

California State Senate

SENATOR
MIKE MCGUIRE

SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



October 28, 2015

Chairman Doug Bosco
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to express my support for the California Trout's (CalTrout) proposed Eel River Estuary and Centerville Slough Enhancement Project. The proposed CalTrout project would protect and enhance productive working lands while restoring fish passage and estuarine habitat along historic Centerville Slough, providing critical habitat to coho salmon and other special status fish and wildlife.

The project will expand the existing boundary beyond the ongoing effort on The Wildlands Conservancy's Eel River Estuary Preserve to address the complex issues of drainage, habitat, and ocean incursion on a landscape that is interlinked and invaluable to local agricultural, wildlife and public access interests. This type of project advances the dual goals of benefiting vibrant rural communities and viable fish populations in our Northern California rivers.

Anadromous fish restoration and recovery is very important to my district for ecological, economic and cultural purposes. This is an important project for the restoration of valuable estuarine wetlands and wildlife habitat and is a model for cooperative restoration efforts providing multiple benefits to our north coast communities.

I thoroughly support these types of fisheries restoration projects. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call our office at (707) 445-6508.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike McGuire".

MIKE MCGUIRE
Senator

COMMITTEES
 APPROPRIATIONS
 BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS
 HEALTH
 NATURAL RESOURCES
 RULES

SELECT COMMITTEES
 CHAIR: DIGITAL DIVIDE IN RURAL CALIFORNIA
 CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND BUILDING A 21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE
 WINE

Assembly
 California Legislature



JIM WOOD
 ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SECOND DISTRICT

STATE CAPITOL
 P.O. BOX 942849
 SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0002
 (916) 319-2002
 FAX (916) 319-2102

DISTRICT OFFICES
 50 D STREET, SUITE 450
 SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
 (707) 576-2526
 FAX (707) 576-2297

710 E STREET, SUITE 150
 EUREKA, CA 95501
 (707) 445-7014
 FAX (707) 455-6607

200 S SCHOOL STREET, SUITE D
 UKIAH, CA 95482
 (707) 462-5770
 FAX (707) 463-5773

November 12, 2015

Douglas H. Bosco, Chairman
 California State Coastal Conservancy
 1330 Broadway, 13th floor
 Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Eel River Estuary and Centerville Slough Enhancement Project

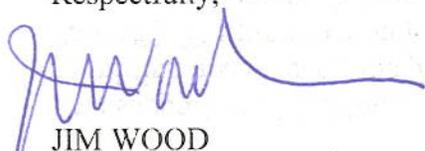
Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am supportive of California Trout's request to the Coastal Conservancy to fund the development of CEQA and permitting materials for the proposed Eel River Estuary and Centerville Slough Enhancement Project ("ERECs Project"). The proposed project would protect and enhance productive working lands while restoring fish passage and estuarine habitat along historic Centerville Slough. These funds will augment existing funds from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Restoration Grants Program and the Coastal Conservancy to expand the project boundary beyond the ongoing effort on The Wildlands Conservancy's Eel River Estuary Preserve and to address the complex issues of drainage, habitat, and ocean incursion on a landscape that is interlinked and invaluable to local agricultural and wildlife and public access interests.

The project area enjoys some of the most productive agricultural land in the state. But this area is threatened by ocean incursion and is heavily impacted by floodwater and drainage problems. Without action, we can expect dune overwash to convert pasture to pickleweed salt marsh, and sediment loads from headwater streams to clog important drainage waterways, thereby exacerbating existing drainage problems. In addition to the protection of agriculture land use, the restoration and enhancement of our state's estuarine resources is of immediate concern for the benefit of multiple state and Federally listed species, such as coho and Chinook salmon as well as Steelhead. Restoration of California's estuaries is of vital importance to the recovery of wild fish and the sport fishing industry.

I strongly support CalTrout's efforts to solve complex resource issues and urge your favorable consideration of the Eel River Estuary and Centerville Slough Enhancement Project. Feel free to contact my office with any questions.

Respectfully,



JIM WOOD
 Assemblymember, 2nd District

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NOV 16 2015
 COASTAL CONSERVANCY
 OAKLAND, CALIF





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
West Coast Region
1655 Heindon Road
Arcata, California 95521-4573

Douglas H. Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

NOV 12 2015

Re: Eel River Estuary and Centerville Slough Enhancement Project

Dear Chairman Bosco,

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is writing to express our support for CalTrout's request to the Coastal Conservancy to fund the development of California Environmental Quality Act and permitting materials for the proposed Eel River Estuary and Centerville Slough Enhancement Project (Project). The Project is a collaborative effort to restore fish passage and estuarine habitat along Centerville Slough while providing for the continued use of productive working lands. The requested funds will augment existing funds from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Restoration Grants Program and the Coastal Conservancy to expand the project boundary beyond the ongoing effort on The Wildlands Conservancy's Eel River Estuary Preserve and to address the complex issues of drainage, habitat, and ocean incursion on a landscape managed for multiple objectives.

