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SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
PH (707) 576-2526
FAX (707) 576-2297

311 N. STATE STREET
UKIAH, CA 95482
PH (707) 463-5770
FAX (707) 463-5773

235 4TH STREET, SUITE C
EUREKA, CA 95501
PH (707) 445-7014
FAX (707) 445-6607

Assembly California Legislature



PATTY BERG
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIRST DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:

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

June 10, 2008

Douglas Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco: *Doug*

I am respectfully submitting this letter in support of the Sotoyome Resource Conservation District's (SRCD) request for funding to the California State Coastal Conservancy for the Austin Creek Integrated Watershed Restoration Program. The SRCD believes this program to be crucial in the recovery of endangered salmonid species in what is proving to be one of the last, best refuges of anadromous fish habitat in the Russian River watershed. While far from pristine, the Austin Creek watershed has fewer threats to Coho habitat than any tributary to the Russian River and is one of the largest contributors to the Russian's overall Coho population.

In 2006, the SRCD completed the Coastal Tributary Improvement Program, focused on establishing baseline monitoring data for several significant tributaries to Austin Creek, assessing the natural resources of the watershed based on historic and current land use records, and providing education and outreach to landowners and residents regarding water quality and watershed health. State Coastal Conservancy funding will support a second phase of work to determine specific sediment sources, focusing primarily on 55 miles of unpaved road segments and other sources of anthropogenic erosion. The SRCD will work with private landowners, and will coordinate efforts with the Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works Department on the assessment of county roads currently being conducted by Pacific Watershed Associates (PWA) within the watershed, making for a comprehensive first phase of a watershed-wide road assessment.

This project will also include the ongoing implementation of the Lower Austin Creek Migration Improvement Program, a unique partnership between gravel mining interests, government agencies, local residents, and non-governmental organizations. This innovative program aims to facilitate salmonid recovery in conjunction with the Coho Broodstock Program by re-establishing the habitat conditions necessary for the successful recolonization of coho salmon in the watershed. This will be achieved by actively developing improved hydrologic connectivity between Austin Creek and the Russian River, creating alcoves, pools, and instream structures. With 92% of the watershed in private ownership, landowners and residents must be directly involved in restoration and improved stewardship efforts. The SRCD has a substantial track record in bringing together landowners for resource improvements on their properties and conducting these types of assessment and improvement projects on a landscape scale.



Douglas Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
Page 2
June 10, 2008

I strongly urge your support in providing funding for the Austin Creek Integrated Watershed Restoration Program as an important project for endangered and threatened Salmonid species and water quality.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patty Berg".

PATTY BERG
Assemblywoman, 1st District

cc: Kara Heckert, Sotoyome RCD

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 4081
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4002
FAX (916) 323-6958

California State Senate

SENATOR
PATRICIA WIGGINS
SECOND SENATE DISTRICT

STANDING COMMITTEES:
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT
CHAIR
BANKING, FINANCE &
INSURANCE
ENERGY, UTILITIES &
COMMUNICATIONS

SELECT COMMITTEES:
CALIFORNIA'S WINE INDUSTRY,
CHAIR



RECEIVED JUN - 2-2008

May 27, 2008

Douglas Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am respectfully submitting this letter in support of the Sotoyome Resource Conservation District's (SRCD) request for funding to the California State Coastal Conservancy for the Austin Creek Integrated Watershed Restoration Program. The SRCD believes this program to be crucial in the recovery of endangered salmon and steelhead in what is proving to be one of the last, best refuges of anadromous fish habitat in the Russian River watershed. While far from pristine, the Austin Creek watershed has fewer threats to Coho salmon habitat than any tributary to the Russian River and is one of the largest contributors to the Russian's overall Coho population.

In 2006 the SRCD completed the Coastal Tributary Improvement Program, focused on establishing baseline monitoring data for several significant tributaries to Austin Creek, assessing the natural resources of the watershed based on historic and current land use records, and providing education and outreach to landowners and residents regarding water quality and watershed health. State Coastal Conservancy funding will support a second phase of work to determine specific sediment sources, focusing primarily on 55 miles of unpaved road segments and other sources of reducible erosion from people's activities. The SRCD will work with private landowners, and will coordinate efforts with the Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works Department on the assessment of county roads currently being conducted by Pacific Watershed Associates (PWA) within the watershed, making for a comprehensive first phase of a watershed-wide road assessment.

