009

OAKLAND CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

HIRSH



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes, California 94956

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A38

April 14, 2008

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

On behalf of Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) this is a letter of support for the Coastal Conservancy grant proposal, *Coastal Prairie Enhancement Feasibility Study*, submitted by Ocean Song Farm & Wilderness Center (OSFWC) on behalf of the Sonoma Marin Coastal Grasslands Working Group (SMCGWG). PRNS staff has been involved in SMCGWG, working towards a collaborative regional approach to coastal grasslands conservation in both Sonoma and Marin counties. The Seashore supports efforts dedicated to the conservation, restoration and protection of richly diverse, but at risk, coastal prairie habitat.

This grant will address two critical priorities for coastal prairie conservation identified in the 2006 interagency publication "Conservation Priorities for Coastal Prairie in Sonoma and Marin Counties": 1) mapping coastal grasslands of Marin and Sonoma Counties and 2) restoration of five coastal prairie sites under immediate threat of perennial grass invasion. The Seashore is very interested in improving mapping methods and products focused on coastal prairie. Current grassland mapping at the Seashore is very limited. PRNS vegetation mapping using 1994 aerial imagery created a useful snapshot of coarse plant communities; however it lacks the detail to effectively manage for coastal prairie habitat park-wide. Additionally, coastal grassland restoration techniques are poorly understood, and land managers throughout both counties would benefit from examples of restoration methods and results. At PRNS, over 70% of our federal, state and locally listed rare plant species occur within coastal grasslands. Work under this grant proposal would assist with the conservation of these unique assemblages.

Thank you for considering this grant proposal. We look forward to working with you to support this critical project.

Other valuable outcomes from this grant will be:

- Strengthening an existing information sharing network (SMCGWG),

- Coastal prairie educational and training materials,
- Regional land managers, conservation partners and private land owners who can identify types and quality of coastal prairie habitat,
- A volunteer team trained in grassland restoration,
- A final workshop to present the results of the mapping effort and coastal prairie restoration to at least 25 agencies, academic institutions, NGOs and private land owners in Sonoma and Marin counties.

Implementation of this program will benefit agencies and landowners in Marin, Sonoma, and other coastal counties that are managing their grasslands to preserve coastal prairie, one of the most bio-diverse grasslands in North America.

Thank you very much for considering this grant proposal. We look forward to working with you to support this critical project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Neubacher", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Don L. Neubacher  
Superintendent



State of California – The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor



April 17, 2008

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612  
VIA FACSIMILE: (510) 286-0470

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing in support of the grant proposal, Coastal Prairie Enhancement Feasibility Study, submitted by Ocean Song Farm & Wilderness Center (OSFWC) on behalf of the Sonoma Marin Coastal Grasslands Working Group (SMCGWG). The SMCGWG is an active inter-organizational group working towards a collaborative regional approach to coastal grasslands conservation. Members of the SMCGWG (Audubon Canyon Ranch, California State Parks, Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Sonoma Land Trust, UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, Marin Resource District, Point Reyes National Seashore, and Bodega Pastures Ranch) are dedicated to conservation, restoration and protection of coastal prairie, a highly diverse, threatened plant community.

In my position as the head of the Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program in the Department of Fish and Game, I am particularly interested in and supportive of this project. Our program is responsible for implementing and maintaining the national and state standards for vegetation classification and mapping. We have been strongly interested in supporting projects of this kind along the north coast of California, since the grassland vegetation there is limited in extent, rich in native species, threatened by invasive species and development, and yet to date poorly understood. The assessment proposed in this study will be the first time it has been possible to develop a detailed defensible definition for the grassland vegetation along the coast. A study such as this one will address many of our key concerns and will be immensely useful to us. I have worked with the main proponents and the scientists involved in this project previously and have high confidence that the structure and division of labor within the proposal bodes well for a successful and very informative outcome.

This grant will address two top priorities for coastal prairie conservation identified in the 2006 interagency publication "Conservation Priorities for Coastal Prairie in Sonoma and Marin Counties".

