

JARED HUFFMAN  
2ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

Exhibit 4: Project Letters

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
1630 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
PHONE: (202) 225-5161  
FAX: (202) 225-5163

COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
WATER, POWER, AND OCEANS – RANKING MEMBER  
FEDERAL LANDS  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT  
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0502

WEBSITE: [huffman.house.gov](http://huffman.house.gov)

April 5, 2016

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

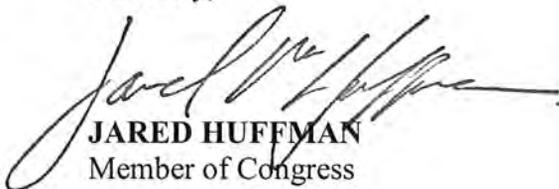
Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing in support of Coastal Ecosystems Institute of Northern California's (CEINC) application for funds for improving fish access and channel conditions on Cochran Creek, a tributary to Freshwater Creek and Humboldt Bay. The project aims to address limiting factors for protected salmonids in Cochran Creek and its tributary Quail Slough including fish migration barriers, lack of structure, and rearing and riparian habitat.

Cochran Creek once supported spawning populations of coho salmon and steelhead before land conversion and tide gates blocked access to the upper watershed. However, coho salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout still occur in Cochran Creek occasionally. This project will use an existing restoration plan to design and permit a project that will meet statewide priorities, including improved drainage, reduction of maintenance for flood control structures, improved floodwater conveyance and sediment routing, and fostering relationships with private agricultural landowners.

Thank you for your serious consideration of CEINC's application. Please call my Eureka district office at (707)407-3585 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



JARED HUFFMAN  
Member of Congress

**SAN RAFAEL**  
999 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 290  
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94901  
PHONE: (415) 258-9657  
FAX: (415) 258-9913

**PETALUMA**  
206 G STREET, #3  
PETALUMA, CA 94952  
PHONE: (707) 981-8967  
FAX: (415) 258-9913

**UKIAH**  
559 LOW GAP ROAD  
UKIAH, CA 95482  
PHONE & FAX: (707) 671-7449

**FORT BRAGG**  
430 NORTH FRANKLIN STREET  
P.O. Box 2208  
FORT BRAGG, CA 95437  
PHONE: (707) 962-0933  
FAX: (707) 962-0905

**EUREKA**  
317 THIRD STREET, SUITE 1  
EUREKA, CA 95501  
PHONE: (707) 407-3585  
FAX: (707) 407-3559

Exhibit 4: Project Letters  
**California State Senate**

SENATOR  
**MIKE McGUIRE**  
SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



March 31, 2016

Chairman Doug Bosco  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to express my support for the Coastal Ecosystems Institute of Northern California Cochran Creek Fish Passage and Channel Restoration Planning and Design Project. The project will restore fish access and channel conditions in Cochran Creek, a sub-watershed of Freshwater Creek, and an anadromous tributary to Humboldt Bay.

This project will provide innovative, implementation-ready restoration designs to address key limiting factors for ESA-listed salmonids in Cochran Creek and its tributary Quail Slough. The ensuing project will improve fish passage, floodplain and channel structure, rearing habitat quality and availability, and riparian habitat.

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 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 I can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to call my office at (707) 445-6508. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MIKE McGUIRE".

MIKE McGUIRE  
Senator

Exhibit 4: Project Letters

Assembly  
California Legislature



**JIM WOOD**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SECOND DISTRICT

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

**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

April 20, 2016

Doug Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

**RE: Cochran Creek Fish Passage and Channel Restoration: Planning and Design**

Chair Bosco,

I write in support of the Cochran Creek Fish Passage and Channel Restoration Project. This project will provide innovative, implementation-ready restoration designs to address key limiting factors for ESA-listed salmonids in Cochran Creek and its tributary Quail Slough, including:

- fish passage;
- lack of floodplain and channel structure;
- rearing habitat quality/availability; and
- riparian habitat quality

Historically, Cochran Creek supported spawning populations of ESA-listed coho salmon and steelhead before access to the upper watershed was constrained by landscape-scale land conversions and the installation of tide gates. Despite the current tide gate migration barrier, sporadic observations of coho, steelhead, and coastal cutthroat trout upstream of the project site indicate that anadromous salmonids will utilize Cochran Creek for spawning and rearing, if such access is provided on a regular basis.

