

Exhibit 4: Project Letters



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southwest Region

777 Sonoma Ave., Room 325

Santa Rosa, CA 95404-4731

August 23, 2012

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

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing to support Sonoma Land Trust's (SLT) grant request to the State Coastal Conservancy to complete final designs and permitting to remove two key fish barriers, enhance a County culvert for fish passage, and develop public access components on its Stuart Creek Run Preserve. NMFS very strongly supports this project and believes its completion will contribute to the recovery of threatened Central California Coast (CCC) steelhead.

The Sonoma Creek watershed supports a population of CCC steelhead and is designated critical habitat for CCC steelhead under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). A primary objective of NMFS is recovering ESA-listed steelhead, and NMFS has identified the restoration of the Sonoma Creek watershed as a high priority for recovering this species. NMFS is currently developing a recovery plan for CCC steelhead, which specifically identifies removing these fish passage barriers in Stuart Creek as high-priority recovery actions. This is because of the miles of largely intact and protected steelhead habitat blocked by these barriers. During a recent habitat survey, NMFS fisheries biologists identified exceptionally high-value rearing and spawning habitat in Stuart Creek. The completion of these fish passage designs and necessary permitting requirements are essential for these fish passage projects to be implemented. Therefore, this effort by the SLT directly supports our mission.

Both barriers are located on property owned by the SLT, presenting a unique opportunity to accomplish two critical barrier removal projects at once and restore steelhead to the Stuart Creek watershed. The SLT and the Sonoma Ecology Center have been coordinating closely with NMFS, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the County of Sonoma to develop barrier removal and restoration plans. The SLT has completed a feasibility study and preliminary designs to remove these barriers, enhance the culvert for fish passage, and provide public access at Stuart Creek Run. During this time, the SLT has demonstrated exceptional project management and a willingness to incorporate recommendations provided by NMFS. NMFS is confident that the SLT will be a diligent administrator of the requested grant and that once fish passage is restored to Stuart Creek, anticipated benefits to the resource will rapidly accrue.

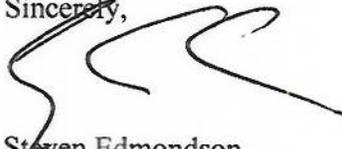


Exhibit 4: Project Letters

NMFS commends the SLT for this effort and requests the Coastal Conservancy assist with the recovery of CCC steelhead by providing grant funds to the SLT to complete these necessary steps in order to get this important project implemented.

If you have any questions or would like additional information about our support for this effort, please contact Joshua Fuller at (707) 575-6096 or by email at [Joshua.Fuller@noaa.gov](mailto:Joshua.Fuller@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Edmondson', with a stylized, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Steven Edmondson  
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator  
Habitat Conservation Division

cc: Elizabeth Newton, Sonoma Land Trust, Santa Rosa, CA  
Tony Nelson, Sonoma Land Trust, Santa Rosa, CA

COMMITTEES  
JUDICIARY  
CHAIR  
AGRICULTURE  
BANKING & FINANCIAL  
INSTITUTIONS  
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW  
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #4  
GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATION  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND WATER  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON  
FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE  
VICE CHAIR  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
CALIFORNIA'S WINE INDUSTRY  
CHAIR  
LEGISLATIVE WOMEN'S CAUCUS  
CHAIR

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
NOREEN EVANS  
SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



August 15, 2012

STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 651-4002

50 D STREET  
SUITE 120A  
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404  
(707) 576-2771

710 E STREET  
SUITE 150  
EUREKA, CA 95501  
(707) 445-6508

200 SOUTH SCHOOL STREET  
UKIAH, CA 95482  
(707) 468-8914

1040 MAIN STREET  
SUITE 205  
NAPA, CA 94559  
(707) 224-1990

401 AMADOR STREET  
VALLEJO, CA 94590  
(707) 648-5312

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

## Re: Support for Sonoma Land Trust's Grant Request—Stuart Creek Steelhead Restoration Project

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I writ in support of Sonoma Land Trust and their grant request to the State Coastal Conservancy to complete final designs and permitting for the removal of two key fish barriers, enhancement of a culvert for fish passage, and development of public access components on its Stuart Creek Run Preserve. This partnership project between Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center will restore the ability of steelhead trout to reach high-quality, largely protected spawning and rearing habitat and provides an accessible, educational site for the community.

The Sonoma Creek Watershed provides a unique ecological refuge for San Francisco Bay Area steelhead. In the San Francisco Estuary Watersheds Evaluation (2007), Sonoma Creek is identified as one of the eight anchor watersheds where restoration actions likely will have the most powerful effect on conserving and restoring steelhead. The National Marine Fisheries Service is currently developing a recovery plan for Sonoma Creek steelhead, and during a recent survey staff biologists found Stuart Creek to possess high quality spawning and rearing habitat.

Of twenty-two barriers documented by the Sonoma Ecology Center in the Sonoma Creek Watershed, two located in Stuart Creek are considered high priority because they are total barriers that prevent historic anadromous fish populations from accessing miles of upstream habitat. Both barriers are located on property owned by Sonoma Land Trust, presenting a unique opportunity to accomplish two critical barrier removal projects at one and restore steelhead runs to the Stuart Creek watershed.

