

## Exhibit 3: Project Letter

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May 29, 2015  
Board of Directors  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in strong support of the Sonoma Resource Conservation District's (RCD) Grape Creek Streamflow Enhancement and Off-Channel Irrigation Pond project.

The objective of the project is to increase the amount of water in Grape Creek in the summer and early fall to improve coho salmon survival by filling a new off-channel pond with groundwater in the winter, and using the water to irrigate the vineyard in the summer. The lack of summer streamflow in Grape Creek is a limiting factor for endangered coho survival.

This project is one of the last critical pieces of water conservation work in Grape Creek. Several grape growers in the watershed have already installed off-channel storage reservoirs, wind machines, and water-efficient microsprinklers for frost protection and irrigation. These projects, many of which were made possible by Sonoma RCD and partners, have provided grape growers with a more reliable way of protecting and irrigating their vineyards, while keeping more water in the creek for endangered fish. This project will increase summer streamflow for Coho salmon and is also complimented by a large wood habitat enhancement project scheduled for construction along the same reach of Grape Creek in summer of 2015 that is funded by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Habitat and water conservation efforts throughout the watershed are paying off. With its high-quality spawning and rearing habitat for salmonids, Grape Creek is one of only 15 streams stocked as part of the Russian River Coho Salmon Captive Broodstock Program. In the winter of 2010-2011, for the first time in 12 years, 5 adult coho salmon were observed in the creek. Since then, 3000 Coho broodstock have been released each year. Improving stream flows in Grape Creek also compliments the habitat improvement work completed by the RCD and funded by the Sonoma County Water Agency as part of the Russian River Biological Opinion and the extensive habitat work being completed by the Water Agency in the mainstem of Dry Creek, which Grape Creek drains to.

We encourage you to support this outstanding project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James Gore  
Sonoma County Supervisor – 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Former: Assistant Chief – U.S. Department of Ag – Natural Resources Conservation Service