A comprehensive restoration plan for Cochran Creek was completed during 2006-2011, but was not implemented due to multiple factors, primarily a change in land ownership. The new landowners (John Gary and Heather Plaza), however, have met with the project proponents several times over the past 18 months, and have submitted a letter of support for planning and implementation phases to proceed on their property.

Thank you for your serious consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Wood".

**JIM WOOD**  
Assemblymember, 2<sup>nd</sup> District



Exhibit 4: Project Letters



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET

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

April 19, 2016

Doug Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Letter of Support for State Coastal Conservancy Project: *Cochran Creek Fish Passage and Channel Restoration: Planning and Design*

Dear Chair Bosco:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in full support of this project to restore fish access and channel conditions in Cochran Creek, a sub-watershed of Freshwater Creek, and an anadromous tributary to Humboldt Bay. This project will provide innovative, implementation-ready restoration designs to address key limiting factors for ESA-listed salmonids in Cochran Creek and its tributary Quail Slough, including:

- fish passage;
- lack of floodplain and channel structure;
- rearing habitat quality/availability; and
- riparian habitat quality

Historically, Cochran Creek supported spawning populations of ESA-listed Coho salmon and steelhead before access to the upper watershed was constrained by landscape-scale land conversions and the installation of tide gates. Despite the current tide gate migration barrier, sporadic observations of Coho, steelhead, and coastal cutthroat trout upstream of the project site indicate that anadromous salmonids will utilize Cochran Creek for spawning and rearing, if such access is provided on a regular basis.

A comprehensive restoration plan for Cochran Creek was completed during 2006-2011, but was not implemented due to multiple factors, primarily a change in land ownership. The new landowners (John Gary and Heather Plaza), however, have met with the project proponents several times over the past 18 months, and have submitted a letter of support for planning and implementation phases to proceed on their property.

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This project will revisit and utilize the aforementioned existing plans and conceptual designs to the maximum extent possible, with the final deliverable to include 100% implementation ready designs with completed permitting. These final design plans, once implemented, will provide multiple economic and environmental benefits addressing critical statewide needs and priorities, including:

- Improve drainage, and reduce maintenance of flood control structures for agricultural land owners;
- Increase the flood confinement and flood conveyance of Cochran Creek and Quail Slough channels through excavation of wider and deeper channels with more cross sectional area;
- Improve sediment routing from adjacent agricultural pasturelands to Cochran Creek and Quail Slough, through Fay Slough and Eureka Slough, and ultimately to Humboldt Bay;
- Continue to foster working relationships with resource agencies and agricultural landowners to advance essential work on private lands in historic estuarine areas around Humboldt Bay;
- Provide resilience against climate change-induced loss of anadromous fish rearing habitat;
- Advances previous SCC funded planning efforts to restore anadromous habitats in Cochran Creek.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this very important project.

Sincerely,



Mark Lovelace, Chair  
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

ML:kh



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office  
1655 Heindon Road  
Arcata, California, 95521  
Phone: (707) 822-7201 FAX: (707) 822-8411

In Reply Refer To:  
AFWO

April 19, 2016

Doug Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Letter of Support for State Coastal Conservancy Project: *Cochran Creek Fish Passage and Channel Restoration: Planning and Design*

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Coastal Program at Humboldt Bay (Coastal Program) supports the efforts of the Coastal Ecosystems Institute of Northern California to request funding from State Coastal Conservancy's Proposition 1 Grants program for planning and design activities to address fish passage and channel restoration in Cochran Creek, Humboldt County, California.

Cochran Creek, a tributary to Humboldt Bay, historically provided high quality spawning and rearing habitat for ESA-listed coho salmon and steelhead trout. In addition, its lower reaches were a tidal slough network that provided critical nursery habitat for estuarine and marine fish species, including the ESA-listed tidewater goby and several commercially important species. The installation of tide gates at its confluence with Fay Slough, along with landscape-scale land conversions upstream resulted in the near-complete loss of fish passage potential into the drainage, the loss of tidal function, and the degradation of freshwater habitat upstream.