1. Coastal grasslands will be mapped, using current CNPS and State Interagency Vegetation Committee protocols (including aerial photography and ground surveys), to document the condition and location of remaining coastal prairie in Marin and Sonoma Counties. The effort will yield essential information to agencies and landowners engaged in resource management and conservation, provide initial

identification of high-priority restoration sites, and serve as the basis for a region-wide prioritization analysis for restoration and protection for each type of coastal prairie identified. The resulting map will be sent to all regional agencies and NGOs with GIS capabilities (e.g., Sonoma Ecology Center, Marin County, Point Reyes National Seashore, etc.) and will be made available as a downloadable pdf via partner websites.

2. The invasion of non-native perennial grasses (particularly *Holcus lanatus*) was identified at the Sonoma-Marin Coastal Prairie Workshop as one of the greatest immediate threats to native coastal grasslands. Five sites with coastal prairie under immediate threat of perennial grass invasion will be the targets of a 35-acre restoration project. Partners at each site will apply a combination of treatments appropriate to varying levels of infestation, and will use the best information currently available to develop best management practices that can be used to restore other sites invaded by non-native perennial grasses.

Other valuable outcomes from this grant will be:

- Strengthening an existing information sharing network (SMCGWG),
- Coastal prairie educational and training materials,
- Regional land managers, conservation partners and private land owners who can identify types and quality of coastal prairie habitat,
- A volunteer team trained in grassland restoration,
- A final workshop to present the results of the mapping effort and coastal prairie restoration to at least 25 agencies, academic institutions, NGOs and private land owners in Sonoma and Marin counties.

Implementation of this program will benefit agencies and landowners in Marin, Sonoma, and other coastal counties that are managing their grasslands to preserve coastal prairie, one of the most bio-diverse grasslands in North America.

Thank you very much for considering this grant proposal. Please feel free to contact me about any further questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Todd Keeler-Wolf, Ph.D.  
Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program  
Biogeographic Data Branch  
California Department of Fish and Game  
1807 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 202  
Sacramento, CA 95811  
Email: [tkwolf@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:tkwolf@dfg.ca.gov)  
(916) 324-6857



State of California • The Resources Agency

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Ruth Coleman, Director

April 18, 2008

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612  
VIA FACSIMILE: (510) 286-0470

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing on behalf of California State Parks in support of the grant proposal, Coastal Prairie Enhancement Feasibility Study, submitted by Ocean Song Farm & Wilderness Center (OSFWC) on behalf of the Sonoma Marin Coastal Grasslands Working Group (SMCGWG). The SMCGWG is an active inter-organizational group working towards a collaborative regional approach to coastal grasslands conservation. Members of the SMCGWG (Audubon Canyon Ranch, California State Parks, Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Sonoma Land Trust, UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, Marin Resource District, Point Reyes National Seashore, and Bodega Pastures Ranch) are dedicated to conservation, restoration and protection of coastal prairie, a highly diverse, yet very threatened plant community. California State Parks is proud to be a part of this collaborative effort.

This grant will address two top priorities for coastal prairie conservation identified in the 2006 interagency publication "Conservation Priorities for Coastal Prairie in Sonoma and Marin Counties".

1. Coastal grasslands will be mapped, using current CNPS protocols (including aerial photography and ground surveys), to document the condition and location of remaining coastal prairie in Marin and Sonoma Counties. The effort will yield essential information to agencies and landowners engaged in resource management and conservation, provide initial identification of high-priority restoration sites, and serve as the basis for a region-wide prioritization analysis for restoration and protection for each type of coastal prairie identified. The resulting map will be sent to all regional agencies and NGOs with GIS capabilities (e.g., Sonoma Ecology Center, Marin County, Point Reyes National Seashore, etc.) and will be made available as a downloadable pdf via partner websites.
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available to develop best management practices that can be used to restore other sites invaded by non-native perennial grasses.

Other valuable outcomes from this grant will be:

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Implementation of this program will benefit agencies and landowners in Marin, Sonoma, and other coastal counties that are managing their grasslands to preserve coastal prairie, one of the most bio-diverse grasslands in North America.

Thank you very much for considering this grant proposal.

