

California State Senate

SENATOR
PATRICIA WIGGINS
SECOND SENATE DISTRICT

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

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CHAIR

August 20, 2008

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



Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing in support of the Napa County Resource Conservation District's (RCD) proposal to the Coastal Conservancy San Francisco Bay Area Program to develop fish passage barrier removal plans for priority sites in the Napa River basin. The Napa River basin has been identified as the most significant tributary to the San Francisco Estuary for maintaining and restoring salmonid habitat, and the proposed project will address one of the most critical factors limiting the success of steelhead survival in the watershed.

The proposed project, building on a preliminary barrier assessment conducted by the Napa County RCD, will develop barrier removal plans for the 21 highest priority sites impeding fish passage in the Napa River basin. These priority sites were identified as part of a seven-year, basin-wide inventory of streams known to support threatened steelhead and Chinook salmon. The proposed project will facilitate the removal of these priority barriers, which block approximately 68 miles of salmonid habitat.

The Napa County RCD has a long history of collaborating with public and private land managers to implement habitat improvement and restoration projects. Timely completion of the proposed barrier treatment plans will ensure that the Napa County RCD is poised to collaborate with partners to remove the barriers, extend fisheries habitat, and ultimately restore and protect salmonid species in the Napa River basin and San Francisco Estuary.

The project will be beneficial to Napa County and the 2nd District. I support the proposed project and encourage your favorable review.

Very Truly Yours,

PATRICIA WIGGINS
Senator, 2nd District

RECEIVED

AUG 21 2008

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

cc: Tom Gandesbery, California Coastal Conservancy
Leigh Sharp, Napa County RCD, 1303 Jefferson St., Ste. 500B, Napa, CA 94559

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

SANTA ROSA DISTRICT OFFICE
50 D STREET, SUITE 120A
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
TEL (707) 576-2771
FAX (707) 576-2773

UKIAH DISTRICT OFFICE
P.O. BOX 785
UKIAH, CA 95482
TEL (707) 468-8914
FAX (707) 468-8931

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



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NOREEN EVANS
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTH DISTRICT

October 2, 2008

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 342849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0007
(916) 319-2007
FAX (916) 319-2107

SANTA ROSA
50 "D" STREET, SUITE 301
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
(707) 546-4500
FAX (707) 548-9031

VALLEJO
1713 SONOMA BOULEVARD
VALLEJO, CA 94590
(707) 648-2307
FAX (707) 648-2311

NAPA
1040 MAIN STREET, SUITE 205
NAPA, CA 94559-2605
(707) 258-8007
FAX (707) 258-8205

EMAIL: assemblymember.evans@assembly.ca.gov
WebSite: democrata.assembly.ca.gov/members/907

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

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to urge your support for the \$76,641 funding request from Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) to develop fish passage barrier removal plans for priority sites in the Napa River basin.

The Napa River basin has been identified as the most significant tributary to the San Francisco Estuary for maintaining and restoring habitat for steelhead and Chinook salmon. The proposed project is based on a preliminary habitat assessment which found 69 artificial sites that obstruct fish passage on the Napa River. With the project removing the 21 most significant barriers, the project aims to open up 68 miles of habitat.

The Napa County RCD has a long history of collaborating with public and private land managers to implement habitat improvement and restoration projects. I hope that you look favorably on this proposal.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours very truly,

NOREEN EVANS
Assemblymember, 7th District

NE:am

cc: Tom Gandesbery, California Coastal Conservancy
Leigh Sharp, Napa County RCD

MIKE THOMPSON

1ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA



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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

August 29, 2008

DISTRICT OFFICES:
1040 MAIN STREET, SUITE 101
NAPA, CA 94559
(707) 226-9898
317 THIRD STREET, SUITE 1
EUREKA, CA 95501
(707) 269-9595
POST OFFICE BOX 2208
FORT BRAGG, CA 95437
(707) 962-0933
712 MAIN STREET, SUITE 101
WOODLAND, CA 95695
(530) 662-5272
CAPITOL OFFICE:
231 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3311
WEB: <http://mikethompson.house.gov>

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

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to support the Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) in their effort to obtain funding from the California Coastal Conservancy San Francisco Bay Area Program to develop fish passage barrier removal plans in the Napa River watershed. The proposed project will address one of the most critical factors limiting the success of threatened steelhead in the Napa River watershed, which has been identified as the most significant tributary to the San Francisco Estuary for maintaining and restoring salmonid habitat.