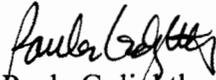
The Coastal Program previously collaborated with the State Coastal Conservancy, providing funding and technical assistance toward the development of a restoration plan for Cochran Creek, which was completed during 2006-2011. This plan has not been implemented to date due to a change in land ownership within the project area. This project will revisit and utilize the aforementioned existing plans and conceptual designs to the maximum extent possible, with the final deliverable to include 100% implementation ready designs with completed permitting.

The Coastal Program has been working for the past 12 years with a diversity of partners to restore fish and wildlife habitat and reestablish ecological function on previously reclaimed tidelands and adjoining watersheds throughout Humboldt Bay. This project will finalize designs and necessary planning and permitting so the project is "shovel-ready" for implementation. The

Exhibit 4: Project Letters

Coastal Program wholeheartedly supports all efforts to restore estuarine habitat and tidal function in Humboldt Bay and looks forward to the opportunity to work with the project proponents to maximize the benefits of the project.

Sincerely,



Paula Golightly  
Supervisory Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
Partners for Fish and Wildlife and Coastal Programs  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1655 Heindon Road  
Arcata, CA 95521

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

Doug Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

April 21, 2016

Subject: Letter of Support for State Coastal Conservancy Project: *Cochran Creek Fish Passage and Channel Restoration: Planning and Design*

Dear California Coastal Conservancy,

The NOAA Restoration Center strongly supports this project to restore fish access and channel conditions in Cochran Creek, a sub-watershed of Freshwater Creek, and an anadromous tributary to Humboldt Bay. This project will provide innovative, implementation-ready restoration designs to address key limiting factors for ESA-listed salmonids in Cochran Creek and its tributary Quail Slough, including:

- fish passage;
- lack of floodplain and channel structure;
- rearing habitat quality/availability; and
- riparian habitat quality

Historically, Cochran Creek supported spawning populations of ESA-listed coho salmon and steelhead before access to the upper watershed was constrained by landscape-scale land conversions and the installation of tide gates. Despite the current tide gate migration barrier, sporadic observations of coho, steelhead, and coastal cutthroat trout upstream of the project site indicate that anadromous salmonids will utilize Cochran Creek for spawning and rearing, if such access is provided on a regular basis.

A comprehensive restoration plan for Cochran Creek was completed during 2006-2011, but was not implemented due to multiple factors, primarily a change in land ownership. The new landowners (John Gary and Heather Plaza), however, have met with the project proponents several times over the past 18 months, and have submitted a letter of support for planning and implementation phases to proceed on their property.

This project will revisit and utilize the aforementioned existing plans and conceptual designs to the maximum extent possible, with the final deliverable to include 100% implementation ready designs with completed permitting. These final design plans, once implemented, will provide multiple economic and environmental benefits addressing critical statewide needs and priorities, including:

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- Improve drainage, and reduce maintenance of flood control structures for agricultural land owners;
- Increase the flood confinement and flood conveyance of Cochran Creek and Quail Slough channels through excavation of wider and deeper channels with more cross sectional area;
- Improve sediment routing from adjacent agricultural pasturelands to Cochran Creek and Quail Slough, through Fay Slough and Eureka Slough, and ultimately to Humboldt Bay;
- Continue to foster working relationships with resource agencies and agricultural landowners to advance essential work on private lands in historic estuarine areas around Humboldt Bay;
- Provide resilience against climate change-induced loss of anadromous fish rearing habitat;
- Advances previous SCC funded planning efforts to restore anadromous habitats in Cochran Creek.

If the NOAA Restoration Center can provide assistance, or if you would like to discuss this further, please contact me at 707-599-2713 or [leah.mahan@noaa.gov](mailto:leah.mahan@noaa.gov). Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leah Mahan".

Leah Mahan

Marine Habitat Resource Specialist

NOAA Restoration Center

## Exhibit 4: Project Letters

John Gary and Heather Plaza  
Organic Matters Ranch  
6743 Myrtle Avenue  
Eureka, CA 95503

December 29, 2015

Karyn Gear, North Coast Regional Manager  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Ms. Gear,

We are writing to express our approval and support for the proposed project "Cochran Creek Fish Passage and Channel Restoration: Planning and Design" that will be submitted to the Conservancy for funding consideration under the current Proposition 1 RFP cycle. We own the immediate property (APN: 40218101) which wholly encompasses the proposed project area, and have recently met with the project proponents for a site tour and to discuss specific details of the restoration work to be planned.

