

# California State Senate

**SENATOR MIKE MCGUIRE**

MAJORITY LEADER

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S SECOND SENATE DISTRICT

May 24, 2023



Amy Hutzel, Executive Officer  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

## **Re: Letter of Support for Elk River Estuary Restoration Phase I**

Dear Ms. Hutzel:

I am writing to express my support for California Trout's grant application for the Elk River Estuary Restoration project. The purpose of the project is to acquire and conserve ecologically valuable lands that are currently under the management of CDFW and the Wiyot Tribe within the lower valley and tidal reaches of Elk River. The project would develop engineering designs and regulatory authorizations to restore tidal and estuarine habitat and floodplain connectivity, and protect productive agricultural lands from the impacts of sea level rise.

The Elk River estuary historically consisted of hundreds of acres that supported a diversity of wildlife including avian species, marine life, and endangered salmonid species. Much of this habitat was lost when the area was diked and drained the late 1800's. Restoration of the Elk River estuary is essential to recover federally-designated endangered marine species. The project will also benefit water quality, increase resilience of residential and agricultural lands from degradation from flooding and sea level rise, and enhance wildlife and riparian habitats.

CalTrout's project will also support two other major restoration projects in the Elk River estuary, the Martin Slough Enhancement Project, and the City of Eureka's Elk River Estuary and Intertidal Wetlands Enhancement and Coastal Access Project, which will deliver community benefits in tandem with the CalTrout project.

I wholeheartedly support this effort and hope to see its successful implementation. If our office can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call us at (707) 445-6508.

Warmest regards,

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

MIKE MCGUIRE  
Senator