



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR



MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

May 15, 2015

Leana Rosetti
Wetland Grants Lead
Water Division (WTR-8)
US EPA, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Ms. Rosetti:

I am writing to support the State Coastal Conservancy's proposed Humboldt Bay Wetland Program Development Project. The preservation and restoration of wetlands around Humboldt Bay is critical to maximizing ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change and concomitant sea-level rise. The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) recognizes the critical need for better information about sediment dynamics in Humboldt Bay as fundamental to an assessment of the sustainability of wetlands under future climate scenarios.

Humboldt Bay is the largest estuary in the North Coast Region and an extremely important economic and environmental resource. Providing information about sediment dynamics will greatly enhance the ability to manage existing wetlands and design and prioritize wetland restoration projects in light of expected sea level rise. The Regional Water Board funds and/or conducts a variety of monitoring and assessment activities in and around Humboldt Bay, including sediment monitoring in the Elk River, a tributary to the bay. In support of the project, the Regional Water Board will count as a match the cost of operating, maintaining, collecting and analyzing data from two gages in the Elk River in 2016 and 2017. This cost is estimated at \$60,000 total for two years.

I respectfully encourage you to support this important project as critical to the long term management and restoration of Humboldt Bay's wetlands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alydda Mangelsdorf".

Alydda Mangelsdorf
Supervisor, Planning Unit



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

California Water Science Center
 6000 J Street
 Sacramento, CA
 (916) 278-3000

May 15, 2015

Leana Rosetti
 Wetland Grant Lead
 Water Division (WTR-8)
 US EPA, Region 9
 75 Hawthorne Street
 San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Letter in Support of State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) project entitled “Assessing Sediment Supply, Sediment Contaminants, Water Quality and Salt Marsh Sustainability in Humboldt Bay, CA”

Dear Ms. Rosetti:

On behalf of the USGS-CA Water Science Center (USGS), I am writing to convey our support for the Coastal Conservancy’s Proposal to the entitled “Assessing Sediment Supply, Sediment Contaminants, Water Quality and Salt Marsh Sustainability in Humboldt Bay, CA.”

The USGS is a partner in this study effort, our role in the project is to characterize water quality and marsh accretion rates under current conditions (See Task 1.2) and to develop a water balance model and estimate the sediment supplied from watershed sources to Humboldt Bay (see Task 2).

The USGS, in cooperation with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), has and expects to continue operation and maintenance of a series of gaging stations within the Eel River watershed during the proposed project period. Stream gaging stations located in the Eel River watershed will be used to support Task 2 in the SCC project. The following gaging stations are currently funded from Nov 2014 through Oct 2015 under the USGS National Streamflow Information Program (NSIP) and a USGS-DWR Cooperative Water Program (CWP) agreement as follows:

Station #	Station Name	USGS (NSIP)	USGS (CWP)	DWR Funds
11475000	EEL R A FORT SEWARD CA	-	6,900	13,700
11477000	EL R A SCOTIA CA	-	6,900	13,700
11478500	VAN DUZEN -BRIDGEVILLE CA	-	6,900	13,700
11475800	SF EEL R A LEGGETT CA	18,287	-	-
11476500	SF EEL R NR MIRANDA CA	18,287	-	-
11476600	BULL C NR WEOTT CA	-	6,900	13,700
Total		36,574	27,600	54,800

Funding for future years will be documented in a new USGS-DWR agreement for each Nov – Oct period.

Sincerely,

Eric Reichard
 Center Director, California Water Science Center, US Geological Survey

Exhibit 2. Project Letters



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

May 15, 2015

NOAA Restoration Center
777 Sonoma Avenue R. 219
Santa Rosa, CA. 95404

Leana Rosetti
Wetland Grants Lead
Water Division (WTR-8)
US EPA, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Ms. Rosetti:

I am writing to support the State Coastal Conservancy's proposed Humboldt Bay Wetland Program Development Project. We recognize the critical need for better information about sediment dynamics in Humboldt Bay and how they will affect the sustainability of wetlands in the face of sea level rise. This is a critical data gap for a valuable estuary. Providing information about sediment dynamics will greatly enhance our ability to manage existing wetlands and design and prioritize wetland restoration projects in light of expected sea level rise.

I encourage the EPA to support this important project for the long term management and restoration of Humboldt Bay's wetlands. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (707) 575-6059; email patrick.rutten@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

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

Patrick J Rutten
Supervisor, Southwest Region
NOAA Restoration Center





THE WILDLANDS CONSERVANCY

May 15, 2015

Leana Rosetti
Wetland Grants Lead
Water Division (WTR-8)
US EPA, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Ms. Rosetti:

The Wildlands Conservancy is writing to express enthusiastic support the State Coastal Conservancy's proposed Humboldt Bay Wetland Program Development Project.

