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SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0030
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DISTRICT OFFICE
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SALINAS, CA 93901
(831) 759-8676
FAX (831) 759-2961

E-MAIL
Assemblymember.Alejo@assembly.ca.gov

**Assembly
California Legislature**



LUIS A. ALEJO
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTIETH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CHAIR: CALIFORNIA LATINO
LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS
CHAIR: ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY
AND TOXIC MATERIALS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
JUDICIARY
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

February 22, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to support the Elkhorn Slough Foundation's (ESF) proposal to the State Coastal Conservancy to purchase the 107 acre Sand Hill Farm in North Monterey County's Elkhorn Slough. The Slough has long been recognized as a national treasure and a focal point for innovative and effective conservation and an important resource for my constituents. The proposed acquisition will advance several interlinked goals including connecting large blocks of protected lands, reducing erosion from steep sandy slopes in the watershed, protecting groundwater resources through increased infiltration and reduction of pumping, restoring key natural habitats and creating natural corridors for wildlife. At the same time, a sustainable farm footprint will be defined to maintain this important economic activity for our community.

The property that is the focus of acquisition has long been on the region's 'wish-list' for protection and improved management. This is a timely opportunity to acquire key property for permanently protecting the extraordinary slough resources. We have complete confidence in the Elkhorn Slough Foundation's ability to acquire and manage this land and support their vision for the Slough.

This land has been a major source erosion impacting a major county, creating safety and environmental concerns. In addition to eliminating this erosion problem, I anticipate significant positive improvements in water quantity and quality following the restoration of habitats on this land.

The proposed acquisition will protect the tidal wetlands of the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve by reducing damaging inputs of sediment and nutrients. The proposed actions will greatly improve the conditions of this area and its value to fish, wildlife and the residents and visitors to our area. In addition, the ESF staff expects an annual saving of close to one hundred acre feet of water per year resulting from a reduction in the farm footprint on steep hillsides that are currently cultivated. This is a significant amount of water for this overdraft aquifer.



Exhibit 3: Project Letters

I fully support this proposal and look forward to the positive benefits to the entire community that will follow the completion of the proposed work. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call my District Office at 831-759-8676 or via email at Assemblymember.Alejo@asm.ca.gov.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luis Alejo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "A".

Luis Alejo
Assemblymember
California Assembly, District 30

COMMITTEES
BANKING AND FINANCE
HUMAN SERVICES
NATURAL RESOURCES

SELECT COMMITTEES
CHAIR: COASTAL PROTECTION
CHAIR: EXPANDING ACCESS TO
CALIFORNIA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Assembly
California Legislature



MARK STONE
CHAIR, JUDICIARY
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-NINTH DISTRICT

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
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FAX (916) 319-2129

DISTRICT OFFICES
701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 318B
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 425-1503
FAX (831) 425-2570

99 PACIFIC STREET, SUITE 575G
MONTEREY, CA 93940
(831) 649-2832
FAX (831) 649-2935

February 22, 2016

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

RE: Support for Elkhorn Slough Foundation's purchase of Sand Hill Farm

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal submitted by the Elkhorn Slough Foundation's (Foundation) to purchase the 107 acre Sand Hill Farm.

With its biologically diverse wetland system, Elkhorn Slough is an ecological gem that supports one of California's most threatened ecosystems. This proposed acquisition will advance several interlinked goals that are crucial to preserving the Foundation's highest priority conservation target in the Elkhorn watershed. This includes protecting groundwater resources through increased infiltration and reduction of pumping, connecting large blocks of protected lands, reducing erosion from steep sandy slopes in the watershed, restoring key natural habitats, creating natural corridors for wildlife, and lastly defining a sustainable farm footprint to maintain this important economic activity for our community.

Furthermore, the proposed acquisition will better protect the tidal wetlands of the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve by reducing damaging inputs of sediment and nutrients. This will greatly improve the conditions of this area and its value to fish, wildlife and the residents and visitors to our area.

I know that the Sand Hill Farm has long been one of the region's top priorities for protection and improved management. This is a timely opportunity for the Foundation to acquire this key property and permanently protect the extraordinary slough resources. I have complete confidence in the Elkhorn Slough Foundation's ability to acquire and manage this land.

I fully support the Foundation's vision for the Slough and this proposal. I look forward to the positive benefits that will follow. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (831) 649-2832.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Stone".

Mark Stone
Assemblymember
29th Assembly District



MONTEREY COUNTY



Monterey County Board of Supervisors

John M. Phillips
Supervisor District 2

Josh Stratton
Aide to the Supervisor

Claudia J. Link
Aide to the Supervisor

P.O. Box 787
Castroville, CA 95012
831-755-5022
831-633-0201
District2@co.monterey.ca.us

February 18, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am pleased to provide strong support for the Elkhorn Slough Foundation's (ESF) proposal to the State Coastal Conservancy to fund a critical conservation acquisition of the 107 acre Sand Hill Farm in North Monterey County's Elkhorn Slough. The Slough has long been recognized as a national treasure and a focal point for innovative and effective conservation. The proposed work will advance several interlinked goals including connecting large blocks of protected lands, the reduction of erosion from steep sandy slopes in the watershed, the protection of groundwater resources through increased infiltration and reduction of pumping, restoration of key natural habitats and the creation of natural corridors for wildlife. At the same time, a sustainable farm footprint will be defined to maintain this important economic activity for our community.

