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**Assembly
California Legislature**



WESLEY CHESBRO
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January 28, 2013

Douglas H. Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing in support of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's request to the Conservancy for a \$30,000 grant to fund permitting of tidal marsh restoration projects at White Slough and Hookton Slough in the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge. These two sites offer the opportunity to restore approximately 100 acres of salt marsh, and provide valuable habitat for fish and wildlife, including species listed as endangered or threatened under the state and federal Endangered Species Acts, such as coho and Chinook salmon. The grant will be leveraged by significant in-kind staff time for restoration design from USFWS staff. In addition, this restoration provides an opportunity for the beneficial reuse of sediments from other projects such as the Martin Slough Enhancement Project or from maintenance dredging of the Woodley Island and Eureka Marinas. If these sediments are not reused for salt marsh restoration, they will need to be disposed of on upland sites at significant expense.

Salt marsh was historically the most widespread wetland type around Humboldt Bay, but only 10 percent remains (900 acres of current salt marsh remaining from 9,000 historic acres). Native salt marsh is a threatened habitat type in Humboldt Bay and throughout the United States. Salt marsh contributes invaluable nutrients to the estuarine ecosystem; provides important habitat for fish, invertebrates, many shorebirds, and other waterbirds; filters out pollutants; and buffers adjacent lands from flood tides and storms. Protection from flooding and storms is becoming more important due to sea level rise. Salt marshes provide habitat for the endangered tidewater goby and several species of threatened salmonids. The White Slough and Hookton Slough units of the refuge provide some of the few remaining opportunities to regain lost salt marsh around Humboldt Bay.

I urge you to fund this project to restore the tidal marshes in Humboldt Bay and the region, while building a strong community partnership for environmental stewardship.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Respectfully,

WESLEY CHESBRO
Assemblyman, District 2

WC:mh

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**COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.**



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California State Senate

SENATOR
 NOREEN EVANS
 SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



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January 20, 2013

Douglas H. Bosco, Chairman
 California State Coastal Conservancy
 1330 Broadway, 13th floor
 Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge Restoration Planning and Permitting

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I wish to express my support for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's request to the Conservancy for a \$30,000 grant to fund permitting of tidal marsh restoration projects at White Slough and Hookton Slough in the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge. These two sites offer the opportunity to restore approximately 100 acres of salt marsh, and provide valuable habitat for fish and wildlife, including species listed as endangered or threatened.

Salt marsh was historically the most widespread wetland type around Humboldt Bay, but only ~10 percent remains (~900 acres of current salt marsh remaining from ~9,000 historic acres). Salt marshes provide habitat for the endangered tidewater goby and several species of threatened salmonids. The White Slough and Hookton Slough units of the refuge provide some of the few remaining opportunities to regain lost salt marsh around Humboldt Bay.

I urge your favorable consideration of this important environmental project which will support the restoration of the tidal marshes in Humboldt Bay and the region, while building a strong community partnership for environmental stewardship.

Sincerely,

NOREEN EVANS
 Senator, 2nd District