As a partner in restoration and land management with our 1200 acre Eel River Estuary Preserve, our organization is in the early stages of a partnership in major wetland restoration. It is our intention and hope that these restoration efforts benefit the fish populations of the entire river system as well as protect prime agricultural lands in the face of sea-level rise. We view our project as part of a landscape scale opportunity.

TWC is in full agreement that there is a critical need for better information about sediment dynamics in Humboldt Bay and how they will affect the sustainability of wetlands throughout the region in the face of sea level rise. Providing information will greatly enhance our ability to manage existing wetlands, inform the design of future restoration projects, and inform prioritization in view of the expected sea-level rise.

Long-term management of our coast and coastal wetlands will be constructively informed by data gathered in efforts such as the one contemplated by the SCC proposal. TWC whole-heartedly supports this project and believes the coastal region will be better prepared to anticipate and manage the future by following through on study recommendations.

All the best,

Dan York
Vice president
The Wildlands Conservancy





May 14, 2015

Leana Rosetti
Wetland Grants Lead
Water Division (WTR-8)
US EPA, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Ms. Rosetti:

I am writing on behalf of Humboldt Baykeeper to support the California Coastal Conservancy's proposed Humboldt Bay Wetland Program Development Project.

Humboldt Baykeeper was launched in 2004 with a mission to safeguard coastal resources for the health, enjoyment, and economic strength of the Humboldt Bay community through education, scientific research, and enforcement of laws to fight pollution.

We strongly support the proposal due to the critical need for scientific information about sediment dynamics in Humboldt Bay and the sustainability of coastal wetlands in the face of sea level rise. This is a critical data gap for a valuable estuary upon which numerous species of both ecological and economic importance are dependent. Providing science-based information about sediment dynamics will greatly enhance our ability to manage existing wetlands as well as design and prioritize wetland restoration projects in light of predicted sea level rise, which is twice the state average due to tectonic subsidence.

I respectfully encourage you to support this important project to collect critical data for the long-term management and restoration of Humboldt Bay's wetlands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jennifer Kalt'.

Jennifer Kalt, Director
jkalt@humboldtbykeeper.org

1385 Eighth Street, Suite 228, Arcata, CA 95521
(707) 825-1020
www.humboldtbykeeper.org





United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
P.O. Box 576, 1020 Ranch Road
Loleta, California 95551
(707) 733-5406 Phone (707) 733-1946 Facsimile



Leana Rosetti
Wetland Grants Lead
Water Division (WTR-8)
US EPA, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Ms. Rosetti:

I am writing to support the State Coastal Conservancy's proposed Humboldt Bay Wetland Program Development Project. We recognize the critical need for better information about sediment dynamics in Humboldt Bay and how they will affect the sustainability of wetlands in the face of sea level rise. There has been and continues to be significant work in Humboldt Bay to become as resilient to sea level rise as possible. This is possibly the most critical data gap for the most valuable estuary between San Francisco Bay and Coos Bay. Providing information about sediment dynamics will greatly enhance our ability to manage existing wetlands and design and prioritize wetland restoration projects in light of expected sea level rise. In addition, it would add to the knowledge base required for management and adaptation of estuaries that is necessary all around the country.

I respectfully encourage you to support this important project to collect critical data for the long term management and restoration of Humboldt Bay's wetlands.

Sincerely,

Eric T. Nelson
Project Leader
Humboldt Bay NWRC



Coastal Ecosystems Institute of Northern California

Community-driven Science for Vibrant and Resilient Coastal Ecosystems

May 14, 2015

Leana Rosetti
Wetland Grants Lead
Water Division (WTR-8)
US EPA, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Ms. Rosetti:

I am writing to support the State Coastal Conservancy's proposed Humboldt Bay Wetland Program Development Project. Coastal Ecosystems Institute of Northern California (CEINC) supports collaborative scientific research and disseminates scientific information about our coastal ecosystems. The proposal addresses several priorities identified by CEINC and the Humboldt Bay Initiative through a collaborative effort to develop an ecosystem-based management approach for Humboldt Bay and surrounding coastal areas. Understanding sediment dynamics is a critical component in the implementation of the management strategies, and especially in understanding potential changes in wetlands due to sea level rise and other climate change effects.

Our current understanding of sediment dynamics in Humboldt Bay is limited; this is a critical data gap for a valuable estuary. The Humboldt Bay Wetland Program Development Project will provide information about sediment dynamics, which will greatly enhance the management of existing wetlands and the design and prioritization of future wetland restoration projects in light of expected sea level rise.

I respectfully encourage you to support this important project to collect key data for the long term management and restoration of Humboldt Bay's wetlands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill Demers", written over a light blue grid background.