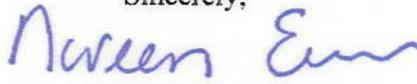
This project cannot wait—one of the barriers is highly eroded and could fail at any time, resulting in an initial burst of 275 cubic yards of debris and sediment into the stream, followed by up to 5,000 cubic yards of sediment and debris as the Stuart Creek returns to equilibrium over time.

Exhibit 4: Project Letters

Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center have been coordinating closely with California Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Sonoma County to develop the barrier removal and restoration plans and SLT has completed a feasibility study and preliminary designs and strategies to remove the barriers, enhance the culvert, and provide public access at Stuart Creek Run. It is crucial that final designs be completed this year to take advantage of potential implementation funding in early 2013, and to prevent mass erosion if the Stuart Creek run barrier should fail entirely before work can be completed.

I urge the Coastal Conservancy to support Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center's goal to complete final project designs and permitting for the Stuart Creek Steelhead restoration Project.

Sincerely,



NOREEN EVANS  
Senator, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

**RECEIVED**

AUG 16 2012

COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

# CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE



**Jared Huffman**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, 6<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**CHAIR**, Water Parks and  
Wildlife

## COMMITTEES

Budget  
Judiciary  
Natural Resources  
Subcommittee No.3 on Budget  
Utilities & Commerce

**STATE CAPITOL**  
Room 3120  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 319-2006  
FAX (916) 319-2106

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
3501 Civic Center Drive  
Suite 412  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
(415) 479-4920  
FAX (415) 479-2123

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a06>

August 8, 2012

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

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to support Sonoma Land Trust's grant request to the State Coastal Conservancy for \$132,000 to complete final designs and permitting for the removal of two key fish barriers, enhancement of a County culvert for fish passage, and development of public access components on its Stuart Creek Run Preserve. This partnership project between Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center will restore the ability of steelhead trout, federally listed as threatened within the Sonoma Creek watershed, to reach high-quality, largely protected spawning and rearing habitat and provide an accessible, educational site for the community.

Sonoma Creek Watershed provides a unique ecological refuge for San Francisco Bay Area steelhead. In the San Francisco Estuary Watersheds Evaluation (2007), Sonoma Creek is identified as one of the eight anchor watersheds where restoration actions likely will have the most powerful effect on conserving and restoring steelhead. The National Marine Fisheries Service is currently developing a recovery plan for Sonoma Creek steelhead, and during an associated recent survey, staff biologists found Stuart Creek to possess high quality spawning and rearing habitat.

Of 22 barriers documented by the Sonoma Ecology Center in the Sonoma Creek Watershed, two located in Stuart Creek are considered high priority because they are total barriers that prevent historic anadromous fish populations from accessing miles of upstream habitat. Both barriers are located on property owned by Sonoma Land Trust, presenting a unique opportunity to accomplish two critical barrier removal projects at once and restore steelhead runs to the Stuart Creek watershed.

This project cannot wait – one of the barriers is highly eroded and could fail at any time, resulting in an initial burst of 275 cubic yards of debris and sediment into the stream, followed by up to 5,000 cubic yards of sediment and debris as the Stuart Creek returns to equilibrium over time.

Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center have been coordinating closely with California Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Sonoma County to develop the barrier removal and restoration plans and Sonoma Land Trust has completed a feasibility study and preliminary designs and strategies to remove the barriers, enhance the culvert, and provide public access at Stuart Creek Run. It is crucial that final designs be completed this year to take advantage of potential implementation funding in early 2013 and to prevent mass erosion if the Stuart Creek run barrier should fail entirely before work can be completed. I hope you will join me in supporting this important work. Thank you for your serious consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jared Huffman".

**JARED HUFFMAN**  
Assemblymember, 6th District

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94240-0007  
(916) 319-2007  
FAX (916) 319 2107

# Assembly California Legislature



**MICHAEL ALLEN**  
ASSISTANT MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER  
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, SEVENTH DISTRICT

**COMMITTEES**  
BUDGET  
BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS AND  
CONSUMER PROTECTION  
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, RETIREMENT  
AND SOCIAL SECURITY

**SUBCOMMITTEES**  
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #4 ON  
STATE ADMINISTRATION

**SELECT COMMITTEES**  
CHAIR: STATE HOSPITAL SAFETY

August 22, 2012

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

Re: Support for Sonoma Land Trust's Grant Request – Stuart Creek Steelhead Restoration Project

Dear Chairman Bosco,

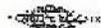
I am writing to support Sonoma Land Trust's grant request to the State Coastal Conservancy to complete final designs and permitting for the removal of two key fish barriers, enhancement of a County culvert for fish passage, and development of public access components on its Stuart Creek Run Preserve. This partnership project between Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center will restore the ability of steelhead trout, federally listed as threatened within the Sonoma Creek watershed, to reach high-quality, largely protected spawning and rearing habitat and provide an accessible, educational site for the community.