Sincerely,



Brendan O'Neil  
Environmental Scientist  
California State Parks  
Russian River District  
PO Box 123  
Duncans Mills, CA 95430

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

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E-MAIL: [ucdbml@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ucdbml@ucdavis.edu)  
<http://www.bml.ucdavis.edu>

BODEGA MARINE LABORATORY  
P.O. BOX 247  
2099 WESTSIDE ROAD  
BODEGA BAY, CALIFORNIA 94923-0247

April 14, 2008

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612  
VIA FACSIMILE: (510) 286-0470

Dear Chairman Bosco:

The UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory (BML) is excited about the prospect of collaborating on the Coastal Prairie Enhancement Feasibility Study. We have been a founding and active member of the Sonoma Marin Coastal Grasslands Working Group (SMCGWG) since it's inception, and eager to begin working with our partners to implement the top conservation priorities identified in the 2006 "Conservation Priorities for Coastal Prairie in Sonoma and Marin Counties."

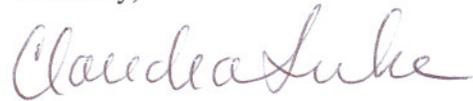
When I accepted my position at Reserve Manager at BML 3 years ago, I searched in vain for a vegetation map of coastal prairie habitats in our area that would allow us to identify the ecological importance of coastal prairie types on reserve lands and provide direction on how to manage these declining and highly diverse grasslands. The mapping effort outlined in the proposal will finally give us the tool that we need to determine how to manage our piece on the Bodega Head peninsula and collaborate with others to develop a regional management plan that will conserve coastal prairie habitats. I can't think of a better team of expert grassland scientists to address the complexity of grassland mapping. Ayzik Solomeshch in the UC Davis Plant Sciences Department is a co-author on the grassland community types chapter in the recent California Grassland book, and Susan Ustin's laboratory in the UC Davis Land Air and Water Resources is recognized throughout the state as a rigorous and highly-effective GIS laboratory with state-of-the-art tools and expertise able to problem solve any new challenges that may arise from the effort. UC Davis is just a stone's throw to the CDFG and CNPS offices in Sacramento, providing easy coordination with our partners there (Todd Keeler-Wolf and Julie Evens) who will train our field crews and work with us to coordinate our efforts with the on-going statewide grassland mapping effort.

University of California and State Parks lands on the Bodega Head Peninsula are targeted as a restoration site in the proposal. The Sonoma Coast State Park on the Bodega Head has one of highest visitation rates by the public in the State Park system and UC lands supports the highest density of coastal prairie research in the State. The protection of coastal prairie habitats on the peninsula through the restoration of coastal prairie will benefit both public appreciation and information gathering on ecological processes and management of this amazing state resource. As an institution dedicated to research and education of California coastal environments, we are

looking forward to undertaking restoration in conjunction with educational initiatives in the project.

Thank you for considering this grant proposal. We look forward to working with you to support this critical project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Claudia Luke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Claudia Luke  
Reserve Manager  
UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory



**SONOMA COUNTY**  
AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION  
AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

April 4, 2008

Doug Bosco, Chairman  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

This letter is in support of the proposed State Coastal Conservancy grant to the Sonoma-Marine Coastal Prairie Working Group entitled *Coastal Prairie Restoration, Enhancement and Planning*.

The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District recognizes the importance of the grasslands that form the marine terraces and bald hills of the Sonoma and Marin County coastlines. The unique coastal grasslands are a rich resource and vital to the region's ecosystem. Critical to coastal grasslands protection are mapped priorities based on scientific research. The proposed State Coastal Conservancy grant would fund the development of a grasslands map that could be used by the District to focus its conservation efforts on the coast where they are needed the most.

I will favorably recommend approval of \$50,000 in matching funds to our Board of Directors on April 22, 2008.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Mackenzie".

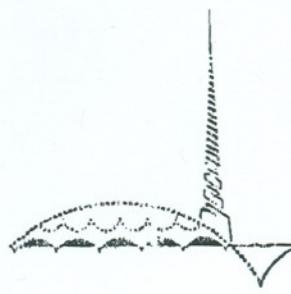
Andrea Mackenzie  
General Manager

c: Deborah Hirst  
Kathleen Kraft

**RECEIVED**

APR 07 2008

COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.



COUNTY OF MARIN  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE  
3501 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 415, SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903  
415/499-6387 - FAX 415/ 499-3795

April 11, 2008

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612  
VIA FACSIMILE: (510) 286-0470

Dear Chairman Bosco:

We are writing in support of the grant proposal, Coastal Prairie Enhancement Feasibility Study, submitted by Ocean Song Farm & Wilderness Center (OSF&WC). As part of the Marin Sonoma Weed Management Area, we collaborate with other public agencies and private landowners (Audubon Canyon Ranch, California Native Plant Society, California State Parks, Marin County Agricultural Commissioner, Marin Municipal Water District, Point Reyes National Seashore) to coordinate efforts and expertise in habitat restoration focusing on invasive plants.