The property that is the focus of acquisition has long been on the county's 'wish-list' for protection and improved management. This is a timely opportunity to acquire key property for permanently protecting the extraordinary slough resources. We have complete confidence in the Elkhorn Slough Foundation's ability to acquire and manage this land and support their vision for the Slough.

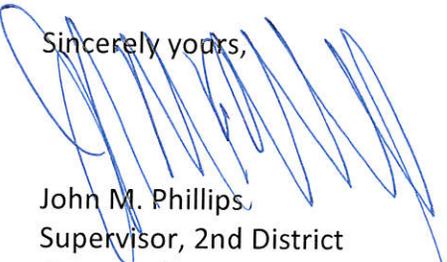
This land has been a major source erosion impacting a major county road and county public works budgets. I anticipate significant positive improvements in water quantity and quality following the restoration of habitats on this land.

The proposed acquisition will protect the tidal wetlands of the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve by reducing damaging inputs of sediment and nutrients. The proposed actions will greatly improve the conditions of this area and its value to fish, wildlife and the residents and visitors to our area. In addition, the ESF staff expect an annual saving of close to one hundred acre feet of water per year resulting from a reduction in the farm footprint on steep hillsides that are currently cultivated. This is a significant amount of water for this overdrafted aquifer.

Exhibit 3: Project Letters

I fully support this proposal and look forward to the positive benefits to the entire community that will follow the completion of the proposed work.

Sincerely yours,



John M. Phillips
Supervisor, 2nd District
County of Monterey, Board of Supervisors



State of California – The Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710
www.wildlife.ca.gov

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



March 8, 2016

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, California 94612

Subject: **Support letter for acquisition of San Hill Farm property,
Monterey County**

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to support the Elkhorn Slough Foundation's (Foundation) proposal to the State Coastal Conservancy to purchase the 107 acre Sand Hill Farm in North Monterey County's Elkhorn Slough. This acquisition will provide much needed protection for the Elkhorn Slough from the harmful inputs of sediment and the chemicals associated with that sediment. It will also help move forward with the mutual strategy we share with the Foundation of connecting large blocks of protected lands in the Elkhorn Slough watershed.

This property was one of the desired acquisitions in a watershed conservation plan we worked on with the Foundation, The Nature Conservancy and the Coastal Conservancy. Now that there is a willing seller, this is a timely opportunity. The Department and the Foundation have worked together for over thirty years at the Elkhorn Slough and we have confidence in the Foundation's ability to acquire and manage this land in accordance with this plan.

We anticipate significant positive improvements in water quality following the restoration of habitats on this land. Additionally, the Foundation staff expects an annual saving of close to one hundred acre feet of water per year resulting from a reduction in the farm footprint on steep hillsides that are currently cultivated. This is a significant amount of water for this over-drafted aquifer.

The proposed acquisition will protect the tidal wetlands of the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve by reducing damaging inputs of sediment and nutrients. The proposed actions will greatly improve the Reserve's value to fish, wildlife and visitors to our area.

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
March 8, 2016
Page 2

We fully support this proposal and look forward to the positive benefits to the entire community that will follow the completion of the proposed work

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie A. Vance", written over a horizontal line.

JAV Julie A. Vance
Regional Manager



Friends, Artists & Neighbors of
Elkhorn Slough

OUR MISSION

Friends, Artists and Neighbors of Elkhorn Slough is an association of citizens committed to preserving and enhancing Elkhorn Slough through public education, citizen activism and advocacy. We are dedicated to establishing and maintaining a management plan that will protect the environmental, cultural and agricultural integrity of the slough and its surrounding watershed and will restore, protect, and preserve Elkhorn Slough as a legacy for future generations.

February 22, 2016

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

Re: Elkhorn Slough Foundation's Tideline to the Ridgeline IRWMP Proposal

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of Friends Artists & Neighbors of Elkhorn Slough (FANS), I'm writing you to express strong support for the Elkhorn Slough Foundation's proposal to the Coastal Conservancy to fund the acquisition of the Sand Hill Farm on Elkhorn Slough. This acquisition addresses key water resource challenges in a significant part of our neighborhood as well as connecting large tracts of protected lands, improves habitat and sustains valuable economic farm activity in a way that protects the environment.

Our neighborhood will benefit from changed land management on the farmlands that drain directly to the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. The farm fields on steep slopes have eroded and blocked Elkhorn Road, creating a vehicle safety hazard. Retiring farming on steep slopes, while creating a sustainable farm footprint on the lower gentle contours, will eliminate the risk of road closure and address our serious groundwater depletion issues while maintaining the farm economy of our area.

P.O. Box 180 Moss Landing, California 95039

Groundwater is being polluted and depleted while seawater is moving into the upper aquifer. Our residential wells are at risk of going dry or salty, which would require expensive deeper wells as replacement. Reducing ground water pumping from these farms, by an estimated 100 acre-feet, will leave more water in the ground and habitat restoration will further increase groundwater recharge. The groundwater quality should improve by reduced nitrate fertilizer application on these farms. Finally we anticipate freshwater springs re-establishing which will provide habitat for the listed amphibian species; California red-legged frog, California Tiger Salamander and the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander.

We see this as a winning project with great benefits to the neighborhood, the region and the state.

FANS is happy to express our strong support for this proposal and urge its approval with full funding.

Sincerely,



Mari Kloeppe
Co-chair, FANS

RECEIVED

FEB 25 2016
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.