The Sonoma Creek Watershed provides a unique ecological refuge for San Francisco Bay Area steelhead. In the San Francisco Estuary Watersheds Evaluation (2007), Sonoma Creek was identified as one of the eight anchor watersheds where restoration actions likely will have the most powerful effect on conserving and restoring steelhead. The National Marine Fisheries Service is currently developing a recovery plan for Sonoma Creek steelhead, and during a recent survey staff biologists found Stuart Creek to possess high quality spawning and rearing habitat.

Of 22 barriers documented by the Sonoma Ecology Center in the Sonoma Creek Watershed, two located in Stuart Creek are considered high priority because they are total barriers that prevent historic anadromous fish populations from accessing miles of upstream habitat. Both barriers are located on property owned by Sonoma Land Trust, presenting a unique opportunity to accomplish two critical barrier removal projects at once and restore steelhead runs to the Stuart Creek watershed.

**DISTRICT OFFICES**

50 D STREET, SUITE 301 • SANTA ROSA, CA 95404 • (707) 546-4500 • FAX (707) 546-9031  
1040 MAIN STREET, SUITE 205 • NAPA, CA 94559 • (707) 258-8007 • FAX (707) 258-8205  
401 ANADOR STREET • VALLEJO, CA 94590 • (707) 649-2307 • FAX (707) 649-2311



Printed on Recycled Paper

This project can not wait: One of the barriers is highly eroded and could fail at any time, resulting in an initial burst of 275 cubic yards of debris and sediment into the stream, followed by up to 5,000 cubic yards of sediment and debris as the Stuart Creek returns to equilibrium over time.

Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center have been coordinating closely with California Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Sonoma County to develop the barrier removal and restoration plans and SLT has completed a feasibility study and preliminary designs and strategies to remove the barriers, enhance the culvert, and provide public access at Stuart Creek Run. It is crucial that final designs be completed this year to take advantage of potential implementation funding in early 2013, and to prevent mass erosion if the Stuart Creek run barrier should fail entirely before work can be completed.

I urge the Coastal Conservancy to support Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center's goal to complete final project designs and permitting for the Stuart Creek Steelhead Restoration Project.

Sincerely,



Assemblymember Michael Allen  
Assistant Majority Floor Leader  
Assemblymember, 7<sup>th</sup> District

MA: jac

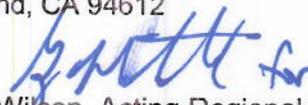
State of California  
Department of Fish and Game



## Memorandum

Date: September 20, 2012

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

From:   
Scott Wilson, Acting Regional Manager  
Department of Fish and Game – Bay Delta Region, 7329 Silverado Trail, Napa, California 94558

Subject: Letter of Support for Sonoma Land Trust's Grant Request – Stuart Creek Steelhead Restoration Project

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is writing this memorandum in support of Sonoma Land Trust's (SLT) grant request to the California State Coastal Conservancy to complete final designs and permitting for the removal of two key fish barriers and modification of a Sonoma County culvert to enhance fish passage. This partnership project between SLT and Sonoma Ecology Center will restore passage for steelhead trout to high-quality, largely protected spawning and rearing habitat and provide an educational site for the community. Sonoma Creek steelhead are listed as threatened in the Central California Coast Steelhead Distinct Population Segment (CCC Steelhead DPS) under the federal Endangered Species Act.

The Sonoma Creek watershed provides a unique ecological refuge for San Francisco Bay Area steelhead. In the San Francisco Estuary Watersheds Evaluation (2007), Sonoma Creek is identified as one of the eight anchor watersheds where restoration actions will likely have the most powerful effect on conserving and restoring steelhead. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is currently developing a recovery plan for CCC Steelhead DPS and during a recent survey, NMFS and DFG staff biologists found Stuart Creek to possess high quality spawning and rearing habitat.

Of 22 barriers documented by the Sonoma Ecology Center in the Sonoma Creek watershed, there are 2 located in Stuart Creek that are considered high priority because they are total steelhead barriers preventing access to a significant number of miles of upstream habitat. The upper watershed is owned by the Bouverie Preserve Audubon Canyon Ranch and will be preserved into perpetuity. Both barriers are located on property owned by SLT, presenting a unique opportunity to accomplish two critical barrier removal projects at once and restore steelhead runs to the Stuart Creek watershed.

This is an important project to move forward. One of the culvert barriers is highly eroded and its failure could result in the input of 275 cubic yards of debris and sediment into the stream, followed by up to 5,000 cubic yards of sediment and debris as the Stuart Creek returns to equilibrium over time.

Exhibit 4: Project Letters

SLT and Sonoma Ecology Center have been coordinating closely with DFG, NMFS, and Sonoma County to develop the barrier removal and restoration plans and SLT has completed a feasibility study and preliminary designs and strategies to remove the barriers, enhance the culvert and provide public access at Stuart Creek Run. It is crucial that final designs be completed this year to take advantage of potential implementation funding in early 2013, and to prevent extensive erosion if the Stuart Creek Run barrier should fail entirely before work can be completed.

