

State of California  
Department of Fish and Wildlife



## Memorandum

Date: May 21, 2013

To: Mr. Doug Bosco  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530  
Attention: Amy Hutzel

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Wilson".

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

Subject: Letter of Support for the Application of the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District to the State Coastal Conservancy to Complete the Bonde Weir Passage Project on San Francisquito Creek

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is writing in support of the application from the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District (RCD) to the State Coastal Conservancy to complete the Bonde Weir Passage Project on San Francisquito Creek. This project will result in opening passage for threatened Central California Coastal steelhead trout and contribute to the overall restoration of San Francisquito Creek, a long-standing priority for CDFW.

San Francisquito Creek is a free-flowing urban creek in the southern reach of the San Francisco Peninsula which flows into the Bay and borders San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. It hosts one of the last remaining wild steelhead populations in the South Bay and still has good aquatic habitat in the upper watershed to support steelhead rearing and spawning. Removal of the Bonde Weir will open access to many miles of fish habitat. This project has coordinated its plans with the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority to address flood control, erosion, and public access in the lower watershed. We are pleased to see the commitment of all the stakeholders to this important watershed and support the involvement and contributions of the State Coastal Conservancy in this work.

CDFW and the San Mateo County RCD have worked together on other fish passage projects and we acknowledge their ability to deliver completed projects that require working with multiple stakeholder interests. The Bonde Weir project has been a long-standing interest of CDFW as the remaining fish passage barrier in the lower San Francisquito Creek watershed. CDFW will work closely with the RCD to see the project completed as it moves into construction. CDFW will also work with the San Mateo RCD to secure needed permits to allow the project to move forward expeditiously.

CDFW fully supports the funding of the Bonde Weir Project to restore valuable passage and habitat for aquatic species in San Francisquito Creek. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. George Neillands, Senior Environmental Scientist, at (707) 576-2812 or [george.neillands@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:george.neillands@wildlife.ca.gov); or Mr. Eric Larson, Environmental Program Manager, at (707) 944-5528.

cc: San Mateo County Resource Conservation District  
Gary Sterns, National Marine Fisheries Service

Exhibit 3: Project Letters



SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK

JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

sfcjpa.org

East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, San Mateo County Flood Control District, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District

May 7, 2013

California State Coastal Conservancy  
Doug Bosco, Chair  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

SUBJECT: San Mateo County Resource Conservation District application for grant funding to construct the Bonde Weir Fish Passage Improvement Project

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I am writing to express support of the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District's application to the State Coastal Conservancy for construction funding for the Bonde Weir Fish Passage Improvement Project.

The San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA) is a regional government agency established to plan and implement projects that enhance flood protection, ecosystem restoration, and recreation within the San Francisquito Creek watershed and floodplain. Member Agencies of the SFCJPA include the cities of East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Palo Alto, the San Mateo County Flood Control District, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

The Bonde Weir represents the largest and most significant barrier to steelhead migration on main-stem San Francisquito Creek. The SFCJPA is pleased to have begun working with a new partner, the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District, which has taken the lead on implementation of this important project. The project, when completed, will provide for improved passage for both in-migrating adult and out-migrating smolt steelhead in a watershed identified as key to the regional restoration efforts for the Central California Coast Evolutionary Significant Unit of the species.

The project is complimentary to the efforts of the SFCJPA, its member agencies, and the comprehensive restoration vision of the communities it serves.

Please contact me directly at [kmurray@sfcjpa.org](mailto:kmurray@sfcjpa.org) or 650.324.1972 if you would like more information on the SFCJPA's activities or our support of the proposed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Murray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Kevin Murray  
Project Manager



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

NOAA Restoration Center  
Southwest Region  
777 Sonoma Ave., Room 219-A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404-6528

May 6, 2013

State Coastal Conservancy  
Doug Bosco, Chair  
Attn: Amy Hutzel  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Doug,

I am writing to offer my support for the application of the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District to the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) to complete the Bonde Weir Fish Passage Project on San Francisquito Creek. This project will result in opening over 40 miles of passage for federally threatened steelhead trout and contribute to the overall restoration of San Francisquito Creek, a long standing priority for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), NMFS Protected Resources Division (NMFS) and the NOAA Restoration Center (RC).

NOAA recently published a case study about how the work of the various agencies involved in planning restoration of San Francisquito Creek are working together for coordinated, watershed-level restoration and flood protection, including on the Bonde Weir fish passage project.

Working with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the RC invited the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District to play a coordinating and oversight role in the Bonde Weir project. We have previously worked with the RCD on many project and have been impressed with the RCD's ability to deliver projects working with multiple stakeholders to accomplish on-the-ground conservation achievements. The Bonde Weir Fish Passage Project has undergone many design changes, starts and stops over the years. We are pleased with the work of the RCD to date to bring the various stakeholders and agencies together to reach agreement on a new approach to the project – moving away from an earlier fish ladder design to a maintenance-free option that will completely open fish passage. This new design approach is also one that is acceptable to both the two cities involved (Menlo Park and Palo Alto) as well as to the regulatory agencies.