We support the Project because restoration and enhancement of the Eel River estuary is of immediate importance for the recovery of threatened salmonids, and because the Project is consistent with the strategies and priorities described in the Final Recovery Plan for Southern Oregon / Northern California Coast Coho Salmon and the Coastal Multispecies Public Draft Recovery Plan which includes the Chinook salmon and steelhead of the Eel River. CalTrout has a track record of effective project management on the north coast, and we look forward to our continued collaboration in this effort to restore valuable habitat necessary for the recovery of listed salmonids.

We appreciate this opportunity to share our enthusiasm and support for CalTrout's request, and we encourage the Coastal Conservancy to prioritize this important work and select it for funding. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Zane Ruddy at (707) 825-5173 or zane.ruddy@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,


Justin Ly
Acting South Coast Branch Chief
Northern California Office

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



Exhibit 3: Project Letters

cc: Darren Mierau – CalTrout
Michael Bowen – State Coastal Conservancy



Douglas H. Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

November 2, 2015

Re: Support for Eel River and Centerville Slough Enhancement: sea level rise resiliency, salmonid habitat restoration, and protection of working lands

Dear Chairman Bosco,

As a landowner in the southern Eel River whose property will be included in the Eel River Estuary and Centerville Slough Enhancement Project (Project), I write in support of California Trout's request to the Coastal Conservancy for \$175,000 to fund the development of CEQA and permitting materials for this important landscape enhancement effort. The project will protect and enhance productive working lands as well as restore fish passage and estuarine habitat along historic Centerville Slough. The project will also help provide CEQA coverage for future activities on our land that are proposed as part of the project. These funds will augment existing funds from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Restoration Grants Program and the Coastal Conservancy to expand the project boundary of an ongoing effort that will address the complex issues of drainage, habitat, and ocean incursion across a broad landscape that is invaluable to local agricultural and wildlife interests.

Land in the project area is very productive, but it is threatened by a combination of ocean incursion, annual significant sediment deposits (geology) and subsequent drainage problems. Without action, we can expect continued dune breach and over wash to sand -in existing drainage waterways, and sediment loads from headwater streams, Russ and Shaw Creek to remain uncontrolled, thereby reducing the productivity of our pastures and diminishing habitat value. While we are primarily interested in maximizing productive agricultural land, we also are working towards ways this can be done in concert with habitat enhancement as the project proposes. Without managing the sediment from these tributary drainages this poses a threat to the Eel River estuary.

The Eel River Estuary and Centerville Slough Enhancement Project is an expansion of the boundaries for a restoration and enhancement project that was initiated in 2013. As currently proposed, this expanded project is a more comprehensive approach that connects watercourses and drainage features across property lines. The 2013 project produced preliminary designs based on hydrologic and environmental supporting studies that indicate a project can be conducted to improve conditions on property to the north of our land. Our interest is to fully maximize the design the of previous smaller project components, which must extend onto our property and thereby extend project benefits. The expanded project area encompasses a lower watershed system therein making for a more practical, feasible and logical agricultural and ecological management area.

Exhibit 3: Project Letters

We support the environmental and supporting studies that enable a CEQA analysis for this broader, more comprehensive project. I, representing Russ Ranch and Timber and Jack and Linda Russ strongly support CalTrout's efforts to address these complex resource issues while balancing the needs of human uses and habitat, urging your favorable consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,



Jay Russ



THE WILDLANDS CONSERVANCY

Douglas H. Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Eel River Estuary and Centerville Slough Enhancement Project

Dear Chairman Bosco,

The Wildlands Conservancy (TWC), as a project partner and landowner at the site, is writing to express support for the Eel River Estuary and Centerville Slough Enhancement Project (ERECS Project).

TWC purchases and restores landscapes, and builds visitor facilities to welcome the public back to the land. We also fund more outdoor education programming at no cost to participants than any other nonprofit provider in California

The Wildlands Conservancy, with California Trout and other partners, are determined to design a project that will protect and enhance productive working lands while restoring fish passage and estuarine habitat along historic Centerville Slough.