This project will also include the ongoing implementation of the Lower Austin Creek Migration Improvement Program, a unique partnership between gravel mining interests, government agencies, local residents, and non-governmental organizations. This innovative program aims to facilitate salmonid recovery in conjunction with the Coho Broodstock Program by re-establishing the habitat conditions necessary for the successful recolonization of coho salmon in the watershed. This will be achieved by actively developing improved hydrologic connectivity between Austin Creek and the Russian River, creating alcoves, pools, and instream structures.

VALLEJO DISTRICT OFFICE
444 GEORGIA STREET
VALLEJO, CA 94590
TEL (707) 648-5312
FAX (707) 648-5383

NAPA DISTRICT OFFICE
1040 MAIN STREET, SUITE 205
NAPA, CA 94559
TEL (707) 224-1990
FAX (707) 224-1992

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SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
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EUREKA DISTRICT OFFICE
710 E STREET, SUITE 150
EUREKA, CA 95501
TEL (707) 445-6508
FAX (707) 445-6511



With 92% of the watershed in private ownership, landowners and residents must be directly involved in restoration and improved stewardship efforts. The SRCD has a substantial track record in bringing together landowners for resource improvements on their properties and conducting these types of assessment and improvement projects on a landscape scale. I strongly urge your support in providing funding for the Austin Creek Integrated Watershed Restoration Program as an important project to protect endangered and threatened salmon and steelhead and to improve water quality. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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

PATRICIA WIGGINS
Senator, 2nd District

Cc: Kara Heckert, Sotoyome RCD



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



September 5, 2008

Douglas Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

Subject: Department of Fish and Game Support Letter for Austin Creek Integrated Watershed Restoration Program, Sonoma County

This letter is in regards to the Sotoyome Resource Conservation District's (SRCD) request for funding for the Austin Creek Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP). The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) wants to express our support for this proposal, and believes the program to be an important step to assist in the recovery of endangered Coho salmon, in one of the last refuges in the Russian River watershed, Austin Creek.

The SRCD has partnered with DFG in numerous restoration and recovery projects, and has established itself as a competent conservation partner specifically in Austin Creek by implementing a baseline monitoring study, and a thorough watershed assessment of natural resources based on historic and current land use records. SRCD has also provided effective education and outreach to landowners and residents regarding water quality and watershed health in Austin Creek.

State Coastal Conservancy funding will support a second phase of work to determine specific sediment sources on 55 miles of rural roads, a high priority recommendation in the DFG Russian River Basin Plan. Additionally, funding would complete the Lower Austin Creek Migration Improvement Project (LACMIP), a unique partnership between gravel mining interests, government agencies, local residents, and non-governmental organizations. DFG has been involved in the LACMIP since its inception and its successful implementation remains a high priority for DFG, and a target in the Recovery

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870



Daniel Bosco
September 5, 2008
Page 2

Strategy for California Coho Salmon. For these reasons, DFG urges your support in providing funding for the Austin Creek IWRP, an important project to improve water quality and habitat for State Endangered and Federally Threatened Salmonids.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Bob Coey, Senior Fisheries Biologist, at (707) 944-5582 or BCoey@dfg.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Charles Armor
Regional Manager
Bay Delta Region

cc: Kara Heckert
Sotoyome Resource Conservation District
Post Office Box 11526
Santa Rosa, CA 95406

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SEP 08 2008

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



RECEIVED JUN 16 2008

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 Southwest Region
 777 Sonoma Ave., Room 325
 Santa Rosa, CA 95404-4731

June 13, 2008

Douglas Bosco, Chair
 California State Coastal Conservancy
 San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program
 1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
 Oakland, California 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

Please consider this letter in support of the Sotoyome Resource Conservation District's (SRCD) request for funding for the Austin Creek Integrated Watershed Restoration Program. I believe this program to be an important step towards recovery of endangered coho salmon in what is proving to be one of the last refuges for this imperiled species in the Russian River watershed.