A large part of our effort to conserve land in the Bay Area is identifying the plant communities and habitats we are trying to protect. The District is currently developing a comprehensive vegetation map encompassing all our preserves. This map will identify potential habitat for special status plant and animal species, large stands of non-native weeds, areas prone to Sudden Oak Death Syndrome, and will guide our long-term conservation efforts.

This grant will strengthen an existing information sharing network, and will allow us all to benefit from an increased understanding of ecological and floristic connections amongst grasslands. It will also guide us in the conservation of these previously under sampled communities. This project, directly ties into the District's vegetation mapping project as well as other mapping efforts throughout Sonoma and Marin Counties.

Thank you for considering this grant proposal.

Sincerely,

Mischon Martin  
Natural Resources Program Manager  
Marin County Open Space District



---

**Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District**

P.O. Box 1064 - Occidental, CA 95465 - Phone (707) 874-2907 - Fax (707) 874-9607

April 11, 2008

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612  
VIA FACSIMILE: (510) 286-0470

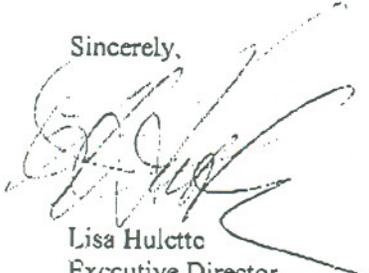
Dear Chairman Bosco:

The Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District would like to express support for the grant proposal, Coastal Prairie Enhancement Feasibility Study, submitted by Ocean Song Farm & Wilderness Center (OSFWC) on behalf of the Sonoma Marin Coastal Grasslands Working Group (SMCGWG). The SMCGWG is an active inter-organizational group working towards a collaborative regional approach to coastal grasslands conservation. Members of the SMCGWG (Audubon Canyon Ranch, California State Parks, Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Sonoma Land Trust, UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, Marin Resource District, Point Reyes National Seashore, and Bodega Pastures Ranch) are dedicated to conservation, restoration and protection of coastal prairie, a highly diverse, threatened plant community.

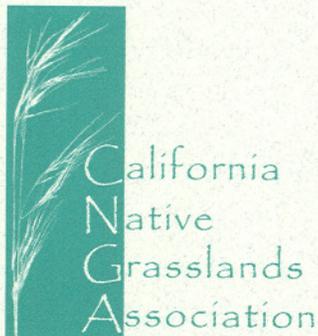
This grant will address top priorities for coastal prairie conservation identified in the 2006 interagency publication "Conservation Priorities for Coastal Prairie in Sonoma and Marin Counties". Mapping coastal grasslands will enable both agencies and landowners to make effective resource conservation decisions when developing collective management strategies along the Sonoma-Marin Coastline.

We would like to urge you give this proposal your full and careful consideration.

Sincerely,



Lisa Hulctte  
Exccutive Director



P.O. Box 72405  
Davis, CA 95617

Phone/Fax 530.759.8458

[www.cnga.org](http://www.cnga.org)  
[admin@cnga.org](mailto:admin@cnga.org)

The mission of the California Native Grasslands Association is to promote, preserve, and restore the diversity of California's native grasses and grassland ecosystems through education, advocacy, research, and stewardship.

April 17, 2008

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

Re: Coastal Prairie Enhancement Feasibility Study

Dear Chairman Bosco,

The California Native Grasslands Association (CNGA) supports the grant proposal, Coastal Prairie Enhancement Feasibility Study, submitted by Ocean Song Farm & Wilderness Center on behalf of the Sonoma Marin Coastal Grasslands Working Group. This grant proposal represents a significant attempt to preserve and manage one of the most endangered grassland biomes in North America, the California Coastal Prairie. This proposal has the support of many local conservation organizations and statewide organizations particularly the California Native Plant Society and CNGA. These organizations are dedicated to the conservation, restoration and protection of coastal prairie, a highly diverse and threatened plant community.

