

## Exhibit 4: Project Letters

SAM FARR  
17TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0517

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June 21, 2012

Mr. Douglas Bosco  
Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, California 94612-2530

RE: Elkhorn Slough Foundation's Whistlestop Levee Repair and Public Access Improvement Project

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing in support of the proposal by the Elkhorn Slough Foundation, "Whistlestop Levee Repair and Public Access Improvement Project" that is being submitted to the California State Coastal Conservancy for project funding.

The proposed project would result in the reconstruction of an unsafe trail facility to protect and enhance public access to Elkhorn Slough; enhance 13 acres of intertidal coastal wetlands; facilitate wildlife movement in Elkhorn Slough by removing culverts that act as barriers to fish passage; and improve water quality inside Whistlestop Lagoon. There is a pressing need to address the failed culverts at Whistlestop, both in terms of public access and estuarine health, and Conservancy funds would leverage funds already committed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Restoration Center.

Elkhorn Slough harbors the largest tract of tidal salt marsh in California south of San Francisco Bay. This ecological treasure at the center of the Monterey Bay coastline provides habitat for hundreds of species of plants and animals and is a destination point for many residents and visitors to the area seeking educational and recreational opportunities. The project site, on the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, serves as a popular public trail and as estuarine habitat, but both functions are impaired by the failing levee and culvert system.

The Elkhorn Slough Foundation and the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve are at the forefront of a conservation science, management, and education. They are uniquely poised to quickly implement their proposal.

## Exhibit 4: Project Letters

This project represents a good opportunity to improve both coastal habitat and protect threatened public access at Elkhorn Slough. I urge support of this important community project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sam Farr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "F".

SAM FARR  
Member of Congress

SF/bv

# California State Senate

CAPITOL OFFICE  
STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834  
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SENATOR  
**SAM BLAKESLEE, PH.D.**  
FIFTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

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510 A HARTWELL STREET  
MONTEREY, CA 95060  
TEL (831) 887-6215  
FAX (831) 857-6337



April 20, 2012

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

**Re: Whistlestop Levee Repair and Public Access Improvement Project**

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I would like to express my support of the Elkhorn Slough Foundation's request of \$404,000 in funding from the California Coastal Conservancy to complete the Whistlestop Levee Repair and Public Access Improvement Project.

The proposed project would result in several improvements such as the reconstruction of an unsafe trail facility to protect and enhance public access to Elkhorn Slough. Additionally, it would enhance 13 acres of intertidal coastal wetlands, facilitate wildlife movement in Elkhorn Slough by removing culverts that act as barriers to fish passage, and would improve water quality inside Whistlestop Lagoon. These actions would enhance public access, provide habitat for hundreds of species of plants and animals, and improve overall estuarine health.

Elkhorn Slough harbors the largest tract of tidal salt marsh in California south of San Francisco Bay, and serves as a destination point for many residents and visitors to the area seeking educational and recreational opportunities. The project site, on the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, serves as a popular public trail and as estuarine habitat, but both functions are impaired by the failing levee and culvert system.

The Conservancy's commitments of funds would leverage funds already committed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Restoration Center.

I urge your investment of this important community project. Your consideration is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

SAM BLAKESLEE

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

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APR 27 2012

COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

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

Assembly  
California Legislature



LUIS A. ALEJO  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
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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 Whistlestop Levee Repair Public Access Improvement Project**

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I write in support of the Elkhorn Slough Foundation's Whistlestop Levee Repair and Public Access Improvement Project that has been submitted to the California State Coastal Conservancy for project funding.

The proposed project would result in the reconstruction of an unsafe trail facility to protect and enhance public access to Elkhorn Slough; enhance 13 acres of intertidal coastal wetlands; facilitate wildlife movement in Elkhorn Slough by removing culverts that act as barriers to fish passage; and improve water quality inside Whistlestop Lagoon. There is a pressing need to address the failed culverts at Whistlestop, both in terms of public access and estuarine health, and Conservancy funds would leverage funds already committed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Restoration Center.

Elkhorn Slough harbors the largest tract of tidal salt marsh in California south of San Francisco Bay. This ecological treasure at the center of the Monterey Bay coastline provides habitat for hundreds of species of plants and animals and is a destination point for many residents and visitors. The project site, on the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, serves as a popular public trail and as estuarine habitat. However, both of these functions are currently impaired by the failing levee and culvert system.

