



Monterey Project
99 Pacific Avenue, Suite 200G
Monterey, CA 93940

tel [831] 333-2044
fax [831] 333-1736
nature.org
nature.org/california

December 29, 2009

Janet Diehl
Project Manager
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Elkhorn Slough Easement Acceptance and Documentation Program

Dear Ms. Diehl,

On behalf of The Nature Conservancy, I offer our strong support for the Elkhorn Slough Foundation's (ESF) proposal to the California Coastal Conservancy to fund the Elkhorn Slough Easement Acceptance and Documentation Program. As you are aware, conservation easements are a critically important conservation tool that provides important protection under an array of circumstances. Their effectiveness, however, is based on a number of core activities including accurate documentation of baseline conditions and regular compliance monitoring.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has a great deal of experience acquiring and managing conservation easements and understands that proper easement documentation and monitoring require a considerable investment of time and money. We support the proposed grant to ensure that ESF has adequate resources to develop a program for conservation easement management that effectively fulfills legal requirements, the expectations of landowners, and current best practices of the land trust community.

The Nature Conservancy has worked closely with the Elkhorn Slough Foundation since ESF was founded. For nearly 18 years, ESF has provided the day-to-day management of TNC's lands at Elkhorn Slough through an annual contract with TNC. The Nature Conservancy holds the Elkhorn Slough Foundation in highest regard for its effectiveness and we greatly admire the skill and dedication of its staff. We are certain that ESF, if awarded the funds for the easement program, will excel in their performance to meet the project's goals.

Sincerely,

Laura Smith
Monterey Project Manager
The Nature Conservancy

MONTEREY COUNTY



Monterey County Board of Supervisors

Louis R. Calcagno
Supervisor District 2

Henry M. Gowin
Aide to the Supervisor

Claudia J. Link
Aide to the Supervisor

P.O. Box 787
Castroville, CA 95012
831-755-5022
831-633-0201
District2@co.monterey.ca.us

January 20, 2010

Mr. Douglas Bosco
Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Elkhorn Slough Easement Acceptance and Documentation Program

Dear Mr. Bosco,

As the elected official on the Monterey County Board of Supervisors for North Monterey County, I am aware of the power and pitfalls of conservation easements as a long-term tool for land protection. I am writing to express my strong support for a proposal to the Conservancy from the Elkhorn Slough Foundation (ESF). ESF is proposing to develop an easement management and monitoring program in the Elkhorn Slough watershed. This program will incorporate a series of 9 easements accepted by ESF (and one scheduled to be accepted by the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve) from the Coastal Commission that were recorded as 'Offers to Dedicate' (OTDs). These OTDs were set to expire and ESF's acceptance secured the protection of dozens of acres of key drainages in the watershed.

I fully support this effort to document, monitor and manage these and other easements in the Slough. We believe that this is a critical step to insure the permanent protection of the natural resources identified in the original OTDs, which were required as a condition of permitting projects in the coastal zone.

I have great respect for The Elkhorn Slough Foundation, which is a well established conservation organization that currently manages the largest tract of conservation lands in the watershed. I have complete confidence in the ESF's abilities to manage this important project, and I urge its full funding.

Sincerely Yours,

Louis R. Calcagno
Supervisor, 2nd District
County of Monterey, Board of Supervisors

LRC:hg



ELKHORN SLOUGH NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE
1700 Elkhorn Road • Watsonville, CA 95076 • (831) 728-2822

January 19, 2010

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

RE: Elkhorn Slough Easement Acceptance and Documentation Program

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to strongly support a proposal to the California Coastal Conservancy from the Elkhorn Slough Foundation (ESF). The Foundation has requested funding to support the development of an easement management and monitoring program in the Elkhorn Slough watershed. This program will incorporate a series of 9 easements accepted by ESF, and one scheduled to be accepted by the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, from the Coastal Commission that were recorded as 'Offers to Dedicate' (OTDs). These 'offers' were set to expire and ESF's acceptance secured the protection of dozens of acres of key drainages in the watershed.

The Reserve fully supports this effort to systematize the documentation, monitoring and management of these and other easements in the Slough. We believe that this is a critical step to insure the permanent protection of the natural resources identified in the OTDs.

The Elkhorn Slough Foundation is a well established conservation organization and currently manages the largest tract of conservation lands in the watershed. The Reserve has complete confidence in the Foundation's abilities to manage this important project, and we urge its full funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Suarez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Becky Suarez

Manager, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve



*The Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve is managed by the California Department of Fish and Game
in cooperation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