This grant will address two top priorities for coastal prairie conservation: the mapping and assessment of this unique plant community and the identification of the immediate threats to this plant community in terms of unprecedented exotic plant invasion and poorly understood management practices that threaten the very fabric of coastal prairie survival. The mapping effort will identify examples of remnant intact coastal prairie communities, provide high-priority restoration sites and serve as the basis for a region-wide prioritization analysis for the restoration and protection of the many types of coastal prairie communities. The on-the-ground mapping and floristic analysis will be conducted by a close collaboration of personnel from both the Department of Fish and Game and the California Native Plant Society plant community mapping and monitoring programs.

What is really exciting about the grant proposal is the focused attempt to understand and manage the dynamics of non-native perennial grass invasion (particularly *Holcus lanatus*). Studies at five different sites will use the best information currently available to develop on-the-ground management practices that can be used to restore and stabilize the coastal prairie landscape. This information is desperately needed. Implementation of this program will benefit agencies and landowners from San Luis Obispo County to the Oregon border.

Thank you very much for considering this grant proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randi Paris".

Randi Paris,  
CNGA Board President

**RECEIVED**  
APR 18 2009  
COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.  
HIRST



April 11, 2008

966 Sonoma Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
Tel: 707 526 6930  
Fax: 707 526 3001

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612  
VIA FACSIMILE: (510) 286-0470

[www.sonomalandtrust.org](http://www.sonomalandtrust.org)

Dear Chairman Bosco:

We are writing in support of the grant proposal, Coastal Prairie Enhancement Feasibility Study, submitted by Ocean Song Farm & Wilderness Center (OSFWC) on behalf of the Sonoma Marin Coastal Grasslands Working Group (SMCGWG). The SMCGWG is an active inter-organizational group working towards a collaborative regional approach to coastal grasslands conservation. Members of the SMCGWG (Audubon Canyon Ranch, California State Parks, Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Sonoma Land Trust, UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, Marin Resource District, Point Reyes National Seashore, and Bodega Pastures Ranch) are dedicated to conservation, restoration and protection of coastal prairie, a highly diverse, threatened plant community.

This grant will address two top priorities for coastal prairie conservation identified in the 2006 interagency publication "Conservation Priorities for Coastal Prairie in Sonoma and Marin Counties".

1. Coastal grasslands will be mapped, using current CNPS protocols (including aerial photography and ground surveys), to document the condition and location of remaining coastal prairie in Marin and Sonoma Counties. The effort will yield essential information to agencies and landowners engaged in resource management and conservation, provide initial identification of high-priority restoration sites, and serve as the basis for a region-wide prioritization analysis for restoration and protection for each type of coastal prairie identified. The resulting map will be sent to all regional agencies and NGOs with GIS capabilities (e.g., Sonoma Ecology Center, Marin County, Point Reyes National Seashore, etc.) and will be made available as a downloadable PDF via partner websites.
2. The invasion of non-native perennial grasses (particularly *Holcus lanatus*) was identified at the Sonoma-Marin Coastal Prairie Workshop as one of the greatest immediate threats to native coastal grasslands. Five sites with coastal prairie under immediate threat of perennial grass invasion will be the targets of a 35-acre restoration project. Partners at each site will apply a combination of treatments appropriate to varying levels of infestation, and will use the best information currently available to develop best management practices that can be used to restore other sites invaded by non-native perennial grasses.

Other valuable outcomes from this grant will be:

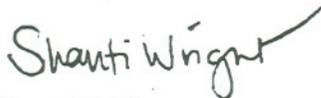
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- Regional land managers, conservation partners and private land owners who can identify types and quality of coastal prairie habitat,
- A volunteer team trained in grassland restoration,
- A final workshop to present the results of the mapping effort and coastal prairie restoration to at least 25 agencies, academic institutions, NGOs and private land owners in Sonoma and Marin counties.

The Sonoma Land Trust is particularly interested in participating in the Coastal Prairie Enhancement Feasibility Study because the project's area of focus is directly relevant to our stewardship activities at the Estero Americano Preserve. The study will utilize SLT's 127-acre Preserve as a project site to determine proactive strategies for livestock management that addresses the velvetgrass (*Holcus lanatus*) invasion at a large scale. This project builds on SLT's stewardship work at the Preserve, which has been supported by the California Coastal Conservancy, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District.