This project represents a good opportunity to improve both coastal habitat and protect threatened public access at Elkhorn Slough. The Elkhorn Slough Foundation and the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve are at the forefront of a conservation science, management, and education. They are uniquely poised to quickly implement their proposal. I urge the support of this important community project.

Sincerely,

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



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

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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 \$404,000 from the California State Coastal Conservancy to fund the Whistlestop Levee Repair and Public Access Improvement Project.

The Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve is a popular public trail and estuarine habitat but the failing levee and culvert system hinders access to the Reserve and is damaging habitat. Funds from the Coastal Conservancy would support the reconstruction of a trail that would protect the Reserve, as well as increase public access; restore the health of the ecosystem on the 13 acres of intertidal coastal wetlands; facilitate wildlife movement in Elkhorn Slough by removing culverts that act as barriers to fish; and improve water quality inside Whistlestop Lagoon.

The Elkhorn Slough Foundation is committed to the conservation and restoration of the Elkhorn Slough and has a history of successfully completing Slough enhancement projects. The Whistlestop Levee Repair and Public Access Improvement Project will improve coastal habitat and public access to Elkhorn Slough, and I respectfully request your favorable consideration of the Elkhorn Slough Foundation's application for funding from the California State Coastal Conservancy to support the Whistlestop Levee Repair and Public Access Improvement Project. 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

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 4: Project Letters



State of California -The Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

*EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor*  
*CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director*



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**

Dear Mr. Bosco:

This letter is being written to support the "**Whistlestop Levee Repair and Public Access Improvement Project**" that is being submitted to the California State Coastal Conservancy by the Elkhorn Slough Foundation for funding. The Department of Fish and Game is the manager of the Reserve. This facility hosts over 40,000 visitors a year from around the world.

The Foundation proposes to reconstruct an unsafe trail facility that crosses over the Whistlestop Lagoon. The proposed project will enhance public access to the natural resources of the Elkhorn Slough, eliminate a barrier to fish passage, improve water quality in the Whistlestop Lagoon, and enhance 13 acres of intertidal coastal wetlands. Conservancy funds would leverage funds already committed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Restoration Center.

Elkhorn Slough is an ecological treasure that provides habitat for hundreds of species of plants and animals and is a destination point for many residents and visitors to the area seeking educational and recreational opportunities. The project site is a popular public trail giving access to Hummingbird Island, a key destination site on the Reserve. Currently, this path is unsafe due to the failing levee.

The Elkhorn Slough Foundation is our working partner at the Reserve and is well qualified to administer this grant and meet the project goals while implementing their proposal.

We urge the support of this important public access project.

Sincerely,

Dave Feliz  
Reserve Manager

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.



# 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 Whistlestop Levee Repair and Public Access Improvement Project, 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 Elkhorn Slough Foundation's subject project. The requested funds would support: 1) reconstruction of an unsafe trail facility to protect and enhance public access to the Elkhorn Slough; 2) enhancement of 13 acres of intertidal coastal wetlands; 3) replacement of failed culverts with a new bridge to improve water quality and fish passage; and 4) relocation of an existing dock to deeper water to decrease impacts on mudflat habitat.

Elkhorn Slough harbors the largest tract of tidal salt marsh in California south of San Francisco Bay. Elkhorn Slough provides habitat for hundreds of species of plants and animals and is a destination point for many residents and visitors to the area seeking educational and recreational opportunities. The project site, on the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, serves as a popular public trail and as estuarine habitat, but both functions are impaired by the currently failing levee and culvert system.

The Elkhorn Slough Foundation and the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve are at the forefront of conservation science, management, and education. They are uniquely poised to quickly implement the subject project. This project represents a good opportunity to improve threatened coastal wetland habitats while protecting public access at Elkhorn Slough. We encourage your support of the Elkhorn Slough's Whistlestop project, in part because it maintains and improves opportunities for connecting people with nature, an important national priority for the Service, while also improving habitats for native wildlife and plants.

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 Elkhorn Slough's Whistlestop project falls within the Coastal Program's Monterey Bay Focus Area and the wetland habitat improvements associated

Douglas Bosco

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with the project are specifically identified as a priority within the 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

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OAKLAND, CALIF.