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COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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- 301 EAST CARRILLO STREET, SUITE A
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- 2675 NORTH VENTURA ROAD, SUITE 105
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(805) 985-6807

September 7, 2012

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

Re: Support for City of Santa Barbara's Mission Creek Fish Passage Project

Dear Chairman Bosco and Coastal Conservancy Boardmembers:

I am writing in strong support of the City of Santa Barbara's Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Division grant application to restore steelhead trout to Mission Creek. I have been informed that the City is seeking this grant in order to remove the fish migration barrier on Mission Creek.

The Southern California Steelhead Trout is a federally listed endangered anadromous fish species. This species of steelhead trout is jeopardized with extinction due to overfishing, water quality degradation and, most importantly, destruction of habitat. Damming creeks and filling estuaries for urban development has reduced the availability and quality of habitat throughout Southern California.

The grant requested by the City will help provide funds to reverse some of the impacts of urbanization such as modifying a concrete structure within the creek to allow steelhead trout to swim upstream and spawn in the upper watershed. The project will also include installation of native trees on the creek banks and educational signage.

The enhancement of endangered species habitat is a local, state, and federal concern and I am encouraged by the City's proposal to restore steelhead to Mission Creek. I urge you to give the City of Santa Barbara's request your full and fair consideration, consistent with all relevant rules and regulations. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rachel Kondor in my Santa Barbara District Office at (805) 730-1710. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

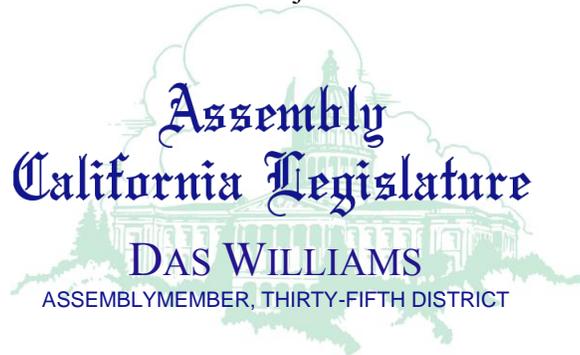
LOIS CAPPS
Member of Congress

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

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(805) 564-1649
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September 10, 2012

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

Re: Support for City of Santa Barbara's Mission Creek Fish Passage Project at the CalTrans Channels

Dear Chairman Bosco and Coastal Conservancy Boardmembers:

I am writing in enthusiastic support of the City of Santa Barbara's efforts to restore steelhead trout to Mission Creek. I understand that the City is seeking grant funding in order to modify a concrete flood control channel to allow fish migration to the upper watershed of Mission Creek.

The Southern California Steelhead Trout is a federally-listed endangered fish species. This species of steelhead trout is in jeopardy of extinction due to water quality degradation and, most importantly, destruction of habitat. Damming creeks and filling estuaries for urban development has reduced the availability and quality of habitat throughout Southern California.

The grant requested by the City will provide funds to eliminate a total barrier to steelhead migration, and reverse some of the adverse impacts of urbanization. The City plans to modify a concrete structure within the creek to allow steelhead trout to swim upstream and spawn in the upper watershed. The project will also include installation of native trees on the creek banks and educational signage.

The enhancement of endangered species habitat is a local, state, and federal concern and I am encouraged by the City's proposal to restore steelhead to Mission Creek. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

DAS WILLIAMS
Assemblymember, District 35



State of California -Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 467-4210
www.dfg.ca.gov

EDMUND G. BROWN, Jr., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



September 10, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Bosco:

For the last seven years, the Department of Fish and Game (Department) has worked cooperatively with the City of Santa Barbara (City) to remove various fish passage barriers on Mission Creek in Santa Barbara County. To date, the Department has funded fish passage projects on Mission Creek totaling \$3.9 million. The proposed Mission Creek Fish Passage Project in the lower concrete flood control channel is the last remaining barrier to steelhead migration in the lower watershed. Removal of this barrier will open up almost four miles of critical habitat and is vital for the long-term survival of the endangered Southern California Steelhead in Mission Creek. The innovative project design that was developed in collaboration with National Marine Fisheries Service, Environmental Defense Center and the Department will also serve as an important demonstration project to restoring healthy steelhead populations in other California urban streams.

