

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
65 Main St., Suite 108  
Templeton, CA 93465  
805-434-0396 x 3 Phone  
805-434-0284 Fax

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2/21/13

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Ste. 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

**Subject: Proposed grant to the Coastal San Luis RCD for acquisition of a conservation easement in the upper Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed**

Dear Mr. Bosco,

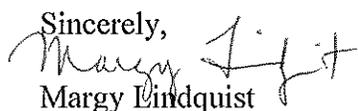
I am writing to encourage your board to approve the proposed \$415,000 grant to the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District for the acquisition of a conservation easement in the upper Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed in southern San Luis Obispo County to protect and restore up to 10 acres of an historic floodplain along a tributary to Arroyo Grande Creek. This site is likely to be developed without the protection of a conservation easement.

This project is identified as a priority for acquisition for floodplain restoration and sediment capture purposes in the Arroyo Grande Creek Erosion, Sedimentation and Flooding Alternatives Study prepared in 2006 with Conservancy and other funding. The creek tributary is impacted by encroaching residential land use, increased runoff and sedimentation and is not in proper functioning condition. Each season brings the threat of flooding to homeowners in the floodplain and downstream, while runoff, erosion and sedimentation diminish the quality of in-stream habitat, including habitat for the federally-listed Steelhead trout.

The proposed acquisition is needed to implement restoration to achieve on-site sediment retention and reduce chronic sedimentation into the creek. The restoration will serve to reduce sediment loads and flood waters in the mainstem of Arroyo Grande Creek and enhance and/or create additional wetland and riparian habitat, including habitat for three federally-listed species (Steelhead trout, Red-legged frog, and Tidewater goby).

With Coastal Conservancy assistance over the past two decades, the RCD has taken a primary role in San Luis Obispo County on major watershed planning and restoration projects. The RCD took the lead in the preparation of the Arroyo Grande Creek Erosion, Sedimentation and Flooding Alternatives Study, and is ideally positioned to manage the proposed project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
  
Margy Lindquist  
District Conservationist



COMMITTEES  
CHAIR: BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE 3  
ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW  
EDUCATION  
HEALTH  
JUDICIARY  
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER

WEB  
HTTP://SD17.SENATE.CA.GOV/

# California State Senate



**WILLIAM W. MONNING**  
SENATOR, SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT

CAPITOL OFFICE  
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 4066  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TEL (916) 651-4017

MONTEREY DISTRICT OFFICE  
99 PACIFIC STREET, SUITE 575-F  
MONTEREY, CA 93940  
TEL (831) 657-6315

SAN LUIS OBISPO DISTRICT OFFICE  
1026 PALM STREET, SUITE 201  
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401  
TEL (805) 549-3784

SANTA CRUZ DISTRICT OFFICE  
701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 318-A  
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060  
TEL (831) 425-0401

GILROY DISTRICT OFFICE  
7800 ARROYO CIRCLE, SUITE A  
GILROY, CA 95020  
TEL (408) 847-6101

March 1, 2012

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
Board of Directors  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Chairman Bosco:

This letter is to express my support for the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District's request for \$415,000 from the State Coastal Conservancy for the acquisition of a conservation easement in the upper Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed in southern San Luis Obispo County.

The acquisition of the conservation easement will protect and restore up to 10 acres of an historic floodplain otherwise threatened with development along a tributary of the Arroyo Grande Creek. This project has been identified as a priority acquisition for floodplain restoration and sediment capture purposes in the Arroyo Grande Creek Erosion, Sedimentation and Flooding Alternatives Study prepared in 2006. There is a constant threat of flooding to homeowners in the floodplain and downstream, and runoff, erosion and sedimentation diminish the quality of in-stream habitat, including habitat for the federally-listed Steelhead trout, Red-legged frog, and Tidewater goby.