DFG Regional Fisheries Management staff support this project and appreciate the California Coastal Conservancy's consideration of this important project.

If you require additional information, please contact Mr. Matt Erickson, Environmental Scientist, at (707) 576-2814 or by e-mail at [merickson@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:merickson@dfg.ca.gov); or Ms. Gail Seymour, Senior Environmental Scientist at (707) 576-2813 or by e-mail at [gseymour@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:gseymour@dfg.ca.gov).

cc: Sonoma Land Trust  
Tony Nelson, [tony@sonomalandtrust.org](mailto:tony@sonomalandtrust.org)

Department of Fish and Game

Matt Erickson, Bay Delta Region, Santa Rosa  
Gail Seymour, Bay Delta Region, Santa Rosa  
Ryan Watanabe, Bay Delta Region, Santa Rosa  
Eric Larson, Bay Delta Region, Napa  
Adam McKannay, Bay Delta Region, Napa  
Stephanie Buss, Bay Delta Region, Napa



**COUNTY OF SONOMA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

575 ADMINISTRATION DRIVE, RM. 100A  
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95403

(707) 565-2241  
FAX (707) 565-3778

**VALERIE BROWN**  
FIRST DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

[vbrown@sonoma-county.org](mailto:vbrown@sonoma-county.org)

August 6, 2012

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

Re: Support for Sonoma Land Trust's Grant Request – Stuart Creek Steelhead Restoration Project

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing to support Sonoma Land Trust's grant request to the State Coastal Conservancy to complete final designs and permitting for the removal of two key fish barriers, enhancement of a County culvert for fish passage, and development of public access components on its Stuart Creek Run Preserve. This partnership project between Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center will restore the ability of steelhead trout, federally listed as threatened within the Sonoma Creek watershed, to reach high-quality, largely protected spawning and rearing habitat and provide an accessible, educational site for the community.

The Sonoma Creek Watershed provides a unique ecological refuge for San Francisco Bay Area steelhead. In the San Francisco Estuary Watersheds Evaluation (2007), Sonoma Creek is identified as one of the eight anchor watersheds where restoration actions likely will have the most powerful effect on conserving and restoring steelhead. The National Marine Fisheries Service is currently developing a recovery plan for Sonoma Creek steelhead, and during a recent survey staff biologists found Stuart Creek to possess high quality spawning and rearing habitat.

Of 22 barriers documented by the Sonoma Ecology Center in the Sonoma Creek Watershed, two located in Stuart Creek are considered high priority because they are total barriers that prevent historic anadromous fish populations from accessing miles of upstream habitat. Both barriers are located on property owned by Sonoma Land Trust, presenting a unique

opportunity to accomplish two critical barrier removal projects at once and restore steelhead runs to the Stuart Creek watershed.

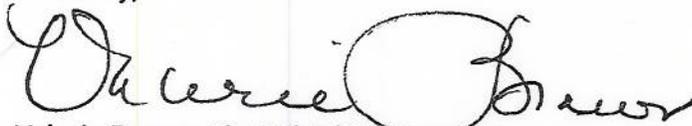
This project cannot wait – one of the barriers is highly eroded and could fail at any time, resulting in an initial burst of 275 cubic yards of debris and sediment into the stream, followed by up to 5,000 cubic yards of sediment and debris as the Stuart Creek returns to equilibrium over time.

Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center have been coordinating closely with California Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Sonoma County to develop the barrier removal and restoration plans and SLT has completed a feasibility study and preliminary designs and strategies to remove the barriers, enhance the culvert, and provide public access at Stuart Creek Run. It is crucial that final designs be completed this year to take advantage of potential implementation funding in early 2013, and to prevent mass erosion if the Stuart Creek run barrier should fail entirely before work can be completed.

I urge the Coastal Conservancy to support Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center's goal to complete final project designs and permitting for the Stuart Creek Steelhead Restoration Project.

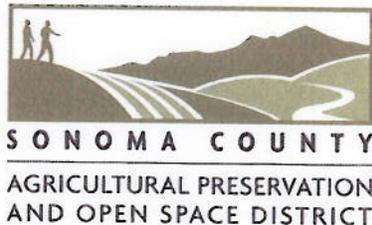
Thank you for your consideration and please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valerie Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, prominent loop for the letter 'V'.

Valerie Brown, First District Supervisor  
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

Exhibit 4: Project Letters



August 8, 2012

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

Re: Support for Sonoma Land Trust's Grant Request – Stuart Creek Steelhead Restoration Project

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing to support Sonoma Land Trust's grant request to the State Coastal Conservancy to complete final designs and permitting for the removal of two key fish barriers, enhancement of a County culvert for fish passage, and development of public access components on its Stuart Creek Run Preserve. This partnership project between Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center will restore the ability of steelhead trout, federally listed as threatened within the Sonoma Creek watershed, to reach high-quality, largely protected spawning and rearing habitat and provide an accessible, educational site for the community.

