



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

April 15, 2014

California State Coastal Conservancy
Douglas Bosco, Chair of the Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
cc: *Michael Bowen*

Dear Mr. Bosco,

We'd like to express our support of the American Rivers project *Enhancing Fish Passage in San Francisquito Creek Watershed*. This project aims to advance recovery of steelhead in the San Francisquito Creek watershed through the removal or modification of barriers to important steelhead spawning and rearing habitat. San Francisquito is one of the last semi-natural, urban streams in the Bay Area and supports one of the region's last wild steelhead runs. In 2007, the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration (CEMAR) completed the San Francisco Estuary Watersheds Evaluation that identified locations with the greatest potential for steelhead restoration in tributaries of the San Francisco Estuary. Of the 58 tributaries that were assessed, eight were deemed to be "anchor watersheds" to reflect their importance for steelhead restoration. San Francisquito Creek is one of these eight watersheds.

Despite the creek's importance in the larger Bay Area ecosystem, there are dozens of barriers to migrating fish in the watershed. This project will not only open up access to more than 5 miles of high-quality habitat, it will continue the effort to remove barriers throughout the watershed following the removal of Bonde Weir and improved passage at the Bear Creek #3 Weir the NOAA Restoration Center contributed to.

We urge the Coastal Conservancy to support this worthwhile effort.

Sincerely,

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

Patrick J. Rutten
Southwest Region Supervisor
NOAA Restoration Center





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April 14, 2014

California State Coastal Conservancy
Douglas Bosco, Chair of the Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
cc: Michael Bowen

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I am writing in support of the American Rivers project *Enhancing Fish Passage in San Francisquito Creek Watershed*. This project aims to advance recovery of steelhead in the San Francisquito Creek watershed through the removal or modification of barriers to important steelhead spawning and rearing habitat. San Francisquito is one of the last semi-natural, urban streams in the Bay Area and supports one of the region's last wild steelhead runs. In 2007, the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration (CEMAR) completed the San Francisco Estuary Watersheds Evaluation that identified locations with the greatest potential for steelhead restoration in tributaries of the San Francisco Estuary. Of the 58 tributaries that were assessed, eight were deemed to be "anchor watersheds" to reflect their importance for steelhead restoration. San Francisquito Creek is one of these eight watersheds.

Acterra housed the San Francisquito Watershed Council when its Steelhead Task Force identified these fish barriers as among its priority projects and we continue to support the implementation of those projects. Currently, we work with local agencies to bring hundreds of volunteers to creekside native plant restoration sites throughout the watershed. One of our major project sites is the City of Palo Alto's Foothills Park in the upper watershed above the two proposed Los Trancos Creek barrier removals, where there is interest in reconnecting Buckeye Creek to its floodplain by allowing it to meander through the adjacent open field.

Despite the creek's importance in the larger Bay Area ecosystem, there are dozens of barriers to migrating fish in the watershed. This project will not only open up access to more than 5 miles of high-quality habitat, it is also an important catalyst for jump-starting the effort to remove barriers and improve fish habitat throughout the watershed.

We urge the Coastal Conservancy to support this worthwhile effort.

Sincerely,

Junko Bryant
Watershed Program Coordinator