

# California State Senate

CAPITOL OFFICE  
STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TEL (916) 651-4015  
FAX (916) 445-8081

SENATOR.BLAKEESLEE@SENATE.CA.GOV

SENATOR  
**SAM BLAKESLEE, PH.D.**  
FIFTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICES  
605 SANTA ROSA STREET  
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401  
TEL (805) 549-3784  
FAX (805) 549-3779

519-A HARTNELL STREET  
MONTEREY, CA 93940  
TEL (831) 657-6315  
FAX (831) 657-6320



April 20, 2012

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

**Re: Support for Elkhorn Slough Tidal Marsh Enhancement Project on Minhoto Ranch**

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed funding of \$600,000 from the California Coastal Conservancy to the Elkhorn Slough Foundation to restore the tidal marshes on a 35 acre area connected to the Minhoto Ranch.

The Elkhorn Slough estuary, containing California's second largest tract of salt marsh, has decreased by fifty percent over the past 70 years. This loss of habitat is a result of diking and draining, increased tidal flooding that "drowns" the vegetation, and bank erosion that causes the marsh to collapse into the channel. Action is necessary to prevent future losses of this habitat.

The proposed project aims to demonstrate the beneficial reuse of sediment from the Pajaro River as a strategy to correct imbalanced physical processes. Santa Cruz County will be conducting a major project to increase capacity of the Pajaro River channel to reduce the chance of flooding. The convergence of interests between the County's need for channel management and the potential beneficial use of the sediments, those certified as meeting EPA standards, for restoring marshes in the slough is completely in line with the problem-solving approach we believe in. The project will occur on the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, which facilities host 40,000 visitors each year.

Conservation funds will be matched by \$822,000 from the Department of Water Resources and \$850,000 from the Army Corps. The Elkhorn Slough Foundation is working to secure an additional \$350,000 to fully fund their project.

I strongly encourage your board to support this project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sam Blakeslee", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

SAM BLAKESLEE

Senator, 15<sup>th</sup> District

**RECEIVED**

APR 27 2012

COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

**COMMITTEES**  
CHAIR: HEALTH  
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS,  
TOURISM & INTERNET MEDIA  
BUDGET  
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1 ON  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE  
JUDICIARY  
NATURAL RESOURCES

# Assembly California Legislature



**WILLIAM W. MONNING**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

**STATE CAPITOL**  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0027  
(916) 319-2027  
FAX (916) 319-2127

**DISTRICT OFFICES**  
701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 318-B  
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060  
(831) 425-1503  
FAX (831) 425-2570

99 PACIFIC STREET, SUITE 555-D  
MONTEREY, CA 93940  
(831) 649-2832  
(831) 649-2935

SANTA CLARA COUNTY DIRECT LINE  
(408) 782-0647

**WEBSITE:** [www.assembly.ca.gov/monning](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/monning)

April 23, 2012

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

Dear Chair Bosco:

This letter is to express my support for the Elkhorn Slough Foundation's application for \$595,835 from the California State Coastal Conservancy to fund the Elkhorn Slough Tidal Marsh Enhancement Project at Minhoto Ranch.

Elkhorn Slough has lost 50 percent of the historical tidal salt march area due to diking and draining, increased tidal flooding, and bank erosion. Funds from the Coastal Conservancy will allow the Elkhorn Slough Foundation to prepare the design, environmental analysis, and complete the permit documents for the restoration of tidal marsh and connected uplands in Elkhorn Slough. The proposed project will also serve as a pilot program for the Central Coast to demonstrate the beneficial reuse of sediment to correct imbalanced physical processes affecting the estuary.