The Department is in full support of this project as exemplified by the significant funding it has provided toward construction (\$1,735,500) through its Fisheries Restoration Grants Program. The Department encourages the State Coastal Conservancy to provide the additional funding of \$442,000 necessary to see this important project constructed. Please contact Ms. Mary Larson, Senior Environment Scientist Supervisor, of my staff if you have any questions regarding our recommendation. She can be reached by telephone at (562) 342-7186 or by e-mail at mlarson@dfg.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Edmund Pert
Regional Manager

cc: T. Stewart, San Diego
M. Larson, Los Alamitos

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870



September 10, 2012

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA

Re: Mission Creek Steelhead Passage Project, Santa Barbara, California

Dear Chairman Bosco:

On behalf of the Environmental Defense Center (EDC), I am writing to urge the California Coastal Conservancy to award a grant to the City of Santa Barbara's Mission Creek Steelhead Passage Project. EDC is a non-profit public interest law firm actively protecting and enhancing the California Central Coast Environment through education, advocacy and legal action. EDC has worked to recover the federally-endangered Southern California Steelhead for over 20 years. Since 2000, EDC has partnered with the City on steelhead restoration projects in Mission Creek.

As Conservancy staff has noted, providing migratory access for steelhead through the CalTrans Channel will open up over 3 and a half miles of spawning and rearing habitat in the Mission Creek Watershed, and is vital to recovering this important steelhead population. Steelhead often enter Mission Creek during winter rains but are thwarted in their migration by the mile-long CalTrans Channel. Flows are too shallow and velocities are too great for steelhead to navigate the channel to high-quality spawning and rearing habitats located upstream.

Phase 1 of the Mission Creek CalTrans Channel Modification Project was successfully completed this year. This innovative project design has been created through years of collaboration between the City, California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and EDC. Groups and agencies from across the west are interested in this novel project's success because, as a new design approach to steelhead migration, it offers a viable opportunity for other communities wishing to restore steelhead access through channelized reaches of streams.

Exhibit 3: Project Letters

September 10, 2012

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman, California Coastal Conservancy re: Mission Creek Steelhead Funding

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The project has been modeled extensively, including physical modeling, and Phase 1 has been field tested to demonstrate that it meets DFG's and NOAA's depth and velocity standards for steelhead passage projects.

NMFS' 2012 Southern Steelhead Recovery Plan identifies Mission Creek as a Core 1 (most important) stream for steelhead recovery in this region. The Recovery Plan also finds that providing migratory access to spawning habitats is a critical recovery action. This project is a high-priority, precedent-setting action that will restore Mission Creek's steelhead run while establishing a model for other successful projects.

Thank you for your attention to this support letter and for the Conservancy's excellent work safeguarding and restoring the California coast's important natural resources. Please contact me at (805)963-1622 ext. 108 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Brian Trautwein,
Analyst / Watershed Program Coordinator

Exhibit 3: Project Letters



We support restoring Santa Barbara's Mission Creek and efforts to recover the creek's steelhead trout population. These efforts involve removing barriers to steelhead migration in order to provide access to historic spawning grounds. Restoring Mission Creek and its steelhead population would improve the local environment and enhance our community.

A-Frame Surf	Los Padres ForestWatch
Anacapa Dive Center	Matilija Coalition
ARS Consulting	Mesa Lane Partners, LLC
Calif. Assemblymember Das Williams	Monarchs Unlimited
Audubon Society - Santa Barbara	Mountain Air Sports
Beach House Surf and Wear	Our Daily Bread
Beads	Open Air Bicycle
Bioregional Planning Associates	Real Cheap Sports
Blueline Paddle Surf	Rieman Surf School LLC
Beach House	Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens
California Fisheries and Water Unlimited	Santa Barbara Channel Keeper
California Trout	Santa Barbara Independent
Caribbean Coffee Company	Santa Barbara Museum of Art
Carpinteria Valley Association	Santa Barbara Natural History Museum
Center for Biological Diversity	Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council
Central Coast Salmon Enhancement	Segway of Santa Barbara
Chocolate Maya	Sierra Club – Santa Barbara Group
Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration	South Coast Habitat Restoration
Crimson Spa	Stoecker Ecological Consulting
DUO	Surfrider Foundation - Santa Barbara
Earth Island Institute	The Center for Urban Agriculture at Fairview Gardens
Ed Henke – Historical Research	The Ocean Channel, Inc
Enterprise Fish Company	The Travel Store of Santa Barbara
Environmental Defense Center	Ty Warner Sea Center
Fund for Santa Barbara	Ventura Chapter Surfrider Foundation
Gaviota Coast Conservancy	Wheels of Fun Bike Rentals
Grant House Sewing Machines	Whitney Abbott Landscape Painter
Keith Zandona Home Improvements	Wild Fish Conservancy
Harlequin's Theatrical Supply	Wilson Environmental Landscape Design, Inc.
Hill and Trager, LLP	YARDI
Horny Toad	Yoga Soup
La Purisima Audubon Society	