JARED HUFFMAN
2ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
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WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515–0502

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June 1, 2015

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA

Re: Support for Funding, Corte Madera Ecological Reserve Acquisition and Restoration Project

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing in support of the request by the Marin Audubon Society for a California Coastal Conservancy grant of $400,000 to assist with acquiring a 5.2-acre property and restoring tidal marsh habitat adjacent to the Corte Madera Ecological Reserve in Corte Madera, California.

This project will expand the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Corte Madera Ecological Reserve and help protect the endangered Ridgway's Rail and other special status species. It will also prevent damaging uses that could occur under the site's present Office zoning.

The Marin Audubon Society and Marin Baylands Advocates are leading the acquisition effort. The total cost to acquire the parcel is $1,075,000. The grant from the Conservancy together with the $675,000 that has already been raised or pledged funds will provide the total amount required to acquire the property. The project has strong local support, with contributions from the Marin County Open Space District, Town of Corte Madera, California Alpine Club, Corte Madera Community Foundation, Marin County Fish and Wildlife Commission, Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed, Marin Open Space Trust, Marin Conservation League, Springcreek Foundation, and the Corte Madera Beautification Committee, and others.

The 300-acre Ecological Reserve has one of the few marshes along the Bay that has never been diked. The acquisition of this parcel will expand the Reserve marsh and provide a high tide refuge, which also will serve as a transition area to accommodate sea level rise. Filling and uncontrolled public use have badly degraded the area; public access under the restoration plan will protect the marsh and its inhabitants.

If you have questions, please contact me or Barbara Salzman, President, Marin Audubon Society, at bsalzman@att.net. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress

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999 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 290
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California State Senate

SENATOR
MIKE McGUIRE
SECOND SENATE DISTRICT

May 22, 2015

Barbara Salzman, President,
Marin Audubon Society
P.O Box 599
Mill Valley, CA 94942-0599

Dear Ms. Salzman:

I am writing in regard to the Corte Madera Ecological Reserve Expansion Project. It is my understanding that by acquiring the 5.2 acre property at 72 Industrial Way in Corte Madera and restoring it to tidal marsh and a high tide stable habitat, the land will be permanently protected.

I have been told that the property had been filled for development in the 1940's 50's and again in the 1980's, not only giving it minimal habitat value, but also degrading its condition significantly.

I believe that in acquiring the acreage, tidal marsh habitat will be increased. This will protect the endangered Ridgway's Rail and other species as well as close the gap in the Ecological Reserve.

Preserving and protecting wildlife and their habitat is a priority for me and it is clear that this project will help accomplish that goal.

Sincerely,

MIKE MCGUIRE
Senator

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Assembly
California Legislature

MARC LEVINE
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TENTH DISTRICT

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June 1, 2015

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, #1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

This letter is to express my support the Corte Madera Ecological Reserve Expansion Project which will permanently protect through acquisition a 5.2 acre property at 72 Industrial Way in Corte Madera and restore the property to tidal marsh and high tide refuge habitat.

Currently the property is in a degraded state having been filled for development in the 1940s, 50s and again in the 1980s. In its present state it has minimal habitat value.

The project will close the gap in the Ecological Reserve by increasing tidal marsh habitat and protecting the endangered Ridgway's Rail and other species. Public access will be provided in a location where it will not impact wildlife or habitat.

Please call me or my staff at (415) 479-4920 if my office can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

MARC LEVINE

Cc: Commissioner Steve Kinsey

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COUNTY OF MARIN

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Quality, Excellence, Innovation

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Waste Management

September 30, 2014

Sam Schuchat
Executive Officer
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

SUBJECT: Upcoming Project in Corte Madera

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

We are aware the Coastal Conservancy is considering a restoration of a 5.2 acre parcel of Corte Madera baylands as part of the Corte Madera Ecological Reserve.

The County is supportive of tideland restoration projects of this type. We wanted to bring to your attention that the County is leading a project, in conjunction with the Transportation Authority of Marin, City of Larkspur, and Town of Corte Madera to construct a bicycle and pedestrian pathway in the railroad right-of-way adjacent to the parcel. This pathway is part of the established Bay Trail alignment.

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

Respectfully yours,

Raul M. Rojas
Director

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OCT 06 2014
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF

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