

Item 6e - Exhibit 3: Letters of Support



COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

1011 Waterfront Drive • Eureka, California 95501-1146 • (707) 441-4241

Ocean Protection Council,
Proposition 1 Grant Program,

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my support for the application submitted to the Ocean Protection Council by the Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA) for the Martin Slough Enhancement Project (the Project). RCAA and the City of Eureka have been collaborating on the Project since 2001 and have conducted a hydrologic study, a feasibility study, a geological study, biological assessment, wetland delineation, hydraulic modeling, and development of 100% engineered plans. Pre-project activities included fish and water quality monitoring and convening a technical advisory committee of government agency representatives and stakeholders to select a preferred alternative and guide the development of project designs. Project designs and CEQA are complete, partial funding has been secured through grant programs including the CA Department of Water Resources, NOAA Fisheries, the US Fish & Wildlife Coastal Program, and the State Coastal Conservancy. A private cost share has been secured from Pacific Gas & Electric Company. The project is shovel ready and will have benefits to coastal dependent uses, especially fish and wildlife habitat. Through fish sampling conducted by the CA Department of Fish & Wildlife we have learned that Martin Slough provides ideal rearing habitat for several species of anadromous salmonids as well as numerous species of wildlife, birds, and water fowl. The project will expand existing brackish ponds and create new tidally-influenced freshwater ponds. It will also restore and enhance brackish marsh and riparian vegetation. Previous project work includes the replacement of old tide gates with a new tide gate structure that improved fish passage and allows the re-introduction of tide waters through a muted tide regulator to support salt and brackish marsh habitat. The City of Eureka owns the property that is the subject of this proposal and will maintain the project if there are definitive assurances from the Department of Fish and Wildlife for long-term (20 year minimum) permit coverage for said maintenance due to the significant benefits this project will provide. We encourage your funding support for this project.

Sincerely,

Miles Slattery,
Community Services Director
City of Eureka

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Assembly California Legislature



JIM WOOD
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SECOND DISTRICT

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FAX (707) 463-5773

May 18th, 2017

Mr. Douglas Bosco
Chairperson
California State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay Street
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairperson Bosco:

I am writing in support of the proposal by the Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA) for the Martin Slough Enhancement Project. Martin Slough is a tributary to Elk River and Humboldt Bay on the southern boundary of the City of Eureka. This critical project will improve the fisheries, wetland, riparian, and wildlife habitat within the Martin Slough watershed while also reducing flooding and economic impacts to cattle producers and the City of Eureka's public golf course.

Fish monitoring in Martin Slough by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has identified it to be highly productive habitat for coho salmon, consistently having the highest total number of young-of-the-year coho salmon with those coho yearlings showing the highest growth rates of all sites sampled around Humboldt Bay. Martin Slough provides critical habitat, and the off-channel habitat that the project will create is a key component in the life cycle of juvenile salmonids -especially the endangered coho salmon. The lower reaches of Martin Slough also provide essential habitat for the endangered tidewater goby as well as numerous other marine species.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this project.

Respectfully,

JIM WOOD
Assemblymember, 2nd District

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MAY 23 2017

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.





BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET, ROOM 111
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501 PHONE: (707) 445-7266

June 6, 2017

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay Street
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chair Bosco:

I am writing in support of the proposal by the Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA) for the Martin Slough Enhancement Project. Martin Slough is a tributary to Elk River and Humboldt Bay on the southern boundary of the City of Eureka. This critical project will improve the fisheries, wetland, riparian, and wildlife habitat within the Martin Slough watershed while also reducing flooding and economic impacts to cattle producers and the City of Eureka's public golf course.

Fish monitoring in Martin Slough by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has identified it to be highly productive habitat for Coho salmon, consistently having the highest total number of young-of-the-year Coho salmon with those Coho yearlings showing the highest growth rates of all sites sampled around Humboldt Bay. Martin Slough provides critical habitat, and the off-channel habitat that the project will create is a key component in the life cycle of juvenile salmonids, especially the endangered Coho salmon. The lower reaches of Martin Slough also provide essential habitat for the endangered tidewater goby as well as numerous other marine species.

RCAA has been coordinating the development of an enhancement plan for Martin Slough and with consulting engineers GHD, Michael Love & Associates, and SHN Consulting Engineers & Geologists has developed 100% designs, a basis of design report, a geotechnical study, and hydraulic modeling in support of project designs. The project team implemented the first phase of the enhancement in 2014 with the replacement of outdated tide gates with a modern muted tide regulator. The project team secured \$2.7 million in 2016 in competitive federal and state grants to fund the implementation of a large portion of the project and will have the permitting in place to do this in August of 2017.

As Humboldt County's 1st District Supervisor, I wholeheartedly support the efforts of RCAA and their project partners at the State Coastal Conservancy in implementing the Martin Slough Enhancement Project and encourage you to assist this community-based effort to improve fisheries habitat in an important Humboldt Bay tributary.

Sincerely,

Rex Bohn, 1st District Supervisor
County of Humboldt

RB:kh