We purchased this property in 2008 while previous restoration planning efforts were still being finalized, and many of the "on-the-ground" details had been negotiated with the previous landowners. While we were supportive of the original restoration concept, as new land and business owners we had many financial decisions to consider and we felt overwhelmed by the initial project's objectives; thus we were unable to support the project moving forward on our land at that time.

Since that time, however, we have developed our agricultural business and settled in as stakeholders in the watershed. As environmentalists we support fish restoration projects in Humboldt Bay that will help bring back salmon and steelhead runs to our local streams. As land and business owners, we also recognize there are chronic landscape-scale problems (e.g.: poor drainage of pasturelands; aggraded stream channels) that are critical for us to address in order to sustain our economic way of life.

We are excited by this currently proposed project because it provides direct benefits to endangered fish runs while also restoring and enhancing stream channels draining our pastures. In addition, we look forward to working directly with this project's proponents to be able to provide input in the planning *and* implementation phases instead of "inheriting" another landowner's priorities/ideas. Thank you for your serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of John Gary and Heather Plaza in black ink. The signature for John Gary is on the left and the signature for Heather Plaza is on the right.

John Gary and Heather Plaza

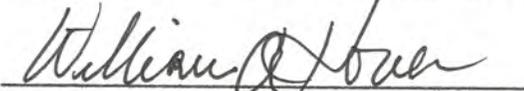
Exhibit 4: Project Letters

Karyn Gear, North Coast Regional Manager  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Ms. Gear,

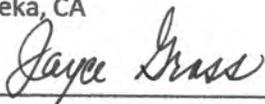
As current landowners in the Cochran Creek watershed, we are writing to express our support for the proposed project "Cochran Creek Fish Passage and Channel Restoration: Planning and Design" that is being submitted to the Conservancy for consideration of funding.

In the past, many of us longer-term residents have observed adult salmon to migrate and spawn in Cochran Creek through our properties, but in recent times such observations have been very rare, apparently due to blocked passage at the tidegate where Cochran Creek flows into Fay Slough. It seems that now salmon are only able to bypass this migration barrier at times when the tidegate is damaged and/or jammed open by debris. We regret the loss of these noble fish in our watershed and fully support this proposed project, which is intended to provide a solution to the tidegate barrier and again allow migration of salmon and steelhead runs back into our valley.



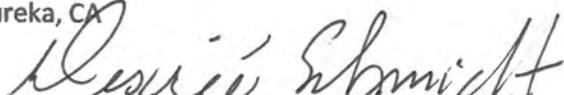
William Hoyer

410 Ole Hanson Rd  
Eureka, CA

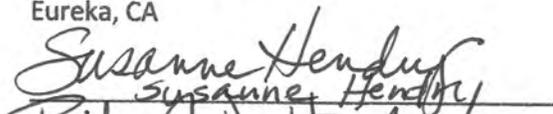
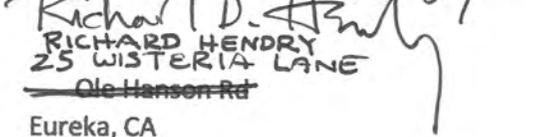


617 Joyce Gross

~~570~~ Ole Hanson Rd  
Eureka, CA

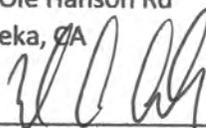
  
DESIREE Schmidt

590 Ole Hanson Rd  
Eureka, CA

  
Susanne Hendry  
  
RICHARD HENDRY  
25 WISTERIA LANE  
~~Ole Hanson Rd~~  
Eureka, CA

ROBERT HARVEY

721 Ole Hanson Rd  
Eureka, CA

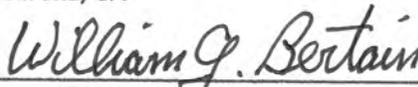


Mark A. Allen

777 Ole Hanson Rd  
Eureka, CA

  
Rebecca Bertain

803 Ole Hanson Rd  
Eureka, CA

  
William G. BERTAIN

803 Ole Hanson Rd  
Eureka, CA