The Elkhorn Slough estuary is an ecological treasure that provides habitat for hundreds of species of plants and animals and provides educational and recreational opportunities to both residents and visitors. Unless management actions are taken, Elkhorn Slough will continue to lose its tidal salt marsh, and the Elkhorn Slough Foundation is uniquely positioned to implement this innovative proposal. I respectfully request your favorable consideration of the Elkhorn Slough Foundation's application for funding from the California State Coastal Conservancy to support the Elkhorn Tidal Marsh Enhancement Project at Minhoto Ranch. Should you have any questions regarding my support, please contact me at (831) 649-2832.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM W. MONNING  
Assemblymember, 27<sup>th</sup> District

WWM:nw



STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0028  
(916) 319-2028  
FAX (916) 319-2128

DISTRICT OFFICE  
100 WEST ALISAL STREET, SUITE 134  
SALINAS, CA 93901  
(831) 759-8676  
FAX (831) 759-2961

E-MAIL  
Assemblymember.Alejo@assembly.ca.gov

# Assembly California Legislature



**LUIS A. ALEJO**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

**COMMITTEES**  
VICE CHAIR: LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
BUDGET  
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #5, PUBLIC  
SAFETY  
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT  
RULES  
**JOINT COMMITTEES**  
LEGISLATIVE AUDIT  
RULES  
**SELECT COMMITTEES**  
CALIFORNIA-MEXICO BI-NATIONAL AFFAIRS  
DELIQUENCY PREVENTION AND YOUTH  
DEVELOPMENT  
HIGH TECHNOLOGY  
HIGH SPEED RAIL FOR CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL APPROACHES TO ADDRESSING  
THE STATE'S WATER CRISIS  
STATE HOSPITAL SAFETY  
SUSTAINABLE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012

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

**RE: Support for the Elkhorn Slough Foundation's Tidal Marsh Enhancement Project**

Dear Mr. Bosco:

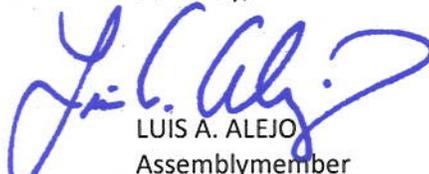
I write in support of the Elkhorn Slough Foundation's Tidal Marsh Enhancement Project proposal that has been submitted to the State Coastal Conservancy for project funding. The Coastal Conservancy funds are essential for this important project to come to fruition.

The Elkhorn Slough estuary, containing California's second largest tract of salt marsh, is facing unprecedented rates of tidal wetland loss and degradation. Fifty percent of the tidal salt marsh in Elkhorn Slough has been lost in the past 70 years. This habitat loss is a result of diking and draining, increased tidal flooding that "drowns" the vegetation, and bank erosion that causes the marsh to collapse into the channel. Scientists are predicting that the dramatic rates of tidal wetland loss and degradation in Elkhorn Slough will continue in the near future if no management actions are taken.

The proposed project aims to demonstrate the beneficial reuse of sediment as a strategy to correct imbalanced physical processes caused by wetland diking and draining. A particularly appealing aspect of the proposal is to use sediment removed from the bench lands of the Pajaro River. Santa Cruz County will be conducting a major project to increase capacity of the Pajaro River channel to reduce the chance of flooding. The convergence of interests between the County's need for channel management and the potential beneficial use of the sediments for restoring marshes in the slough is completely in line with the Foundation's problem-solving approach.

This is an innovative project and will serve as a pilot for the Central Coast. The project will occur on the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, which receives 40,000 visitors each year. The lessons learned through this project will increase public awareness about the need for collaboration to solve complex environmental issues, as well as the ecological benefits of wetland restoration. I ask for your support of this great project.

Sincerely,



LUIS A. ALEJO  
Assemblymember  
28<sup>th</sup> Assembly District





# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office  
2493 Portola Road, Suite B  
Ventura, California 93003

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
08EVEN00-2012-B-0134

April 27, 2012

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

Subject: Support for the Elkhorn Slough Foundation's Proposal to the California Coastal Conservancy for the Elkhorn Slough Tidal Marsh Enhancement Project on the Minhoto Ranch, Monterey County, California

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) support for the California Coastal Conservancy funding the subject Elkhorn Slough Foundation project. The requested funds would support preparation of design, environmental analysis, and permit application documents for the restoration of tidal marsh and connected uplands in Elkhorn Slough.

