

Exhibit 4: Project Letters

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
3585 Greenville Road
Livermore, CA 94550
925-371-0154
925-371-0155 (Fax)

Douglas Bosco, Chair of the Conservancy
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: "Wildlife-Friendly Pond Restoration" Project

The Natural Resources Conservation Service fully supports the "Wildlife-Friendly Pond Restoration" grant application being presented by the Alameda County Resource Conservation District. This grant would provide important financial support to an innovative and new program in which public and private landowners and agencies are working together to protect listed species. This program provides incentives to encourage landowners and land managers to implement on-the-ground restoration projects to enhance and maintain habitat for listed species. Continued funding of this program is important for the following reasons:

- Providing technical and financial assistance to landowners for the repair and restoration of livestock ponds that are on the verge of failure and will no longer provide habitat for California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander. Cattle ranches contain most of the remaining habitat in the County.
- The program is a great demonstration of voluntary collaboration between public and private landowners, local, State, and Federal agencies, and environmental organizations.
- The restoration projects will allow the Alameda County Resource Conservation District and its partners to take advantage of a streamlined permitting program in Alameda County including use of the Alameda County Voluntary Local Program that has been developed with the Department of Fish and Game and the county-wide Safe Harbor Agreement it has developed with US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Successful restoration of these ponds will help the program continue and support the ultimate goal of restoring many more ponds across the landscape, contributing to the recovery of the California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander in Alameda County.

In addition, the program provides a model for leveraging NRCS Farm Bill funds to assist with species recovery and habitat restoration. The NRCS will contribute matching funds towards the grant in the form of Farm Bill cost share dollars for on the ground restoration activities as well as technical assistance and support to the program.

The Coastal Conservancy's support of the District's efforts will greatly enhance our agency's efforts to restore wildlife habitat and promote rangeland conservation in our region. We look forward to a positive response to the District's grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alyson Aquino".

Alyson Aquino, District Conservationist, Livermore Partnership Office

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



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Douglas Bosco, Chair of the Conservancy
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: "Wildlife-Friendly Pond Restoration" Project

The California Rangeland Conservation Coalition fully supports the "Wildlife-Friendly Pond Restoration" grant application being presented by the Alameda County Resource Conservation District (District). This grant would provide important financial support to an innovative and new program in which public and private landowners and agencies are working together to protect listed species. This project is aligned with the goals and objectives of the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition and it is important for the following reasons:

- Providing technical and financial assistance to landowners for the repair and restoration of livestock ponds that provide habitat for California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander. Cattle ranches contain most of the remaining habitat in the County.
- The program is a great demonstration of voluntary collaboration between public and private landowners, local, State, and Federal agencies, and environmental organizations.
- The restoration projects will allow the District and its partners to take advantage of a streamlined permitting program in Alameda County.
- The program provides a model for leveraging NRCS Farm Bill funds to assist with species recovery and habitat restoration.
- Successful restoration of these ponds will help the program continue and support the ultimate goal of restoring many more ponds across the landscape, contributing to the recovery of the California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander in Alameda County.

The District and partner agency the USDA NRCS, both active members in the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition, have the technical expertise and experience necessary to complete this important work. The Coastal Conservancy's support of the District's efforts will greatly enhance our efforts to restore wildlife habitat and promote rangeland conservation in our region. We look forward to a positive response to the District's grant application.

Sincerely,

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

Pelayo Alvarez
Conservation Program Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chet Vogt".

Chet Vogt
Steering Committee Chair

cc: Betsy Wilson, Coastal Conservancy

Exhibit 4: Project Letters



California Office

1303 J Street, Suite 270 | Sacramento, CA 95814 | tel 916.313.5800 | fax 916.313.5812
www.defenders.org

August 23, 2012

Douglas Bosco, Chair of the Conservancy
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: "Wildlife-Friendly Pond Restoration" Project

Defenders of Wildlife fully supports the "Wildlife-Friendly Pond Restoration" grant application being presented by the Alameda County Resource Conservation District. This program provides incentives to encourage landowners and land managers to implement on-the-ground restoration projects to enhance and maintain habitat for listed species. Continued funding of this program is important for the following reasons:

- Providing technical and financial assistance to landowners for the repair and restoration of livestock ponds that are on the verge of failure and will no longer provide habitat for California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander. Cattle ranches contain most of the remaining habitat in the County.
- The program is a great demonstration of voluntary collaboration between public and private landowners, local, State, and Federal agencies, and environmental organizations.
- The restoration projects will allow the Alameda County Resource Conservation District and its partners to take advantage of a streamlined permitting program in Alameda County including use of the Alameda County Voluntary Local Program that has been developed with the Department of Fish and Game and the county-wide Safe Harbor Agreement it has developed with US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- The program provides a model for leveraging NRCS Farm Bill funds to assist with species recovery and habitat restoration.
- Successful restoration of these ponds will help the program continue and support the ultimate goal of restoring many more ponds across the landscape, contributing to the recovery of the California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander in Alameda County.

The District, along with its partner agency, the USDA NRCS, has the technical expertise and experience necessary to complete this important work. The Coastal Conservancy's support of the District's efforts will greatly enhance our efforts to restore wildlife habitat and promote rangeland conservation in our region. We look forward to a positive response to the District's grant application.

Sincerely,

Erin Lieberman, Acting Director
California Program

cc: Betsy Wilson, Coastal Conservancy

National Headquarters

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