The Sonoma Creek Watershed provides a unique ecological refuge for San Francisco Bay Area steelhead. In the San Francisco Estuary Watersheds Evaluation (2007), Sonoma Creek is identified as one of the eight anchor watersheds where restoration actions likely will have the most powerful effect on conserving and restoring steelhead. The National Marine Fisheries Service is currently developing a recovery plan for Sonoma Creek steelhead, and during a recent survey staff biologists found Stuart Creek to possess high quality spawning and rearing habitat.

Of 22 barriers documented by the Sonoma Ecology Center in the Sonoma Creek Watershed, two located in Stuart Creek are considered high priority because they are total barriers that prevent historic anadromous fish populations from accessing miles of upstream habitat. Both barriers are located on property owned by Sonoma Land Trust, presenting a unique opportunity to accomplish two critical barrier removal projects at once and restore steelhead runs to the Stuart Creek watershed.

This project cannot wait – one of the barriers is highly eroded and could fail at any time, resulting in an initial burst of 275 cubic yards of debris and sediment into the stream, followed by up to 5,000 cubic yards of sediment and debris as the Stuart Creek returns to equilibrium over time.

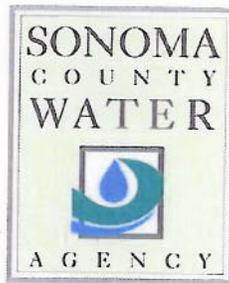
Exhibit 4: Project Letters

Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center have been coordinating closely with California Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Sonoma County to develop the barrier removal and restoration plans and SLT has completed a feasibility study and preliminary designs and strategies to remove the barriers, enhance the culvert, and provide public access at Stuart Creek Run. It is crucial that final designs be completed this year to take advantage of potential implementation funding in early 2013, and to prevent mass erosion if the Stuart Creek run barrier should fail entirely before work can be completed.

We urge the Coastal Conservancy to support Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center's goal to complete final project designs and permitting for the Stuart Creek Steelhead Restoration Project.

Sincerely,

  
William J. Keene  
General Manager



CF/45-0-1 GENERAL (ID 1220)

August 13, 2012

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

**Re: Support for Sonoma Land Trust's Grant Request – Stuart Creek Steelhead Restoration Project**

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to support Sonoma Land Trust's grant request to the State Coastal Conservancy to complete final designs and permitting for the removal of two key fish barriers, enhancement of a County culvert for fish passage, and development of public access components on its Stuart Creek Run Preserve. This partnership project between Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center will restore the ability of steelhead trout, federally listed as threatened within the Sonoma Creek watershed, to reach high-quality, largely protected spawning and rearing habitat and provide an accessible, educational site for the community.

The Sonoma Creek Watershed provides a unique ecological refuge for San Francisco Bay Area steelhead. In the San Francisco Estuary Watersheds Evaluation (2007), Sonoma Creek is identified as one of the eight anchor watersheds where restoration actions likely will have the most powerful effect on conserving and restoring steelhead. The National Marine Fisheries Service is currently developing a recovery plan for Sonoma Creek steelhead, and during a recent survey staff biologists found Stuart Creek to possess high quality spawning and rearing habitat.

Of 22 barriers documented by the Sonoma Ecology Center in the Sonoma Creek Watershed, two located in Stuart Creek are considered high priority because they are total barriers that prevent historic anadromous fish populations from accessing miles of upstream habitat. Both barriers are located on property owned by Sonoma Land Trust, presenting a unique opportunity to accomplish two critical barrier removal projects at once and restore steelhead runs to the Stuart Creek watershed.

This project can not wait – one of the barriers is highly eroded and could fail at any time, resulting in an initial burst of 275 cubic yards of debris and sediment into the stream, followed by up to 5,000 cubic yards of sediment and debris as the Stuart Creek returns to equilibrium over time.

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
August 13, 2012  
Page 2

Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center have been coordinating closely with California Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Sonoma County to develop the barrier removal and restoration plans and Sonoma Land Trust has completed a feasibility study and preliminary designs and strategies to remove the barriers, enhance the culvert, and provide public access at Stuart Creek Run. It is crucial that final designs be completed this year to take advantage of potential implementation funding in early 2013, and to prevent mass erosion if the Stuart Creek run barrier should fail entirely before work can be completed.

I urge the Coastal Conservancy to support Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center's goal to complete final project designs and permitting for the Stuart Creek Steelhead Restoration Project.

Sincerely,



Grant Davis  
General Manager

COUNTY OF SONOMA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
AND PUBLIC WORKS  
2300 COUNTY CENTER DRIVE, SUITE B 100  
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95403



AREA CODE (707)  
ROADS ..... 565-2231  
TRANSIT ..... 585-7516  
REFUSE ..... 565-7940  
AIRPORT ..... 565-7243  
AIR POLLUTION ..... 433-5911  
FAX ..... 565-2620  
[www.sonoma-county.org/tpw](http://www.sonoma-county.org/tpw)

Phillip M. Demery, Director

August 14, 2012

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

Re: Support for Sonoma Land Trust's Grant Request -- Stuart Creek Steelhead Restoration Project

Dear Chairman Bosco,

This is to advise you of Sonoma County's support of the Sonoma Land Trust's grant request to the State Coastal Conservancy to complete final designs and permitting for the removal of two key fish barriers, enhancement of a County culvert for fish passage, and development of public access components on its Stuart Creek Run Preserve. This partnership project between Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center will restore the ability of steelhead trout, federally listed as threatened within the Sonoma Creek watershed, to reach high quality, largely protected spawning and rearing habitat, and provide an accessible, educational site for the community.

