

Exhibit 4: Project Letters

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WESLEY CHESBRO
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIRST DISTRICT

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(707) 576-2526
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UKIAH, CA 95482
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FAX (707) 463-5773

August 3, 2011

Douglas Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway 13th Floor
Oakland CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco and Board of Directors:

I am writing to extend my support to the City of Arcata's application for funding to be used for the development of new interpretative displays throughout the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary.

Created over 30 years ago, the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary not only treats Arcata's wastewater using a natural, low energy-consuming method, it also provides citizens and visitors a place to learn about and appreciate nature and open space in an urban setting. The facility attracts hundreds of visitors every day, participating in activities such as; walking/jogging, bird watching, bay viewing, field trips, natural system photography, painting and picnicking.

The educational aspect of the Sanctuary is one of its greatest benefits to the community. Students from grade school through university level tour the treatment marshes and participate in a variety of outdoor learning activities and studies.

The updated interpretative displays will include education about how a small community such as Arcata can contribute in a large way to the restoration efforts of the California coastline. The City has completed projects which improve habitat values, protect and expand fish and wildlife corridors, and improve water quality through improvements to over 400 acres that are located adjacent to Humboldt Bay. Many of these projects have had the direct and invaluable support of the Coastal Conservancy.

I urge you to approve the City of Arcata's application for funding of this most worthwhile project and help the City continue to provide opportunities for the community and visitors to engage in learning about our coastal environments.

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



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Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wesley Chesbro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Wesley" and last name "Chesbro" clearly legible.

WESLEY CHESBRO
Assemblyman, 1st District

cc: Susan Corbaley, Project Manager, State Coastal Conservancy
Karen Diemer, Deputy Director of Environmental Services, City of Arcata

Exhibit 4: Project Letters



FOAM

Raising Awareness of Wetlands, Wildlife and Wastewater Treatment

P.O. Box 410, Arcata, CA 95518 • (707) 826-2359

August 4, 2011

State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway 13th Floor.
Oakland CA 94612

Dear State Coastal Conservancy Board of Directors:

The Friends of the Arcata Marsh (FOAM) was incorporated in 1989 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to provide educational support for the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary. FOAM's mission is to raise awareness about wetlands, wildlife, and wastewater treatment by educating the public about the ecological benefits of wastewater used in a wetlands system.

The Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary is home to the City of Arcata's innovative wastewater treatment facility. The sanctuary includes 307 acres of freshwater marshes, salt marsh with tidal slough, grassy uplands, tidal mudflats, and brackish marsh, plus 5.4 miles of walking and biking paths and an Interpretive Center that serve over 75,000 visitors every year.

This level of local, national, and international visitation makes it an ideal site for interpretation. FOAM has received significant input from the community about the need to update and add to both the interpretative signage and the basic directional signs around the Marsh. We have relayed that input to City staff and fully support this application for funding.

Our Board is excited to be a full partner in this project; one of our Board members, a graphic designer, is donating several thousand dollars worth of services to the project. We look forward to working with the City to develop environmental educational that is local, interesting, and informative. During Arcata's 2011 Godwit Days -- a birding festival that attracts many people for a week of field trips, lectures, workshops, and exhibits -- we trialed four new interpretative signs at the Arcata Marsh that were printed in color and laminated. We received very positive feedback and better understood the level of use and interest in new and improved interpretative signs.

We strongly encourage you to fund the City's application for coastal interpretative signage. If you have any questions, please contact me at 707-442-5444 or at info@arcatamarshfriends.org

Sincerely,

Sue Leskiw, President
Friends of the Arcata Marsh

Exhibit 4: Project Letters

REDWOOD REGION AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 1054, EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95502



August 8, 2011

State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway 13th Floor
Oakland CA 94612

Dear State Coastal Conservancy Board of Directors:

The Redwood Region Audubon Society (RRAS) wishes to express its support for the City of Arcata's application for new and updated interpretative signage at the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. For several decades, RRAS has been leading free Saturday morning bird walks at the Marsh. RRAS is a local chapter of the National Audubon Society that has over 800 members in northwestern California.

Bird walks at the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary are led by experienced volunteers and are geared each week to the people attending. This means the tours can be very general or focused on specific groups of birds (e.g., shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors, "vagrants").

The existing signage throughout the Marsh is worn, faded, and sometimes outdated. Nonetheless, our tour guides still see visitors approaching the displays and trying to learn something about the local area. Having a diverse and functional set of interpretative signs greatly enhances our walks and ability to point out some of the Sanctuary's many unique features.

RRAS wholeheartedly supports this proposal by the City of Arcata to install new and updated interpretive and directional signs at the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, to benefit local residents and out-of-area visitors alike. If you have any questions, please contact me at 707-445-8311.

Sincerely,

Jim Clark, President
Redwood Region Audubon Society

A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY