



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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JOHN J. PRESLEIGH
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

June 23, 2014

BART PROSE
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, REGION 8
Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program
2800 Cottage Way Room W-1729
Sacramento, CA 95825

SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear Mr. Prose:

The County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works is pleased to support the proposal being submitted by the California State Coastal Conservancy to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation (NCWC) Grant Program to restore tidal marshes and connected uplands in Elkhorn Slough. Our department has provided \$130,000 of in-kind support for the proposed project by excavating in excess of 50,000 cubic yards of clean riverine sediment material from the Pajaro River and hauling it to a stockpiling site near Elkhorn Slough. The proposed addition of the Pajaro sediment to 18 acres of severely impaired tidal marsh sites will help to restore historic ecologically rich conditions at Elkhorn Slough and establish a vegetated buffer comprised of native plant species between the wetlands and nearby agricultural fields.

Public Works had a positive experience collaborating with the Elkhorn Slough Foundation (ESF) and the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (Reserve) during our recent work to improve the hydraulic conveyance and riparian habitats of the Pajaro River. The ESF and Reserve recognized, early on, the potential value of the Pajaro sediment material to their planned restoration efforts and worked effectively to evaluate the material and, when deemed suitable, to find and prepare a suitable stockpiling location at the slough on an extremely tight schedule. The established network of expert decision-makers at the ESF and Reserve was uniquely qualified and positioned to complete the demanding biological, engineering, permitting and communication efforts necessary to our mutual efforts.

BART PROSE
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, REGION 8
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Public Works urges the NCWC to provide funding to place the sediment material on the tidal wetlands of Elkhorn Slough in order to complete this important project.

Yours truly,



JOHN J. PRESLEIGH
Director of Public Works

MJS:sh

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-5791



June 6, 2014

Mr. Bart Prose
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 8
Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-1729
Sacramento, California 95825

Subject: Letter of Financial Commitment for the Integrated Ecosystem Restoration in the Elkhorn Slough Foundation

Dear Mr. Prose:

This letter confirms that the Integrated Ecosystem Restoration in the Elkhorn Slough Foundation Project (IERESF) is included in Grant Agreement 4600009727, the Department of Water Resources holds with the City of Soledad.

The City of Soledad was awarded a total of \$4,139,000 in Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management Round 1 Implementation grant funds for the implementation of numerous projects, including the IERESF Project. This project is budgeted to receive \$913,339 in State funds. The Elkhorn Slough Foundation, in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve is the project proponent implementing this project.

Per the scope of work, the IERESF Project will do the following

1. Develop a program for the beneficial reuse of sediment generated by the flood control and/or harbor maintenance projects.
2. Develop a plan to restore 100 acres of the Elkhorn Slough's salt marsh, and construct the sediment stockpile to restore 18 acres of that plan.
3. Develop a plan to create a 35 acre native grass buffer to reduce non-point source pollution of the Elkhorn Slough estuary.
4. Construct three acres of that plan.

If you have any questions, please contact DWR Project Manager, Monica Reis at (916) 651-9291 or email Monica.Reis@water.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracie L. Billington".

Tracie L. Billington, P.E., Chief
Financial Assistance Branch
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Director's Office
1416 Ninth Street, 12th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
www.wildlife.ca.gov

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



June 02, 2014

Bart Prose
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 8
Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program
2800 Cottage Way Room W-1729
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Prose:

The California Department of Wildlife would like to express support for the California State Coastal Conservancy proposal submitted to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation (NCWC) Grant Program for restoration of tidal marsh and adjacent uplands at the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Elkhorn Slough is home to the largest tract of remaining tidal salt marsh in California south of San Francisco Bay. The estuary provides habitat for hundreds of species of plants and animals and is a destination for many visitors to the area. However, fifty percent of the tidal salt marsh in Elkhorn Slough has been lost in the past 70 years. Loss of tidal salt marsh is caused by a variety of factors that conspire to drown marsh vegetation and erode the Slough bathymetry. Scientists are predicting that the dramatic rates of tidal wetland loss and degradation in Elkhorn Slough will continue in the near future if no management actions are taken.

The proposed project aims to restore 18 acres of severely impaired areas of Elkhorn Slough to their historic, ecologically rich tidal marsh conditions, and to create a three-acre native perennial vegetated buffer between agricultural fields and the wetland. The Elkhorn Slough Foundation and the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve are uniquely positioned to implement their proposal, drawing on an established network of expert decision makers already focused on the slough. This project represents a good opportunity to improve the resilience of a high value native habitat with actions that will benefit federally listed and managed species.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is providing \$10,500 in staff time in support of this project. I urge the NCWC to provide funding for this important project. Thank you for this opportunity to express my support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Feliz".

Dave Feliz
Elkhorn Slough Reserve Manager
California Department of Fish and Wildlife



Central Coast Wetlands

To coordinate the advancement of wetland science and management on the Central Coast

Moss Landing Marine Labs (831) 771-4463 www.centralcoastwetlands.org

April 25, 2012

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support for the Elkhorn Slough Foundation's proposal to the CA Coastal Conservancy

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to support funding from the California Coastal Conservancy to the Elkhorn Slough Foundation for the preparation for continued efforts to restore tidal marsh and connected uplands in Elkhorn Slough.

The Elkhorn Slough estuary, containing California's second largest tract of salt marsh, is facing unprecedented rates of tidal wetland loss and degradation. Fifty percent of the tidal salt marsh in Elkhorn Slough has been lost in the past 70 years. This habitat loss is a result of diking and draining, increased tidal flooding that "drowns" the vegetation, and bank erosion that causes the marsh to collapse into the channel. Scientists are predicting that the dramatic rates of tidal wetland loss and degradation in Elkhorn Slough will continue in the near future if no management actions are taken.

Staff from the Central Coast Wetlands Group have participated in the planning efforts that have led to the drafting of the [Elkhorn Slough Tidal Wetland Project Strategic Plan](#) and are now working to assist the Foundation in the implementation of projects described within that document. CCWG is also working collaboratively with ESF within the adjacent Moro Cojo Slough and our efforts to implement the Moro Cojo Management and Enhancement Plan will benefit from ESF's continued success at restoring tidal salt marsh in the Elkhorn Slough.

We support Elkhorn Slough Foundations continued efforts to manage and restore the resources of the Slough.

Sincerely,

Ross Clark
Director, Central Coast Wetlands Group
Moss Landing Marine Labs