The project will also provide key public access to extend the coastal trail and showcase wildlife & nature viewing. We see the public access offering combined with the fish restoration effort as creating new opportunities for the local economy and adding to the enjoyment of outdoor recreation in one of California's most beautiful natural places.

Whether the metric is preserving traditional agricultural practices while restoring native species habitats, or expanding recreational opportunities for a growing tourist economy, this is an effort we can support. We appreciate the Board's consideration of this, and urge your approval.

All the best,

Dan York

Vice President, The Wildlands Conservancy

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**COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF**





COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

D-2

For the meeting of: November 17, 2015

Date: November 5, 2015

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor Rex Bohn

Subject: Letter of Support for Cal Trout's request to the Coastal Conservancy for funding for an Eel River Estuary and Centerville Slough Enhancement Project.

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Board of Supervisors authorize the Chair to sign letter of support.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: California Trout has request a letter to the California State Coastal Conservancy in support of funding for their Eel River Estuary and Centerville Slough Enhancement Project. The proposed project would protect and enhance productive working lands while restoring fish passage and estuarine habitat along historic Centerville Slough. If approved, these funds will augment existing funds from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Restoration Grans Program and the Coastal Conservancy to expand the project boundary beyond the ongoing efforts on the Wildlands Conservancy's Eel River Estuary Preserve. The project will address the complex issues of drainage, habitat, and ocean incursion on a landscape that is interlinked to local agriculture, public access, and wildlife interest.

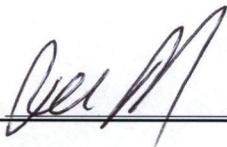
FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: Project Description and Letter of Support.

Prepared by Kathy Hayes

Signature 

REVIEW:

Auditor _____ County Counsel _____ Personnel _____ Risk Manager _____ Other _____

TYPE OF ITEM:

- Consent
- Departmental
- Public Hearing
- Other _____

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. _____

Meeting of: _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Upon motion of Supervisor Sundberg Seconded by Supervisor Bass

Ayes Sundberg, Lovelace, Fennell, Bohn, Bass

Nays _____

Abstain _____

Absent _____

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: Nov. 17, 2015

By: 
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board



"Solving complex resource issues while balancing the needs of wild fish and people."

Re: Eel River Estuary and Centerville Slough Enhancement Project

Organization seeking support

California Trout
360 Pine Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104
(415) 392-8887
Tax ID#: 23-7097680

Description of project for which support is sought

California Trout (CalTrout) seeks support for a grant from the California State Coastal Conservancy for a total of \$175,000 to fund the development of CEQA and permitting materials for the Eel River Estuary and Centerville Slough Enhancement Project ("ERESC Project"). The proposed project would protect and enhance productive working lands while restoring fish passage and estuarine habitat along historic Centerville Slough. These funds will augment existing funds from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Restoration Grants Program and the Coastal Conservancy to expand the project boundary beyond the ongoing effort on The Wildlands Conservancy's Eel River Estuary Preserve. The project will address the complex issues of drainage, habitat, and ocean incursion on a landscape that is interlinked and invaluable to local agricultural, public access, and wildlife interests.

The ERECS Project is an expansion of the boundary for a restoration and enhancement project that had been under development since 2013, The Eel River Estuary Preserve Restoration and Enhancement Project. Since that time the area landowners have worked together to develop a mutually beneficial project that will protect and enhance the area's vibrant agricultural economy now and in the future, while also achieving historic benefits for natural resources. By working closely with all adjacent landowners, CalTrout, The Wildlands Conservancy and the project team have helped develop a more broad design solution for protection against ocean incursion, improved drainage and productivity of agricultural lands and restoration of fish access and estuarine habitat. The majority landowner, The Wildlands Conservancy, is an organization dedicated to providing recreational and outdoor education opportunities on their preserves, and their intent is that the Eel River Estuary Preserve will be an additional destination point for the expanding tourist economy of the North Coast.

The project area enjoys some of the most productive agricultural land in the state. But this area is threatened by ocean incursion and is heavily impacted by floodwater and drainage problems. Without action, we can expect dune overwash to convert pasture to pickleweed salt marsh, and sediment loads from headwater streams to clog important drainage waterways, thereby exacerbating existing drainage problems. In addition to the protection of agriculture land use, the restoration and enhancement of our state's estuarine resources is of immediate concern for the benefit of multiple state and Federally listed species, such as coho and Chinook salmon as well as Steelhead. Restoration of California's estuaries is of vital importance to the recovery of wild fish and the sport fishing industry.