The Napa County RCD has a long history of collaborating with public and private land managers to plan and implement habitat improvement and restoration projects. The proposed project, building on a preliminary barrier assessment conducted by the Napa County RCD, will develop barrier removal plans for the 21 highest priority sites impeding fish passage in the Napa River basin. The project will facilitate the removal of these priority barriers and thereby provide access to approximately 68 miles of stream habitat that is currently unavailable to threatened salmonid species.

In collaboration with private property owners and State and Federal Resource agencies, the Napa County RCD recently removed a priority fish migration barrier on Dry Creek in Napa County. Timely completion of the proposed barrier treatment plans will ensure that the Napa County RCD is poised to continue with this type of work and will enable RCD staff to collaborate with partners to remove additional barriers, extend fisheries habitat, and ultimately restore and protect salmonid species in the Napa River basin and San Francisco Estuary.

I support the proposed project and encourage your favorable review.

Sincerely,

MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

MT:bb

cc: Tom Gandesbery, California Coastal Conservancy
Leigh Sharp, Napa County RCD, 1303 Jefferson St., Ste. 500B, Napa, CA 94559



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Francisco Bay Region

1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400, Oakland, California 94612
(510) 622-2300 • Fax (510) 622-2460
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay>



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

5 September 2008

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

Subject: Letter of Support for *Napa River Watershed Barrier Treatment Recommendations*

Honorable Chairman Bosco,

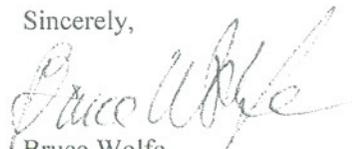
We wish to express our strong support for the *Napa River Watershed Barrier Treatment Recommendations* project. The proposed project would provide a sound basis for prioritizing fish passage restoration efforts within the watershed, developing treatment options, and estimating costs.

In the *Napa River Basin Limiting Factors Analysis*, funded by the Coastal Conservancy and Water Board, fish-passage barriers were identified as a significant factor in the decline of the steelhead population (Stillwater Sciences and Dietrich, 2002). Considering this conclusion, and the fact that Napa River watershed appears to support the largest remaining populations of steelhead and Chinook salmon within a watershed draining directly to San Francisco Bay (Leidy et al, 2005; Leidy, 2008; Napa RCD, 2008), the barrier assessment project also may have regional significance for salmonid conservation.

We also support the project because restoring fish passage to high quality habitats has a very high potential to increase the steelhead and Chinook salmon populations in a rapid and sustainable manner. Populations of other special-status species including hardhead and California freshwater shrimp also should benefit from fish passage restoration efforts.

Finally, considering the success of the Napa County Resource Conservation District in engaging landowners in conservation efforts, we believe there is a high probability that many of barriers assessed will be treated and resolved following completion of the assessment. For these reasons, the barrier assessment project has been identified as a high priority project within the implementation plan for Napa River sediment TMDL (Water Board, 2007). We appreciate the opportunity to express our support, and thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mike Napolitano of my staff at 510-622-2397 or by email at mnapolitano@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Bruce Wolfe,
Executive Officer

CC: Susan Gladstone and Thomas Mumley

References Cited

Leidy, R.A., G.S. Becker, and B.N. Harvey 2005. "Historical distribution and current status of steelhead/rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) in *Streams of the San Francisco Estuary, California*." Oakland, California: Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration.

Leidy, R.A., 2008. Personal communication from Robert Leidy, PhD, USEPA, San Francisco, to Mike Napolitano, Water Board, Oakland, CA, August 2008.

Napa County RCD, 2008. Napa River salmon monitoring program, spawning year 2007 report. Napa County Resource Conservation District: Napa, CA.

Stillwater Sciences and W.E. Dietrich 2002. *Napa River Basin Limiting Factors Analysis, Final Technical Report*. Prepared for San Francisco Bay Water Quality Control Board, Oakland, California, and California State Coastal Conservancy, Oakland, California: Water Board and Coastal Conservancy.