

Assembly  
California Legislature

**COMMITTEES**  
BANKING AND FINANCE  
BUDGET  
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 5 ON  
PUBLIC SAFETY  
HUMAN SERVICES  
NATURAL RESOURCES

**SELECT COMMITTEES**  
CHAIR: COASTAL PROTECTION AND  
ACCESS TO NATURAL RESOURCES  
CO-CHAIR: ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS

**MARK STONE**  
CHAIR, JUDICIARY  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-NINTH DISTRICT

**STATE CAPITOL**  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0029  
(916) 319-2029  
FAX (916) 319-2129

**DISTRICT OFFICES**  
701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 318B  
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060  
(831) 425-1503 OR  
(408) 782-0647  
FAX (831) 425-2570

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

January 26, 2022

Doug Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1000  
Oakland, CA 94612

**Re: Support for the Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement (CRFREE) Grant Application**

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to request your board's support for the County of Monterey's grant application to fund the Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement project (CRFREE). The grant will ensure the construction of this project, as it will constitute the matching funds required to obtain hazard mitigation funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The CRFREE project will facilitate the restoration of approximately 92 acres of critically needed floodplain on the lower portion of the Carmel River owned by the Big Sur Land Trust (BSLT). The BSLT has an outstanding track record of natural lands management and restoration, making them an ideal organization to oversee the land after the County of Monterey has completed the project. This beneficial project will restore the floodplain to its natural state while also significantly reducing the flood risk to the surrounding residential and commercial communities.

In addition to serving as a floodplain, CRFREE will promote the recovery of the federally endangered South-Central California Coast (SCCC) steelhead population by re-establishing the natural biological processes lost when the floodplain was cut off from the main channel for farming in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Carmel River and its tributaries are listed as a Core 1 watershed under the NOAA's Steelhead Recovery plan, underscoring the project's impact on the surrounding communities and natural ecosystem.

Thank you for your consideration of this very worthy project. Please feel free to contact me at (831) 649-2832 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mark Stone  
Assemblymember, 29<sup>th</sup> District