Implementation of this program will not only support SLT's vegetation management efforts at the Estero Americano Preserve, but will also benefit agencies and landowners in Marin, Sonoma, and other coastal counties that are managing their grasslands to preserve coastal prairie - one of the most biodiverse grasslands in North America.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Shanti Wright

Stewardship Project Manager

## Occidental Arts and Ecology Center      Brock Dolman

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15290 Coleman Valley Road • Occidental, CA 95465  
tel: (707) 874-1557 x 206 • fax: (707) 874-1558  
[www.oaec.org](http://www.oaec.org)      Brock@oaec.org

April 16, 2008

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612  
VIA FACSIMILE: (510) 286-0470

Dear Chairman Bosco:

As a member organization of the Sonoma Marin Coastal Grasslands Working Group (SMCGWG), we are writing in support of the grant proposal, Coastal Prairie Enhancement Feasibility Study, submitted by Ocean Song Farm & Wilderness Center (OSFWC).

The SMCGWG is an active inter-organizational group working towards a collaborative regional approach to coastal grasslands conservation. Members of the SMCGWG (Audubon Canyon Ranch, California State Parks, Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Sonoma Land Trust, UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, Marin Resource District, Point Reyes National Seashore, and Bodega Pastures Ranch) are dedicated to conservation, restoration and protection of coastal prairie, a highly diverse, threatened plant community.

We feel that this grant program represents a unique and effective approach towards a collaborative conservation effort that reflects the highest prioritized issues of shared concern based on the significant participation of our diverse stakeholder group. This grant will address two top priorities for coastal prairie conservation identified in the 2006 interagency publication "Conservation Priorities for Coastal Prairie in Sonoma and Marin Counties".

1. Coastal grasslands will be mapped, using current CNPS protocols (including aerial photography and ground surveys), to document the condition and location of remaining coastal prairie in Marin and Sonoma Counties. The effort will yield essential information to agencies and landowners engaged in resource management and conservation, provide initial identification of high-priority restoration sites, and serve as the basis for a region-wide prioritization analysis for restoration and protection for each type of coastal prairie identified. The resulting map will be sent to all regional agencies and NGOs with GIS capabilities (e.g., Sonoma Ecology Center, Marin County, Point Reyes National Seashore, etc.) and will be made available as a downloadable pdf via partner websites.

2. The invasion of non-native perennial grasses (particularly *Holcus lanatus*) was identified at the Sonoma-Marin Coastal Prairie Workshop as one of the greatest immediate threats to native coastal grasslands. Five sites with coastal prairie under immediate threat of perennial grass invasion will be the targets of a 35-acre restoration project. Partners at each site will apply a combination of treatments appropriate to varying levels of infestation, and will use the best information currently available to develop best management practices that can be used to restore other sites invaded by non-native perennial grasses.

Other valuable outcomes from this grant will be:

- Strengthening an existing information sharing network (SMCGWG),
- Coastal prairie educational and training materials,
- Regional land managers, conservation partners and private land owners who can identify types and quality of coastal prairie habitat,
- A volunteer team trained in grassland restoration,
- A final workshop to present the results of the mapping effort and coastal prairie restoration to at least 25 agencies, academic institutions, NGOs and private land owners in Sonoma and Marin counties.

Implementation of this program will benefit agencies and landowners in Marin, Sonoma, and other coastal counties that are managing their grasslands to preserve coastal prairie, one of the most bio-diverse grasslands in North America.

The Occidental Arts and Ecology Center is proud to be a member of this innovative program and hopes that the board of the State Coastal Conservancy will share our enthusiasm and support for this proposal.

Thank you very much for considering this grant proposal.

Sincerely,



Brock Dolman

Occidental Arts and Ecology Center  
Co-Director Wildlands Restoration Program



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April 17, 2008

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612  
VIA FACSIMILE: (510) 286-0470

Dear Chairman Bosco:

We are writing to voice support for the Coastal Prairie Enhancement Feasibility Study submitted by Ocean Song Farm & Wilderness Center (OSFWC) on behalf of the Sonoma Marin Coastal Grasslands Working Group (SMCGWG). Audubon Canyon Ranch believes that this project will make a crucial difference in protecting and preserving an ecologically and culturally valuable portion of coastal California.