Jill Demers, Vice-Board President

Leana Rosetti
Wetland Grants Lead
Water Division (WTR-8)
US EPA, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Ms. Rosetti:

I am writing to support the State Coastal Conservancy's proposed Humboldt Bay Wetland Program Development Project. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is embarking upon a tidal restoration project in the Humboldt Bay area and we recognize the critical need for better information about sediment dynamics in Humboldt Bay and how they will affect the sustainability of wetlands in the face of sea level rise. This is a critical data gap for a valuable estuary. Providing information about sediment dynamics will greatly enhance the ability for Caltrans and other public and non-profit interests to manage existing wetlands as well as design and prioritize wetland restoration projects in light of expected sea level rise.

I respectfully encourage you to support this important project to collect critical data for the long term management and restoration of Humboldt Bay's wetlands.

Sincerely,



Kelley Garrett
Caltrans Mitigation Specialist - D01
1656 Union Street
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 441-2032

COMMISSIONERS

1st Division
A. Newman
2nd Division
G. Dale
3rd Division
M. Wilson
4th Division
R. Marks
5th Division
P. Higgins

Humboldt Bay
Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District
(707) 443-0801
P.O. Box 1030
Eureka, California 95502-1030



Leana Rosetti
Wetland Grants Lead
Water Division (WTR-8)
US EPA, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: State Coastal Conservancy Wetland Program Development Proposal

Dear Ms. Rosetti:

I am writing to express my support of the State Coastal Conservancy's proposed Humboldt Bay Wetland Program Development Project. The Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District has regulatory authority and is a trustee tidelands manager in Humboldt Bay. We are charged with diverse management decisions in the bay; many of which would benefit from an improved understanding of sediment dynamics. Project results would inform short and long term planning for restoration and protection of Humboldt Bay wetlands. Additionally, we would use information developed from this project to support decisions related to dredging, sea level rise adaptation, and beneficial reuse of sediment.

I strongly urge funding of this project. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam Wagschal".

Adam Wagschal
Deputy Director
awagschal@humboldtby.org
Cell: 707-496-2088



May 15, 2015

Leana Rosetti
Wetland Grants Lead
Water Division (WTR-8)
US EPA, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Support Letter from CalTrout for the State Coastal Conservancy's proposed Humboldt Bay Wetland Program Development Project.

Dear Ms. Rosetti:

I am writing to support the State Coastal Conservancy's proposed Humboldt Bay Wetland Program Development Project. We recognize the critical need for better information about sediment dynamics in Humboldt Bay and how they will affect the sustainability of wetlands in the face of sea level rise. This is a critical data gap for a valuable estuary. Providing information about sediment dynamics will greatly enhance our ability to manage existing wetlands and design and prioritize wetland restoration projects in light of expected sea level rise.

CalTrout is currently in partnership with the Regional Water Board, the State Water Board, the State Coastal Conservancy and several technical scientists, leading the ***Elk River Recovery Assessment and Pilot Sediment Removal Implementation Project (Recovery Assessment)***. The goal of the Recovery Assessment is to conduct a system-wide analysis of river hydraulics and sediment transport, assess a suite of sediment removal and restoration activities, implement pilot mechanical sediment removal projects, and develop an implementation framework that promotes recovery of ecosystem functions and beneficial uses in Elk River.

Having additional research and information related to sediment dynamics within Humboldt Bay will provide extremely useful information in our efforts to promote recovery of sediment impaired Humboldt Bay tributaries such as the Elk River.

I respectfully encourage you to support this important project to collect critical data for the long term management and restoration of Humboldt Bay's wetlands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darren Mierau", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Darren Mierau
North Coast Area Program Manager
 California Trout Inc.

Exhibit 2. Project Letters

Office: 707.825.0420 / Cell: 707.845.7810

email: dmierau@caltrout.org

615 11th Street, Arcata, CA 95521

www.caltrout.org

Report Prepared By:

Darren Mierau

May 1, 2015

Exhibit 2. Project Letters



736 F Street
Arcata, CA 95521

April 1, 2014

<i>City Manager</i> (707) 822-5953	<i>Environmental Services</i> 822-8184	<i>Police</i> 822-2428	<i>Recreation</i> 822-7091
<i>Community Development</i> 822-5955	<i>Finance</i> 822-5951	<i>Public Works</i> 822-5957	<i>Transportation</i> 822-3775

Leana Rosetti
Wetland Grants Lead
Water Division (WTR-8)
US EPA, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Ms. Rosetti:

I am writing to support the State Coastal Conservancy's proposed Humboldt Bay Wetland Program Development Project. We recognize the critical need for better information about sediment dynamics in Humboldt Bay and how they will affect the sustainability of wetlands in the face of sea level rise. This is a critical data gap for a valuable estuary. Providing information about sediment dynamics will greatly enhance our ability to manage existing wetlands and design and prioritize wetland restoration projects in light of expected sea level rise.

I respectfully encourage you to support this important project to collect critical data for the long term management and restoration of Humboldt Bay's wetlands.

Sincerely,

Mark André

MARK S. ANDRÉ

Director

Environmental Services Department