A grant from the Coastal Conservancy will allow the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District to complete a major watershed restoration project in San Luis Obispo County, and I urge your support of its request for California State Coastal Conservancy funds.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM W. MONNING  
Assemblymember, 27th District

WWM:nw

**RECEIVED**

MAR 07 2013

COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0035  
(916) 319-2035  
FAX (916) 319-2135

DISTRICT OFFICE  
1150 OSOS STREET SUITE 207  
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401  
(805) 549-3381  
FAX (805) 549-3400

Assembly  
California Legislature



**KATCHO ACHADJIAN**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-FIFTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
CHAIR: LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
ACCOUNTABILITY AND  
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW  
BANKING AND FINANCE  
TRANSPORTATION

JOINT COMMITTEES  
LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

March 1, 2013

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Ste. 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

**Re: Proposed grant to the Coastal San Luis RCD for acquisition of a conservation easement in the upper Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed**

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I am writing to encourage your board to approve the proposed \$415,000 grant to the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District for the acquisition of a conservation easement in the upper Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed in southern San Luis Obispo County to protect and restore up to 10 acres of an historic floodplain otherwise threatened with development along a tributary to Arroyo Grande Creek.

This project is identified as a priority for acquisition for floodplain restoration and sediment capture purposes in the Arroyo Grande Creek Erosion, Sedimentation and Flooding Alternatives Study prepared in 2006 with Conservancy and other funding. The subject creek tributary is in a state of dysfunction from encroaching residential land uses, increased runoff and sedimentation. Each season brings the threat of flooding to homeowners in the floodplain and downstream, while runoff, erosion and sedimentation diminish the quality of in-stream habitat, including habitat for the federally-listed species Steelhead trout.

The proposed acquisition is needed to enable the site to be restored to improve on-site sediment retention and reduce chronic sedimentation into the creek. The restoration will serve to reduce sediment loads and flood waters in the mainstem of Arroyo Grande Creek and enhance and/or create additional wetland and riparian habitat, including habitat for three federally-listed species (Steelhead trout, Red-legged frog, and Tidewater goby).

With Coastal Conservancy assistance over the past two decades, the RCD has taken a primary role in San Luis Obispo County on major watershed planning and restoration projects. The RCD took the lead in the preparation of the Arroyo Grande Creek Erosion, Sedimentation and Flooding Alternatives Study, and is ideally positioned to manage the proposed project.

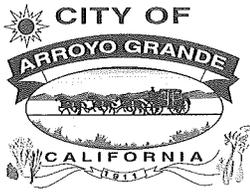
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Khatchik H. Achadjian".

Khatchik H. "Katcho" Achadjian

35th Assembly District



CITY OF  
**ARROYO GRANDE**  
CALIFORNIA

March 15, 2013

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Ste. 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

**Re: Proposed grant to the Coastal San Luis RCD for acquisition of a conservation easement in the upper Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed**

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I am writing to encourage your board to approve the proposed \$415,000 grant to the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District for the acquisition of a conservation easement in the upper Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed in southern San Luis Obispo County to protect and restore an historic floodplain along a tributary to Arroyo Grande Creek. The goal of the conservation easement is to provide restoration/sedimentation reduction to detain peak flows and chronic fine sediment loading at the confluence of Tally Ho/Corbett Canyon and Carpenter Canyon Creeks on a portion of the 15-acre site (Clark property) within the City of Arroyo Grande.

The project objective will:

- Attenuate peak stream flows to provide flood protection to downstream properties, including both the Tally Ho neighborhood immediately downstream and the Zone 1/1A flood control district.
- Maximize on-site sediment retention in the enhanced floodplain to protect downstream steel head habitat and improve flood protection.
- Enhance and/or create additional wetland and riparian habitat.

This property is currently zoned to allow residential housing, and is one of the largest remaining open space parcels in AG City limits. The landowner is interested and cooperative in placing the property into an open space conservation easement and participating in the floodplain restoration project. This site was identified in the 2006 "Arroyo Grande Creek Erosion, Sedimentation and Flooding Alternatives Study" as a priority site for potential floodplain restoration and sediment retention. The City has been proactive and diligent in the implementation of measures to remedy existing and predicted problems concerning flood control and environmental degradation within the Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed, and has funded design components and appraisals toward this project already.