The Sonoma Creek Watershed provides a unique ecological refuge for San Francisco Bay Area steelhead. In the San Francisco Estuary Watersheds Evaluation (2007), Sonoma Creek is identified as one of the eight anchor watersheds where restoration actions likely will have the most powerful effect on conserving and restoring steelhead. The National Marine Fisheries Service is currently developing a recovery plan for Sonoma Creek steelhead, and during a recent survey staff biologists found Stuart Creek to possess high quality spawning and rearing habitat.

Of 22 barriers documented by the Sonoma Ecology Center in the Sonoma Creek Watershed, two located in Stuart Creek are considered high priority because they are total barriers that prevent historic anadromous fish populations from accessing miles of upstream habitat. Both barriers are located on property owned by Sonoma Land Trust, presenting a unique opportunity to accomplish two critical barrier removal projects at once and restore steelhead runs to the Stuart Creek watershed.

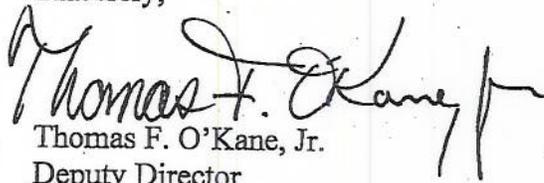
This is an essential project; one of the barriers is highly eroded and could fail at any time, resulting in an initial burst of almost 300 cubic yards of debris and sediment into the stream; followed by as much as 5,000 cubic yards of sediment and debris as the Stuart Creek returns to equilibrium over time.

Exhibit 4: Project Letters

Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center have been coordinating closely with California Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Sonoma County to develop the barrier removal and restoration plans. SLT has completed a feasibility study and preliminary designs and strategies to remove the barriers, enhance the culvert, and provide public access at Stuart Creek Run. It is crucial that final designs be completed this year to take advantage of potential implementation funding in early 2013, and to prevent mass erosion if the Stuart Creek run barrier should fail entirely before work can be completed.

I urge the Coastal Conservancy to support Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center's goal to complete final project designs and permitting for the Stuart Creek Steelhead Restoration Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas F. O'Kane, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas F. O'Kane, Jr.  
Deputy Director

Cc: Dave Dammuller

Exhibit 4: Project Letters



1301 REDWOOD WAY, SUITE 170, PETALUMA, CA 94954 \* 707.794.1242, EXT. 5  
WWW.SSCRCD.ORG

August 9, 2012

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

Re: *Support for Sonoma Land Trust's Grant Request – Stuart Creek Steelhead Restoration Project*

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing to support Sonoma Land Trust's grant request to the State Coastal Conservancy to complete final designs and permitting for the removal of two key fish barriers, enhancement of a County culvert for fish passage, and development of public access components on its Stuart Creek Run Preserve. This partnership project between Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center will restore the ability of steelhead trout, federally listed as threatened within the Sonoma Creek watershed, to reach high-quality, largely protected spawning and rearing habitat and provide an accessible, educational site for the community.

The Sonoma Creek Watershed provides a unique ecological refuge for San Francisco Bay Area steelhead. In the San Francisco Estuary Watersheds Evaluation (2007), Sonoma Creek is identified as one of the eight anchor watersheds where restoration actions likely will have the most powerful effect on conserving and restoring steelhead. The National Marine Fisheries Service is currently developing a recovery plan for Sonoma Creek steelhead, and during a recent survey staff biologists found Stuart Creek to possess high quality spawning and rearing habitat.

Of 22 barriers documented by the Sonoma Ecology Center in the Sonoma Creek Watershed, two located in Stuart Creek are considered high priority because they are total barriers that prevent historic anadromous fish populations from accessing miles of upstream habitat. Both barriers are located on property owned by Sonoma Land Trust, presenting a unique opportunity to accomplish two critical barrier removal projects at once and restore steelhead runs to the Stuart Creek watershed.

This project cannot wait – one of the barriers is highly eroded and could fail at any time, resulting in an initial burst of 275 cubic yards of debris and sediment into the stream, followed

David Bosco, Chairman

August 9, 2012

Page 2

by up to 5,000 cubic yards of sediment and debris as the Stuart Creek returns to equilibrium over time.

Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center have been coordinating closely with California Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Sonoma County to develop the barrier removal and restoration plans and SLT has completed a feasibility study and preliminary designs and strategies to remove the barriers, enhance the culvert, and provide public access at Stuart Creek Run. It is crucial that final designs be completed this year to take advantage of potential implementation funding in early 2013, and to prevent mass erosion if the Stuart Creek run barrier should fail entirely before work can be completed.

