

COMMITTEES

NATURAL RESOURCES, CHAIR
SELECT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITIES, CHAIR
SELECT COMMITTEE ON WINE, CHAIR
JOINT COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES AND
AQUACULTURE, CHAIR

BUDGET
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #1
JOINT LEGISLATIVE BUDGET
ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND
TOXIC MATERIALS
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Assembly
California Legislature



WESLEY CHESBRO
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIRST DISTRICT

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0001
(916) 319-2001
FAX (916) 319-2101

DISTRICT OFFICES
710 E. STREET, SUITE 150
EUREKA, CA 95501
(707) 445-7014
FAX (707) 445-6607

50 "D" STREET, SUITE 450
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
(707) 576-2526
FAX (707) 576-2297

200 SOUTH SCHOOL STREET, SUITE D
UKIAH, CA 95482
(707) 463-5770
FAX (707) 463-5773

May 14, 2012

Hon. Doug Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
Attn: Michael Bowen
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project: Toste Acquisition

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing in support of the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project's application for funding to be used for the purchase of the Toste property. Purchasing the Toste property will enable the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District and its many partners to achieve the multiple goals of the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project.

The 23-acre Toste parcel offers the potential for riparian restoration, sediment management and agricultural preservation. Acquisition of this property would enable restoration activities on site to advance the Salt River Project, managed by the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (RCD) and now scheduled to commence in summer 2012. The subject parcel is on the banks of the Salt River, and highly suitable for use for riparian restoration and public access.

The property management will include a combination of three features: 1) development of an extensive floodplain and riparian zone that serves as a sediment deposition area for the Salt River; 2) continuation of livestock grazing or other agricultural practices on that portion of the property remaining outside of the riparian zone, and; 3) development of suitable access to the site for both the RCD and public visitors to the area. As designed, approximately one-third of the parcel would be dedicated to the riparian zone, and the remainder would remain in active pasture or other agricultural uses. That portion dedicated to riparian zone will host a variety of important habitat features including off-channel rearing ponds for juvenile salmonids, and native vegetation to host migratory songbirds and other species.

Exhibit 4: Project Letters

Because much of the Salt River Project construction occurs on private land, there are very few opportunities available for the Council or RCD to manage land solely for Salt River Project purposes, and even fewer opportunities for the public to observe the habitat improvements the Salt River Project will create. The proposed acquisition provides an excellent opportunity to ensure long-term access to the channel for habitat and hydraulic maintenance, while also guaranteeing perpetual public access for those interested in seeing the evolution of the landscape following implementation of the Salt River Project.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Respectfully,



WESLEY CHESBRO

Assemblyman, 1st District

cc: Humboldt County Resource Conservation District

RECEIVED
MAY 16 2012
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.