The SRCD has already established itself as a competent conservation partner in Austin Creek by implementing a baseline monitoring study in the watershed and by producing a thorough watershed assessment of natural resources based on historic and current land use records. They have also provided effective education and outreach to landowners and residents regarding water quality and watershed health.

State Coastal Conservancy funding will support a second phase of work to determine specific sediment sources and implement the Lower Austin Creek Migration Improvement Program. This program is a unique partnership between gravel mining interests, government agencies, local residents, and non-governmental organizations.

I am currently developing a recovery plan for coho salmon and have been personally involved in the Austin Creek project since its inception. I can, therefore, say with certainty that this proposal is strategically important to the recovery of this species. Its successful implementation remains a high priority for NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service. For these reasons, I urge your support in providing funding for the Austin Creek Integrated Watershed Restoration Program as an important project for endangered and threatened Salmonid species and water quality.

Sincerely,

David Hines
 Fishery Biologist
 NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service

cc: Kara Heckert, Sotoyome RCD



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

June 10, 2008

RECEIVED JUN 12 2008

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Doug:

I am respectfully submitting this letter in support of the Sotoyome Resource Conservation District's (SRCD) request for funding to the California State Coastal Conservancy for the Austin Creek Integrated Watershed Restoration Program. The SRCD believes this program to be crucial in the recovery of endangered Salmonid species in what is proving to be one of the last, best refuges of anadromous fish habitat in the Russian River watershed. While far from pristine, the Austin Creek watershed has fewer threats to Coho habitat than any tributary to the Russian River and is one of the largest contributors to the Russian's overall Coho population.

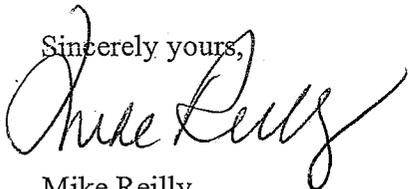
In 2006 the SRCD completed the Coastal Tributary Improvement Program, focused on establishing baseline monitoring data for several significant tributaries to Austin Creek, assessing the natural resources of the watershed based on historic and current land use records, and providing education and outreach to landowners and residents regarding water quality and watershed health. State Coastal Conservancy funding will support a second phase of work to determine specific sediment sources, focusing primarily on 55 miles of unpaved road segments and other sources of anthropogenic erosion. The SRCD will work with private landowners, and will coordinate efforts with the Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works Department on the assessment of county roads currently being conducted by Pacific Watershed Associates (PWA) within the watershed, making for a comprehensive first phase of a watershed-wide road assessment.

This project will also include the ongoing implementation of the Lower Austin Creek Migration Improvement Program, a unique partnership between gravel mining interests, government agencies, local residents, and non-governmental organizations. This innovative program aims to facilitate salmonid recovery in conjunction with the Coho Broodstock Program by reestablishing the habitat conditions necessary for the successful recolonization of coho salmon in the watershed. This will be achieved by actively developing improved hydrologic connectivity between Austin Creek and the Russian River, creating alcoves, pools, and instream structures.

Mr. Doug Bosco
June 10, 2008
Page Two

With 92% of the watershed in private ownership, landowners and residents must be directly involved in restoration and improved stewardship efforts. The SRCD has a substantial track record in bringing together landowners for resource improvements on their properties and conducting these types of assessment and improvement projects on a landscape scale. I strongly urge your support in providing funding for the Austin Creek Integrated Watershed Restoration Program as an important project for endangered and threatened Salmonid species and water quality.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike Reilly".

Mike Reilly
Fifth District Supervisor

MR:mjt:21295v1

c: Kara Heckert, Sotoyome RCD
Phillip Demery, Dept. of Transportation & Public Works



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for Environmental
Protection

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
Bob Anderson, Chairman

www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California 95403
Phone: (877) 721-9203 (toll free) • Office: (707) 576-2220 • FAX: (707) 523-0135



Arnold
Schwarzenegger
Governor

June 2, 2008

RECEIVED JUN - 4 2008

Douglas Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

This letter supports Sotoyome Resource Conservation District's (SRCD) request for funding to the California State Coastal Conservancy for the Austin Creek Integrated Watershed Restoration Program. We believe this program to be important in the recovery of endangered Salmonid species in what is proving to be one of the last, best refuges of anadromous fish habitat in the Russian River watershed. Coho salmon in the Russian River watershed are but a remnant of their previous abundance and geographic distribution. The Austin Creek watershed has fewer threats to Coho habitat than has any other tributary to the Russian River and it is one of the largest contributors to the Russian's current Coho population.

In 2004, the Regional Water Board funded the Coastal Tributary Improvement Program, which focused on establishing baseline monitoring data for several significant tributaries to Austin Creek, assessing the natural resources of the watershed based on historic and current land use records, and providing education and outreach to landowners and residents regarding water quality and watershed health. State Coastal Conservancy funding will support a second phase of work to determine specific sediment sources, focusing primarily on 55 miles of unpaved road segments and other sources of anthropogenic erosion. The SRCD will work with private landowners, and will coordinate efforts with the Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works Department on the assessment of county roads currently being conducted by Pacific Watershed Associates (PWA) within the watershed, making for a comprehensive first phase of a watershed-wide road assessment.

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California Environmental Protection Agency

June 2, 2008

successful recolonization of coho salmon in the watershed. This will be achieved by actively developing improved hydrologic connectivity between Austin Creek and the Russian River, creating alcoves, pools, and instream structures.

SRCD has a track record in bringing together landowners for resource improvements on their properties and conducting these types of assessment and improvement projects on a landscape scale. We urge your support in providing funding for the Austin Creek Integrated Watershed Restoration Program as an important project for endangered and threatened Salmonid species and water quality.

Sincerely,



Catherine Kuhlman
Executive Officer
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

060208_Sotoyomeaustin.doc

cc: Kara Heckert, Sotoyome RCD

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
1301 Redwood Way, Suite 170
Petaluma, CA 94954
(707) 794-1242, ext 3

June 26, 2008

Douglas Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am respectfully submitting this letter in support of the Sotoyome Resource Conservation District's (SRCD) request for funding to the California State Coastal Conservancy for the Austin Creek Integrated Watershed Restoration Program. The SRCD believes this program to be crucial in the recovery of endangered Salmonid species in what is proving to be one of the last, best refuges of anadromous fish habitat in the Russian River watershed. While far from pristine, the Austin Creek watershed has fewer threats to Coho habitat than any tributary to the Russian River and is one of the largest contributors to the Russian's overall Coho population.

In 2006 the SRCD completed the Coastal Tributary Improvement Program, focused on establishing baseline monitoring data for several significant tributaries to Austin Creek, assessing the natural resources of the watershed based on historic and current land use records, and providing education and outreach to landowners and residents regarding water quality and watershed health. State Coastal Conservancy funding will support a second phase of work to determine specific sediment sources, focusing primarily on 55 miles of unpaved road segments and other sources of anthropogenic erosion. The SRCD will work with private landowners, and will coordinate efforts with the Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works Department on the assessment of county roads currently being conducted by Pacific Watershed Associates (PWA) within the watershed, making for a comprehensive first phase of a watershed-wide road assessment.

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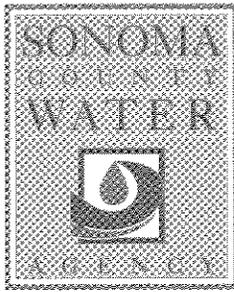
With 92% of the watershed in private ownership, landowners and residents must be directly involved in restoration and improved stewardship efforts. The SRCD has a substantial track record in bringing together landowners for resource improvements on their properties and conducting these types of assessment and improvement projects on a landscape scale. I strongly urge your support in providing funding for the Austin Creek Integrated Watershed Restoration Program as an important project for endangered and threatened Salmonid species and water quality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlette Epifanio". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Charlette Epifanio
District Conservationist

Cc: Kara Heckert, Sotoyome RCD



FILE:45-0-1 PACIFIC COASTAL SALMONID RECOVERY INITIATIVE

July 3, 2008

Douglas Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: FUNDING AUSTIN CREEK INTEGRATED WATERSHED RESTORATION PROGRAM

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am respectfully submitting this letter in support of the Sotoyome Resource Conservation District's (SRCD) request for funding to the California State Coastal Conservancy for the Austin Creek Integrated Watershed Restoration Program. The SRCD believes this program to be crucial in the recovery of endangered Salmonid species in what is proving to be one of the last, best refuges of anadromous fish habitat in the Russian River watershed. While far from pristine, the Austin Creek watershed has fewer threats to Coho habitat than any tributary to the Russian River and is one of the largest contributors to the Russian's overall Coho population.