I urge the Coastal Conservancy to support Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center's goal to complete final project designs and permitting for the Stuart Creek Steelhead Restoration Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kara Heckert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kara Heckert  
Executive Director

Exhibit 4: Project Letters



735 B Center Blvd  
Fairfax, CA 94930  
415-259-0334 phone  
415-259-0340 fax

MANAGEMENT BOARD:

Bay Area Audubon Council  
Bay Area Open Space Council  
Bay Planning Coalition  
Citizens Committee to  
Complete the Refuge  
Ducks Unlimited  
National Audubon Society  
PRBO Conservation Science  
PG&E Corporation  
Save San Francisco Bay  
Association  
Sierra Club  
The Bay Institute

Ex-Officio Members:

Bay Conservation &  
Development Commission  
California Department  
of Fish and Game  
California Resources Agency  
Coastal Conservancy  
Coastal Region, Mosquito &  
Vector Control District  
National Fish and Wildlife  
Foundation  
National Marine Fisheries  
Service  
Natural Resources  
Conservation Service  
Regional Water Quality Control  
Board, SF Bay Region  
San Francisco Estuary Project  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U.S. Environmental  
Protection Agency  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Wildlife Conservation Board

September 6, 2012

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

**SUBJECT: Support for Sonoma Land Trust's Grant Request – Stuart Creek Steelhead Restoration Project**

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing on behalf of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture (SFBJV) in support of Sonoma Land Trust's (SLT) grant request to the State Coastal Conservancy to complete final designs and permitting for the removal of two key fish barriers, enhancement of a County culvert for fish passage, and development of public access components on its Stuart Creek Run Preserve.

The SFBJV is a partnership of non-governmental organizations, utilities, landowners, and non-voting agencies with a goal to acquire, restore and enhance wetlands and riparian habitats and associated uplands to benefit birds, fish, and other wildlife in the San Francisco Bay Area. The SFBJV is one of the eighteen federally-sponsored habitat Joint Ventures to implement the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and federal bird conservation plans. The SFBJV Implementation Plan, *Restoring the Estuary* is based on the goals established in the *Baylands Habitat Goals* and, targets nearly 200,000 acres of wetlands and riparian habitats for protection, restoration, or enhancement through our partners' expertise and funding.

Stuart Creek is a tributary of Sonoma Creek. The Sonoma Creek Watershed provides a unique ecological refuge for San Francisco Bay Area steelhead trout, a federally-listed threatened species. In the San Francisco Estuary Watersheds Evaluation (2007), Sonoma Creek is identified as one of the eight anchor watersheds where restoration actions likely will have the most powerful effect on conserving and restoring steelhead. During a recent survey, biologists found Stuart Creek to possess high quality spawning and rearing habitat. The National Marine Fisheries Service is currently developing a recovery plan for Sonoma Creek steelhead.

The SLT and Sonoma Ecology Center have been coordinating closely with California Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Sonoma County to develop the barrier removal and restoration plans. The SLT has completed a feasibility study and preliminary designs and strategies to remove the

#### Exhibit 4: Project Letters

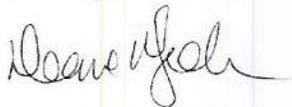
barriers, enhance the culvert, and provide public access at Stuart Creek Run. The SFBJV Project Review Program, funded by the Coastal Conservancy, was instrumental in assessing design options and guiding plan development.

Of 22 barriers documented by the Sonoma Ecology Center in the Sonoma Creek Watershed, two located in Stuart Creek are considered high priority because they are total barriers that prevent historic anadromous fish populations from accessing miles of upstream habitat. Both barriers are located on property owned by SLT, presenting a unique opportunity to accomplish two critical barrier removal projects at once and restore steelhead runs to the Stuart Creek watershed.

This project cannot wait. One of the barriers is highly eroded and could fail at any time, resulting in an initial burst of 275 cubic yards of debris and sediment into the stream, followed by up to 5,000 cubic yards of sediment and debris as the Stuart Creek returns to equilibrium over time. It is crucial that final designs be completed this year to take advantage of potential implementation funding in early 2013, and to prevent mass erosion if the Stuart Creek run barrier should fail entirely before work can be completed.

We urge the Coastal Conservancy to support the SLT and Sonoma Ecology Center's goal to complete final project designs and permitting for the Stuart Creek Steelhead Restoration Project. If you have any question about the SFBJV design review recommendations or our support for this project, please contact our Coordinator, Beth Huning.

Sincerely,



Diane Ross-Leech  
Chair



AUDUBON CANYON RANCH  
BOUVERIE PRESERVE

August 28, 2012

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

Re: Support for Sonoma Land Trust's Grant Request – Stuart Creek Steelhead Restoration Project

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing to support Sonoma Land Trust's grant request to the State Coastal Conservancy to complete final designs and permitting for the removal of two key fish barriers, enhancement of a County culvert for fish passage, and development of public access components on its Stuart Creek Run Preserve. The Bouverie Preserve of Audubon Canyon Ranch is located immediately to the south of SLT's Glen Oaks Ranch. As a result, we share in the stewardship obligation for Stuart Creek, which flows through the Bouverie Preserve for approximately 1.5 miles before entering Glen Oaks.