The Elkhorn Slough estuary, containing California's second-largest tract of salt marsh, is facing unprecedented rates of tidal wetland loss and degradation. Fifty percent of the tidal salt marsh in Elkhorn Slough has been lost in the past 70 years. This habitat loss is a result of diking and draining, increased tidal flooding that "drowns" the vegetation, and bank erosion that causes the marsh to collapse into the channel. Scientists are predicting that the dramatic rates of tidal wetland loss and degradation in Elkhorn Slough will continue in the near future if no management actions are taken.

The proposed project aims to demonstrate the beneficial reuse of sediment as a strategy to correct the imbalanced physical processes caused by the aforementioned wetland diking and draining. Santa Cruz County has proposed a major project to increase capacity of the Pajaro River channel, which would provide a potential source of sediment for the proposed enhancement project. Elkhorn Slough Foundation is partnering with Santa Cruz County to take advantage of the restoration opportunity that would occur due to this source of sediment.

The Elkhorn Slough Foundation's innovative project would serve as a pilot for other tidal restoration efforts in the slough and would help to demonstrate the beneficial reuse of sediment as a strategy to correct imbalanced physical processes affecting the estuary. Although the project is not dependent on any specific source of sediment, Elkhorn Slough Foundation staff is coordinating with Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties' flood management agencies to utilize the sediment proposed for removal from the Pajaro River. The subject project would occur on the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, which hosts 40,000 visitors each year. We believe the lessons learned through

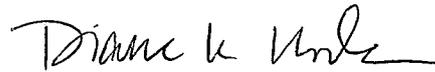
Douglas Bosco

2

this project will increase public awareness about the need for collaboration to solve complex environmental issues, as well as the ecological benefits of wetland restoration.

The Service's Coastal Program on the Central California Coast has developed a strategic plan to help guide and focus our habitat conservation efforts while also broadening and strengthening partnerships over the next 5 years. The Minhoto Ranch Restoration Project falls within the Coastal Program's Monterey Bay Focus Area and fits into the larger Elkhorn Slough Sediment Importation Project, a priority restoration effort identified within our strategic plan. To achieve our strategic goals, we aim to provide technical assistance and other support to our partners, including the Elkhorn Slough Foundation, to facilitate and support implementation of priority habitat restoration for, and long-term conservation of, the Service's trust species in the region. The subject project directly supports these objectives. If you have any questions or would like more information about our support of these efforts, please contact Shawn Milar of my staff at (831) 648-0623.

Sincerely,



Diane K. Noda  
Field Supervisor

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>



April 20, 2012

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

Re: Support for the Elkhorn Slough Foundation's proposal for the **Elkhorn Slough Tidal Marsh Enhancement Project on the Minhoto Ranch**

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to support funding from the California Coastal Conservancy to the Elkhorn Slough Foundation for the restoration of tidal marsh on the Minhoto Ranch at the Elkhorn Slough Reserve. The Department of Fish and Game is the manager of the Reserve. This funding will pay for the preparation of design, environmental analysis and permit application documents for this proposed restoration.

There is continuing loss and degradation of tidal wetlands in the Elkhorn Slough estuary because of land subsidence resulting from reclamation and subsequent drowning of marsh vegetation when these lands were open to tidal action. Tidal flows have eroded these denuded channel banks, resulting in an environment that is incapable of sustaining salt marsh habitat. Fifty percent of the tidal salt marsh in Elkhorn Slough has been lost in the past 70 years. If no management actions are taken, these processes will forever change the ecological values of the Slough.

The proposed project aims to use sediment removed from the bench lands of the Pajaro River and deposit it into the Minhoto Marsh, raising its elevation to a level that will sustain salt marsh vegetation. This sediment is being removed by Santa Cruz County to increase the flood conveyance capacity of the Pajaro River channel. Our need to raise the elevation of degraded salt marsh coincides with Santa Cruz County's need to improve flood protection.

This project will demonstrate the beneficial reuse of sediment as a strategy to restore subsided marsh land. We are working with Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties flood management agencies to utilize the river sediment. The Minhoto project is an excellent example of how a creative solution that corrects a long term pattern of environmental degradation can also provide important benefits to the local community.

We admire and support the work of our working partner, the Elkhorn Slough Foundation and recommend Coastal Conservancy funding for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Feliz".