The proposed acquisition is needed to enable the site to be restored to improve on-site sediment retention and reduce chronic sedimentation into the creek. The restoration will serve to reduce sediment loads and flood waters in the mainstem of Arroyo Grande Creek and enhance and/or create additional wetland and riparian habitat, including habitat for three federally-listed species (Steelhead trout, Red-legged frog, and Tidewater goby).

With Coastal Conservancy assistance over the past two decades, the RCD has taken a primary role in San Luis Obispo County on major watershed planning and restoration projects. The RCD took the lead in the preparation of the Arroyo Grande Creek Erosion, Sedimentation and Flooding Alternatives Study, and is ideally positioned to manage the proposed project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teresa McClish', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Teresa McClish, AICP  
Community Development Director

cc: Nicole Smith, Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District  
Kelly Heffernon, Associate Planner



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Paavo Ogren, Director

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County Government Center, Room 207 • San Luis Obispo, CA 93408 • (805) 781-5252

Fax (805) 781-1229

email address: [pwd@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:pwd@co.slo.ca.us)

February 13, 2012

Doug Bosco  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Ste. 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

**Subject: Letter of Support for Corbett Canyon Floodplain and Stream Restoration Project, Arroyo Grande, CA**

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The purpose of this letter is to express support for the Corbett Canyon Floodplain and Stream Restoration Project. This project was submitted by the San Luis Coastal Resource Conservation District (SLCRCD) for consideration by your agency to fund the purchase of a conservation easement.

The proposed Corbett Canyon Floodplain and Stream Restoration Project has the potential to capture suspended sediment through floodplain restoration and accompanying sediment detention, and thereby reduce sedimentation in the downstream flood control channel, as well as improve aquatic habitat and floodplain conditions. Since much of this captured sediment would otherwise be deposited in the Arroyo Grande Creek flood control channel, the proposed Corbett Canyon Floodplain Restoration Project has the potential to result in significant long-term savings in channel maintenance costs. Furthermore, the project was recommended in the 2006 Swanson Hydrology & Geomorphology Study which analyzed 18 different locations where sediment load could be effectively reduced. Therefore, the San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department encourages your final recommendation for awarding grant funds to the SLCRCD for the purchase of the conservation easement, a critical element of the Corbett Canyon Floodplain and Stream Restoration Project.

The San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department, under the auspices of the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District ("District"), is responsible for maintenance of the Arroyo Grande Creek flood control channel, which is located in the lower reach of the creek, ranging from the discharge point at the Pacific Ocean and extending approximately three miles upstream. Funding for the District's maintenance activities comes solely through limited taxes assessed upon those properties within the 20 year floodplain of the facility which comprises Zone 1/1A, a flood control zone of benefit. Zone 1/1A includes critical farmlands as well as densely developed lower income portions of the communities of Oceano and Arroyo Grande which are vulnerable to flooding from the creek channel. Recurring sediment deposition presents one of the primary challenges to maintaining

adequate flood capacity in the channel, in combination with increasing maintenance costs and strict environmental protections for three federally-listed aquatic species present in Arroyo Grande Creek that limit the ability to conduct maintenance activities.

Over the last 12 years the District has developed and adopted a Waterway Management Plan (WMP) for the channel based on the 2006 "Arroyo Grande Creek Erosion, Sedimentation and Flooding Alternatives Study" by Swanson Hydrology & Geomorphology. The WMP identifies two alternatives that will be implemented as funding is obtained to reduce flooding, manage sediment, and improve habitat conditions in the Arroyo Grande Creek Channel. The District has recently been awarded grant funding to implement one of the alternatives in the WMP known as Alternative 3a. The Alternative 3a project will improve the flow characteristics of the Arroyo Grande Creek by reducing channel roughness through vegetation thinning and removal, and would enhance geomorphic function by removing accumulated sediment, establishing a primary low-flow channel, and creating secondary overflow channels to improve flood conveyance and sediment transport. The project will also increase channel capacity with a moderate levee raise of approximately 1 to 3 feet.