In 2006 the SRCD completed the Coastal Tributary Improvement Program, focused on establishing baseline monitoring data for several significant tributaries to Austin Creek, assessing the natural resources of the watershed based on historic and current land use records, and providing education and outreach to landowners and residents regarding water quality and watershed health. State Coastal Conservancy funding will support a second phase of work to determine specific sediment sources, focusing primarily on 55 miles of unpaved road segments and other sources of anthropogenic erosion. The SRCD will work with private landowners, and will coordinate efforts with the Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works Department on the assessment of county roads currently being conducted by Pacific Watershed Associates (PWA) within the watershed, making for a comprehensive first phase of a watershed-wide road assessment.

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Douglas Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
July 3, 2008

With 92% of the watershed in private ownership, landowners and residents must be directly involved in restoration and improved stewardship efforts. The SRCD has a substantial track record in bringing together landowners for resource improvements on their properties and conducting these types of assessment and improvement projects on a landscape scale. I strongly urge your support in providing funding for the Austin Creek Integrated Watershed Restoration Program as an important project for endangered and threatened Salmonid species and water quality. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (707) 547-1941.

Sincerely,

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

Keenan Foster
Senior Environmental Specialist
Stream Maintenance Program
Sonoma County Water Agency

c Renee Webber and Jessica Martini-Lamb, SCWA.



July 15, 2008

Douglas Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

Please accept this letter in support of the Sotoyome Resource Conservation District's (SRCD) request for funding to the California State Coastal Conservancy for the Austin Creek Integrated Watershed Restoration Program. The SRCD's program is strongly grounded in science and engages the community in meaningful ways in the recovery of endangered Salmonid species. Austin Creek watershed is one of the last, high quality refuges for anadromous salmonids in the Russian River watershed. While far from pristine, the Austin Creek watershed has fewer threats to Coho habitat than any tributary to the Russian River and is one of the largest contributors to the Russian's overall Coho population. The Austin Creek watershed is also part of a larger coastal proposal that SRCD will be submitting for North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) planning implementation funding in the next funding cycle. As staff to the North Coast IRWMP, it is clear that the SCRDC is eligible to apply for the NCIRWMP funds (which focus on salmonid recovery), and I will be assisting SRCD to develop their coastal proposal.

In 2006 the SRCD completed the Coastal Tributary Improvement Program, focused on establishing baseline monitoring data for several significant tributaries to Austin Creek, assessing the natural resources of the watershed based on historic and current land use records, and providing education and outreach to landowners and residents regarding water quality and watershed health. State Coastal Conservancy funding will support a second phase of work to determine specific sediment sources, focusing primarily on 55 miles of unpaved road segments and other sources of anthropogenic erosion. The SRCD will work with private landowners, and will coordinate efforts with the Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works Department on the assessment of county roads currently being conducted by Pacific Watershed Associates (PWA) within the watershed, making for a comprehensive first phase of a watershed-wide road assessment.

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Exhibit 3: Project Letters

Sotoyome RCD has a long history of sound conservation planning combined with an equitable and even-handed strategy for community involvement. With 92% of the watershed in private ownership, landowners and residents must be directly involved in restoration and improved stewardship efforts. SRCO has had great success in multiple programs at bringing private landowners and people from diverse backgrounds into the planning and implementation process. As the former director of the Ecological Services Division for Circuit Rider Productions, and a former Associate Director of the Sotoyome RCD, I have had the pleasure of collaborating with this vibrant RCD for many years, and am convinced that they are one of the most effective conservation organizations in the region.

I strongly urge your support in providing funding for the Austin Creek Integrated Watershed Restoration Program as an important strategy to protect endangered and threatened salmonid species and water quality.

Sincerely,

Karen Gaffney
CEO/Ecologist
West Coast Watershed

Cc: Kara Heckert, Sotoyome RCD