The RC will continue to work closely with the RCD to complete this project. We have been working with permitting agencies to expedite the permitting process in preparation for construction in the summer of 2013. We note that earlier designs for the project were previously permitted so we do not anticipate issues securing needed permits for the newer design. Also, the RC administers the San Francisco Bay Salmonid Habitat Restoration Funds (including mitigation funds from the Pacific Gas and Electric Company and the Bay Bridge reconstruction project) and has committed \$174,400 to the project. All but \$25,000 can serve as a non-federal match to SCC funds if awarded.

If you have any questions please contact Joe Pecharich at (707) 575-6095, or by email at [joe.pecharich@noaa.gov](mailto:joe.pecharich@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick J. Rutten".

Patrick J. Rutten, Supervisor  
Southwest Region  
NOAA Restoration Center



## Exhibit 3: Project Letters



**Acterra**  
*Action for a Healthy Planet*  
3921 East Bayshore Road  
Palo Alto ca 94303-4303

tel 650.962.9876  
fax 650.962.8234  
[www.Acterra.org](http://www.Acterra.org)  
[info@Acterra.org](mailto:info@Acterra.org)

May 10, 2013

State Coastal Conservancy  
Doug Bosco, Chair  
Attn: Amy Hutzal  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I am writing to offer my support for the application of the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District to the California State Coastal Conservancy to complete the Bonde Weir Passage Project on San Francisquito Creek. This project will improve passage for threatened steelhead trout and contribute to the overall restoration of San Francisquito Creek.

Acterra works with local agencies and other partners to steward several creekside habitat areas on San Francisquito Creek. We bring hundreds of volunteers each year to remove invasive non-native plants and install locally native plants grown at our native plant nursery. Volunteers learn about local ecology and actions they can take to improve watershed health. One of our longstanding restoration sites is El Palo Alto Park, which is adjacent to the Bonde Weir project. This year alone we have held 5 volunteer days at this site and hosted a Coastal Cleanup Day event on this reach of creek.

We are pleased to work with the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District to see this project accomplished with funding from the California State Coastal Conservancy. During construction, Acterra will recruit and organize volunteers to assist in revegetation and maintenance efforts, using plants supplied by our nursery, which has growing plants local to the San Francisquito Watershed for over 15 years. Since the project is in a residential area and equipment must be staged inside a popular park, we expect this will be a great opportunity to increase the community's understanding about San Francisquito Creek and efforts to support the steelhead who depend on the creek for their survival. Additionally, we plan to continue our ongoing stewardship work at El Palo Alto Park in future years, and can therefore serve as "eyes on the creek" for this project site as it evolves.

Please contact me if I can provide any other information about my organization and our support for the Bonde Weir fish passage project. I can be reached at [junkob@acterra.org](mailto:junkob@acterra.org) or 650-962-9876 x347.

Sincerely,

Junko Bryant  
Watershed Program Coordinator

May 21, 2013  
State Coastal Conservancy  
Doug Bosco, Chair  
Attn: Amy Hutzell  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Doug,

As Division Manager for the Open Space, Parks, and Golf Division for the City of Palo Alto, I wholeheartedly offer my support for the completing the Bonde Weir fish passage project with funding from the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund to complete the Bonde Weir Passage Project on San Francisquito Creek.

The San Francisquito Creek flows through Palo Alto and in February 1998 it overtopped its banks affecting 1,700 residential and commercial structures here and in neighboring Menlo Park, causing an estimated \$26.6 million in property damage. After recovery from these damages, my community joined with others to form a Joint Powers Authority to ensure that the creek and its watershed are planned for in a coordinated fashion and that restoration and flood control projects are undertaken to benefit everyone.

We committed to the protection and improvement of wildlife habitat in our City; and we are pleased with the work to date of the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District, which was invited to participate in the Bonde Weir planning efforts by NOAA and Department of Fish and Game. The approach to addressing the fish passage barrier and erosional issues at the Bonde Weir, located on Palo Alto's border with Menlo Park, has undergone many design changes since 2003. We were pleased with the efforts of the RCD in bringing the partners together and finding a solution that reduces the maintenance required by cash-strapped local government while resulting in better passage than the previous design.

Please feel free to contact me if I can answer any other questions about the project or its importance to Palo Alto. Thank you for your consideration of the grant request by the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District.

Sincerely,

Daren Anderson



Daren Anderson | City of Palo Alto  
Division Manager- Open Space, Parks & Golf  
P: 650-496-6950 | F: 650-496-5925 |

# City of Palo Alto

Community Services Department

May 21, 2013  
State Coastal Conservancy  
Doug Bosco, Chair  
Attn: Amy Hutzell  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

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Sincerely,



Daren Anderson



Daren Anderson | City of Palo Alto  
Division Manager- Open Space, Parks & Golf  
P: 650-496-6950 | F: 650-496-5925 |

**RECEIVED**

MAY 28 2013

**COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.**

Open Space, Parks and Golf Division  
3201 East Bayshore Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94303  
(650) 496-5916