Dave Feliz  
Reserve Manager

# MONTEREY COUNTY



**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**LOUIS R. CALCAGNO**, SUPERVISOR - SECOND DISTRICT

April 16, 2012

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

Re: Support for the Elkhorn Slough Foundation's proposal to the CA Coastal Conservancy for the Elkhorn Slough Tidal Marsh Enhancement Project on the Minhoto Ranch.

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I am writing to support funding from the California Coastal Conservancy to the Elkhorn Slough Foundation for the preparation of design, environmental analysis and permit application documents for restoration of tidal marsh and connected uplands in Elkhorn Slough.

The Elkhorn Slough estuary, containing California's second largest tract of salt marsh, is facing unprecedented rates of tidal wetland loss and degradation. Fifty percent of the tidal salt marsh in Elkhorn Slough has been lost in the past 70 years. This habitat loss is a result of diking and draining, increased tidal flooding that "drowns" the vegetation, and bank erosion that causes the marsh to collapse into the channel. Scientists are predicting that the dramatic rates of tidal wetland loss and degradation in Elkhorn Slough will continue in the near future if no management actions are taken.

The proposed project aims to demonstrate the beneficial reuse of sediment as a strategy to correct imbalanced physical processes caused by historic wetland diking and draining affecting much of the Elkhorn Slough estuary. A particularly appealing aspect of the proposal is to use sediment removed from the bench lands of the Pajaro River. Santa Cruz County will be conducting a major project to increase capacity of the Pajaro River channel to reduce the chance of flooding. The convergence of interests between the County's need for channel management and the potential beneficial use of the sediments - those certified as meeting EPA standards - for restoring marshes in the slough is completely in line with the problem-solving approach in which we believe.

This is an innovative project and will serve as a pilot for the Central Coast to demonstrate the beneficial reuse of sediment as a strategy to correct imbalanced physical processes affecting the estuary. Although the project is not dependent on any specific source of sediment, staff is coordinating with Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties flood management agencies to utilize the river sediment. The project will occur on the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, which facilities host 40,000 visitors each year. We believe the lessons learned through this project will increase public awareness about the need for collaboration to solve complex environmental issues, as well as the ecological benefits of wetland restoration.

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
California Coastal Conservancy  
April 16, 2012  
Page 2 of 2

This work has our enthusiastic support.

Sincerely yours,



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

LRC: hg



## Central Coast Wetlands

To coordinate the advancement of wetland science and management on the Central Coast

Moss Landing Marine Labs (831) 771-4463 [www.centralcoastwetlands.org](http://www.centralcoastwetlands.org)

April 25, 2012

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

Re: Support for the Elkhorn Slough Foundation's proposal to the CA Coastal Conservancy

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to support funding from the California Coastal Conservancy to the Elkhorn Slough Foundation for the preparation for continued efforts to restore tidal marsh and connected uplands in Elkhorn Slough.

The Elkhorn Slough estuary, containing California's second largest tract of salt marsh, is facing unprecedented rates of tidal wetland loss and degradation. Fifty percent of the tidal salt marsh in Elkhorn Slough has been lost in the past 70 years. This habitat loss is a result of diking and draining, increased tidal flooding that "drowns" the vegetation, and bank erosion that causes the marsh to collapse into the channel. Scientists are predicting that the dramatic rates of tidal wetland loss and degradation in Elkhorn Slough will continue in the near future if no management actions are taken.

Staff from the Central Coast Wetlands Group have participated in the planning efforts that have led to the drafting of the [Elkhorn Slough Tidal Wetland Project Strategic Plan](#) and are now working to assist the Foundation in the implementation of projects described within that document. CCWG is also working collaboratively with ESF within the adjacent Moro Cojo Slough and our efforts to implement the Moro Cojo Management and Enhancement Plan will benefit from ESF's continued success at restoring tidal salt marsh in the Elkhorn Slough.

We support Elkhorn Slough Foundations continued efforts to manage and restore the resources of the Slough.

Sincerely,

Ross Clark  
Director, Central Coast Wetlands Group  
Moss Landing Marine Labs