The Corbett Canyon Floodplain and Stream Restoration project will aid in the long term success of the Arroyo Grande Creek Channel Alternative 3a project. After completion of the Alternative 3a project, due to the highly erosive nature of soils in the Arroyo Grande Creek watershed and the location of the District's flood control facility at the terminal end of the watershed, it is anticipated that a portion of the limited Zone 1/1A funds will need to be expended on a regular basis towards maintenance of the achieved flood protection and removal of accumulated sediment. Any upstream projects that can be implemented to reduce rates of stream sedimentation, or that can contribute to capture of suspended sediment, will reduce long-term channel maintenance costs and improve flood protection to Zone 1/1A.

If you would like to discuss this further or have specific questions regarding the operation and maintenance of the Arroyo Grande Creek Flood Control Channel, please contact Jill Ogren, Utilities Division Senior Project Engineer, at (805) 781-5263 or [jogren@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:jogren@co.slo.ca.us)

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



PAAVO OGREN  
Director

File: CF 340.68.01 Zone 1/1A - Arroyo Grande Channel Restoration Funding Sources



CENTRAL COAST SALMON ENHANCEMENT, INC.

*Enhancing Fisheries while  
Improving the Environment*

February 15, 2013

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Ste. 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

**Re: Proposed grant to the Coastal San Luis RCD for acquisition of a conservation easement in the upper Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed**

Dear Mr. Bosco,

Please support the approval of the proposed \$415,000 grant to the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District for the acquisition of a conservation easement in the upper Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed in southern San Luis Obispo County to protect and restore up to 10 acres of an historic floodplain otherwise threatened with development along a tributary to Arroyo Grande Creek.

This project is identified as a priority for acquisition for floodplain restoration and sediment capture purposes in the Arroyo Grande Creek Erosion, Sedimentation and Flooding Alternatives Study prepared in 2006 with Conservancy and other funding. The 2009 Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed Management Plan also identified sediment reduction recommendations including capture on Tally Ho/Corbett Canyon Creek specifically seeking funding for floodplain easement. Central Coast Salmon Enhancement has been actively working with residents in this sub-watershed since their properties were impacted by a 2001 flood event and the concomitant sediment delivery to this floodplain. The subject creek tributary is in a state of dysfunction from encroaching residential land uses, increased runoff and sedimentation. Each season brings the threat of flooding to homeowners in the floodplain and downstream, while runoff, erosion and sedimentation diminish the quality of in-stream habitat, including habitat for the federally-listed species Steelhead trout.

The proposed acquisition is needed to enable the site to be restored to improve on-site sediment retention and reduce chronic sedimentation into the creek. The restoration will serve to reduce sediment loads and flood waters in the main stem of Arroyo Grande Creek and enhance and/or create additional wetland and riparian habitat, including habitat for three federally-listed species (Steelhead trout, Red-legged frog, and Tidewater goby).

With Coastal Conservancy assistance over the past two decades, the RCD has taken a primary role in San Luis Obispo County on major watershed planning and restoration projects. The RCD took the lead in the preparation of the Arroyo Grande Creek Erosion, Sedimentation and Flooding Alternatives Study, and is ideally positioned to manage the proposed project. As a project partner with the RCD, Central Coast Salmon Enhancement will continue to work with the RCD to leverage funds to benefit the Arroyo Grande Creek watershed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Wald  
Watershed Projects Manager

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229 Stanley Avenue, Arroyo Grande CA 93420

Phone: 805-473-8221

Fax: 805-473-8167

www.centralcoastsalmon.com