Describe CalTrout's leadership – permitting – public comment.

CalTrout has pioneered fishery enhancement work in California for 42 years. The organization has managed several Department of Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Restoration Grants for comparable work, and

currently manages multiple grants from the Coastal Conservancy and CDFW, including the ongoing EREP Project that is proposed for expansion. CalTrout has demonstrated the technical and procedural competence necessary to manage and complete the proposed work. Additionally, CalTrout and the project team have sought and now have won the support of neighboring landowners. The alliance of this diverse group of stakeholders, to forge consensus and broad commitment to the realization of these important restoration efforts is a landmark effort in the lower Eel River.

The project team will prepare an Environmental Impact Report and will comply with CEQA.

What is the timeline?

Position letters and support letters will be presented at the California State Coastal Conservancy on December 3rd, 2015. We would appreciate receiving the letter by November 20th.

The proposed project will join the ongoing planning and design effort on The Wildlands Conservancy's Eel River Estuary Preserve and has a project completion date of February 2017.

Who is being asked to support your request?

U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman, State Senator Mike McGuire, Assemblyman Jim Wood, Humboldt County, and other community organizations and individuals.

Please indicate how much the project will cost and who would most directly be affected by it.

	Eel River Estuary and Centerville Slough Enhancement Project
CA State Coastal Conservancy – Dec. 3rd	\$175,000
CDFW FRGP – current funding	\$700,233
CA State Coastal Conservancy – current funding	\$336,950
Total	\$1,214,430

The Eel River Estuary and Centerville Slough Enhancement Project addresses the health and well-being of the local coastal community, fisheries, and regional communities that depend upon the recovery of salmonid populations and the protection of productive agricultural lands. Sportfishing is of ever-increasing importance to the local and State economy while coastal salmonid populations are increasingly at risk from human and climate induced alterations of habitat and water quality. Recovering coastal salmon populations to sustainable levels is of national interest, and California can play a major role in this effort. Reopening historic habitat and providing recreational and educational opportunities while improving agricultural land use where advisable is an excellent way to achieve this goal.

Please cc: this letter to the following recipients. Telephone numbers are provided below to answer questions about information supplied on this form.

Darren Mierau – CalTrout North Coast Program Director
 (707) 825-0420; dmierau@caltrout.org; 615 11th Street, Arcata, CA 95521
 Michael Bowen – State Coastal Conservancy Project Manager
 (510) 286-0720; mbowen@scc.ca.gov; 1330 Broadway, 13th floor, Oakland, CA 94612



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET

EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501-1153 PHONE (707) 476-2390 FAX (707) 445-7299

November 17, 2015

Douglas H. Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Eel River Estuary and Centerville Slough Enhancement Project

Dear Chairman Bosco,

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in full support of California Trout's request to the Coastal Conservancy to fund the development of CEQA and permitting materials for the proposed Eel River Estuary and Centerville Slough Enhancement Project ("ERECS Project"). The proposed project would protect and enhance productive working lands while restoring fish passage and estuarine habitat along historic Centerville Slough. These funds will augment existing funds from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Restoration Grants Program and the Coastal Conservancy to expand the project boundary beyond the ongoing effort on The Wildlands Conservancy's Eel River Estuary Preserve and to address the complex issues of drainage, habitat, and ocean incursion on a landscape that is interlinked and invaluable to local agricultural, wildlife and public access interests.

The ERECS Project is an expansion of the boundary for a restoration and enhancement project that had been under development since 2013, The Eel River Estuary Preserve Restoration and Enhancement Project. Since that time the area landowners have developed a working relationship and a mutually beneficial project that will protect and enhance the area's vibrant agricultural economy now and in the future, while also achieving historic benefits for natural resources. By working closely with all adjacent landowners, CalTrout, The Wildlands Conservancy and our project team have helped develop a more broad design solution for protection against ocean incursion, improved drainage and productivity of agricultural lands and restoration of fish access and estuarine habitat. The majority landowner, The Wildlands Conservancy, is an organization dedicated to providing recreational and outdoor education opportunities on their preserves, and their intent is that the Eel River Estuary Preserve will be an additional destination point for the expanding tourist economy of the North Coast.

Exhibit 3: Project Letters

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Our Board strongly support CalTrout's efforts to solve complex resource issues and urge your favorable consideration of the Eel River Estuary and Centerville Slough Enhancement Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Estelle Fennell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Estelle Fennell, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

EF:kh