The Stuart Creek Steelhead Restoration Project will restore the ability of steelhead trout, federally listed as threatened within the Sonoma Creek watershed, to reach high-quality, largely protected spawning and rearing habitat and provide an accessible, educational site for the community. Indeed, the Bouverie Preserve hosts over 3000 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students from Sonoma and Napa Counties every year through our School Program and another 500 visitors to our public programs. Stuart Creek is without exaggeration the highlight of our school field trips with docents leading small groups of children to explore creek habitat at specially designated access points. In addition, ACR's Resource Management staff has a number of active volunteer projects on Stuart Creek, including removal of invasive species, reduction of erosion from trails, and monitoring non-native signal crayfish. We look forward to working with the Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center to highlight the importance of anadromous fish habitat and creek restoration for our visitors and volunteers.

The Sonoma Creek Watershed provides a unique ecological refuge for San Francisco Bay Area steelhead. In the San Francisco Estuary Watersheds Evaluation (2007), Sonoma Creek is identified as one of the eight anchor watersheds where restoration actions likely will have the most powerful effect on conserving and restoring steelhead. The National Marine Fisheries Service is currently developing a recovery plan for Sonoma Creek steelhead, and during a recent survey staff biologists found Stuart Creek to possess high quality spawning and rearing habitat.

Of 22 barriers documented by the Sonoma Ecology Center in the Sonoma Creek Watershed, two located in Stuart Creek are considered high priority because they are total barriers that prevent historic anadromous fish populations from accessing miles of upstream habitat. Both



Exhibit 4: Project Letters

barriers are located on property owned by Sonoma Land Trust, presenting a unique opportunity to accomplish two critical barrier removal projects at once and restore steelhead runs to the Stuart Creek watershed.

This project can not wait – one of the barriers is highly eroded and could fail at any time, resulting in an initial burst of 275 cubic yards of debris and sediment into the stream, followed by up to 5,000 cubic yards of sediment and debris as the Stuart Creek returns to equilibrium over time.

Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center have been coordinating closely with California Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Sonoma County to develop the barrier removal and restoration plans and SLT has completed a feasibility study and preliminary designs and strategies to remove the barriers, enhance the culvert, and provide public access at Stuart Creek Run. It is crucial that final designs be completed this year to take advantage of potential implementation funding in early 2013, and to prevent mass erosion if the Stuart Creek run barrier should fail entirely before work can be completed.

I urge the Coastal Conservancy to support Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center's goal to complete final project designs and permitting for the Stuart Creek Steelhead Restoration Project.

Sincerely,



John Petersen  
Chief Operating Officer  
Audubon Canyon Ranch



August 8, 2012

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

Re: Support for Sonoma Land Trust's Grant Request – Stuart Creek Steelhead Restoration Project

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing to support Sonoma Land Trust's grant request to the State Coastal Conservancy to complete final designs and permitting for the removal of two key fish barriers, enhancement of a County culvert for fish passage, and development of public access components on its Stuart Creek Run Preserve. This partnership project between Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center will restore the ability of steelhead trout, federally listed as threatened within the Sonoma Creek watershed, to reach high-quality, largely protected spawning and rearing habitat and provide an accessible, educational site for the community.

The Sonoma Creek Watershed provides a unique ecological refuge for San Francisco Bay Area steelhead. In the San Francisco Estuary Watersheds Evaluation (2007), Sonoma Creek is identified as one of the eight anchor watersheds where restoration actions likely will have the most powerful effect on conserving and restoring steelhead. The National Marine Fisheries Service is currently developing a recovery plan for Sonoma Creek steelhead, and during a recent survey staff biologists found Stuart Creek to possess high quality spawning and rearing habitat.

Of 22 barriers documented by the Sonoma Ecology Center in the Sonoma Creek Watershed, two located in Stuart Creek are considered high priority because they are total barriers that prevent historic anadromous fish populations from accessing miles of upstream habitat. Both barriers are located on property owned by Sonoma Land Trust, presenting a unique opportunity to accomplish two critical barrier removal projects at once and restore steelhead runs to the Stuart Creek watershed.

This project cannot wait – one of the barriers is highly eroded and could fail at any time, resulting in an initial burst of 275 cubic yards of debris and sediment into the stream, followed by up to 5,000 cubic yards of sediment and debris as the Stuart Creek returns to equilibrium over time.

Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center have been coordinating closely with California Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Sonoma County to develop the barrier removal and restoration plans and SLT has completed a feasibility study and preliminary designs and strategies to remove the barriers, enhance the culvert, and provide

## Exhibit 4: Project Letters

public access at Stuart Creek Run. It is crucial that final designs be completed this year to take advantage of potential implementation funding in early 2013, and to prevent mass erosion if the Stuart Creek run barrier should fail entirely before work can be completed.

I urge the Coastal Conservancy to support Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ecology Center's goal to complete final project designs and permitting for the Stuart Creek Steelhead Restoration Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lisa Micheli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" and last name "Micheli" clearly distinguishable.

Lisa Micheli, PhD  
Executive Director