Audubon Canyon Ranch owns and manages a system of wildlife sanctuaries in Marin and Sonoma counties that includes coastal grasslands at locations throughout west Marin and Sonoma Valley. For nearly forty years, Audubon Canyon Ranch has conducted research, education, and conservation activities to help ensure long-term protection of the natural resources in these sanctuaries and in the surrounding region. We have re-established coastal grasslands at our Cypress Grove Preserve, protected coastal prairie at our Toms Point sanctuary, and restored diverse grasslands associated with vernal pools at our Sonoma Valley Bouverie Preserve. We also host important research by visiting scientists, including an assessment of soil carbon storage in native grasslands at our flagship Bolinas Lagoon Preserve.

This work has taught us much about these important and imperiled habitats, and Audubon Canyon Ranch is proud to be a member of the Sonoma Marin Coastal Grasslands Working Group. The SMCGWG is an active inter-organizational group working towards a collaborative regional approach to coastal grasslands conservation. Members of the SMCGWG (Audubon Canyon Ranch, California State Parks, Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Sonoma Land Trust, UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, Marin Resource District, Point Reyes National Seashore, and Bodega Pastures Ranch) are dedicated to conservation, restoration and protection of coastal prairie, a highly diverse, threatened plant community.

Audubon Canyon Ranch is committed to preservation and appropriate management of coastal grasslands throughout our region. Coastal grasslands are highly productive habitats that support a diversity of rare native plants and



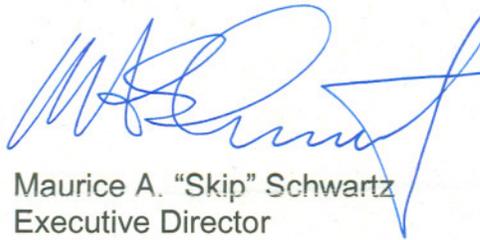
animals. They also can support productive human communities through ranching and public access. While there is generally strong support for protecting and maintaining coastal grasslands, these efforts are hampered by the lack of good mapping information and by invasion by harmful and noxious weeds. This project addresses both of these needs, by mapping the location of high-value coastal prairie and developing tools that ranchers and conservationists can use to cope with the invasion by non-native perennial grasses (particularly, *Holcus lanatus*).

In addition, these projects will nurture the development of a group that is noted for sharing information among diverse partners, applying current science to pressing needs, and bringing citizens, agencies, and environmental organizations together.

This program will make an important difference in rescuing this ancient and beautiful habitat type. The work aligns with Audubon Canyon Ranch's dual missions of preservation and research and will benefit agencies and landowners in Marin, Sonoma, and other coastal counties that are preserving one of the most biologically diverse grasslands in North America.

Thank you for considering this grant proposal.

Sincerely,



Maurice A. "Skip" Schwartz  
Executive Director

Daniel Gluesenkamp, Ph.D.  
Habitat Protection & Restoration

**RECEIVED**

APR 18 2009

COASTAL CONSERVATION  
OAKLAND, CALIF

HIRST



COUNTY OF MARIN  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE  
3501 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 415, SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903  
415/499-6387 - FAX 415/ 499-3795

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April 11, 2008

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

We are writing in support of the grant proposal, Coastal Prairie Enhancement Feasibility Study, submitted by Ocean Song Farm & Wilderness Center (OSFWC). As part of the Marin Sonoma Weed Management Area, we collaborate with other public agencies and private landowners (Audubon Canyon Ranch, California Native Plant Society, California State Parks, Marin County Agricultural Commissioner, Marin Municipal Water District, Point Reyes National Seashore) to coordinate efforts and expertise in habitat restoration focusing on invasive plants.

A large part of our effort to conserve land in the Bay Area is identifying the plant communities and habitats we are trying to protect. The District is currently developing a comprehensive vegetation map encompassing all our preserves. This map will identify potential habitat for special status plant and animal species, large stands of non-native weeds, areas prone to Sudden Oak Death Syndrome, and will guide our long-term conservation efforts.

This grant will strengthen an existing information sharing network, and will allow us all to benefit from an increased understanding of ecological and floristic connections amongst grasslands. It will also guide us in the conservation of these previously under sampled communities. This project, directly ties into the District's vegetation mapping project as well as other mapping efforts throughout Sonoma and Marin Counties.

Thank you for considering this grant proposal.

Sincerely,



Mischon Martin  
Natural Resources Program Manager  
Marin County Open Space District

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MAY 08 2008

COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.