

## Item 6f - Exhibit 3: Letters of Support

JARED HUFFMAN  
2ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
1406 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
PHONE: (202) 225-5161  
FAX: (202) 225-5163  
WEBSITE: huffman.house.gov

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

October 6, 2017

Chairman Doug Bosco  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1515 Clay St, 10th floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

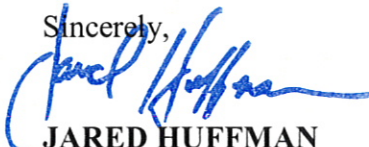
Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing in support of the City of Eureka's proposed Elk River Estuary Restoration Project in the northern part of my congressional district. The Elk River estuary presents a critical opportunity to regain lost salt marsh around Humboldt Bay. It will also provide protection to U.S. Highway 101 and other critical infrastructure from storms and flooding, hazards that are increasing in severity and frequency with climate change.

The once-diverse Elk River estuary has become essentially a 3-mile long, linear diked slough channel with few tidal wetland areas. The city's project aims to restore more than 100 acres of critical winter habitat for coho and Chinook salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout. Restored and enhanced wetlands will also provide habitat for endangered tidewater goby, Dungeness crab and other species of concern including eelgrass, waterfowl, and shorebirds. Restoration of the estuary will complement enhancement projects currently in the planning stages upstream on both Elk River and Martin Slough. As part of the project, the city will also construct almost a mile of coastal trail, extending the popular Hikshari Trail south to Tooby Road, and provide non-motorized boat access to the estuary.

Please give the City of Eureka's application for funding the Elk River Estuary Restoration Project your full and fair consideration. If you have any questions, please call my Eureka District Office at (707)407-3585.

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

COMMISSIONERS

1st Division

Larry Doss

2nd Division

Greg Dale

3rd Division

Stephen Kullmann

4th Division

Richard Marks

5th Division

Patrick Higgins

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**MAY 12 2017**  
**COASTAL CONSERVANCY**  
**OAKLAND, CALIF.**

**HUMBOLDT BAY**

**HARBOR, RECREATION, AND CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT**

**(707) 443-0801**

**P.O. Box 1030**

**Eureka, California 95502-1030**



08 May 2017

State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Letter of Support for Phase 2 of the City of Eureka's Elk River Estuary, Tidal Wetlands Enhancement, and Coastal Access Trail Project.

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District I would like to express our support for the Elk River Estuary, Tidal Wetlands Enhancement, and Coastal Access Trail Project (Phase 2) being proposed by the City of Eureka.

Phase 1 included the completion of the 30% design and initiation of the CEQA and permitting processes. Phase 2 will include development of the 100% design and construction documents and preparation of a monitoring and verification program.

Humboldt Bay Harbor District supports this collaborative effort to enhance and expand Elk River's estuary and tidal wetlands. The enhancement Project will provide important aquatic habitat to endangered Coho salmon and other oceanic species. The City's Project also includes a public access component with the extension of their Hikshari' Trail (in accordance with the regional trails plan) and a boat launch ramp both of which will provide public access to these natural resource and recreation areas. The City's Project will also form a second line of defense behind the existing seawall and help to protect critical infrastructure including sewer lines, overhead power lines, optical fiber lines, and US 101 from wave impacts and coastal erosion. The Project will be a valuable asset to our community and we encourage you provide the necessary funding for Phase 2 of this Project.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me at 707-443-0801.

Thank you,

Richard Marks

President, Board of Commissioners



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
**COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

825 5TH STREET, ROOM 111  
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501    PHONE: (707) 476-2390

October 10, 2017

Chairman Doug Bosco  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1515 Clay St, 10th floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for the City of Eureka's proposed Elk River Estuary Restoration Project. The Elk River estuary presents a critical opportunity to regain lost salt marsh around Humboldt Bay, but the estuary is currently severely limited in area and habitat diversity. It has become essentially a 3 mile long, linear diked slough channel with very few tidal wetlands areas.

After restoration, the Elk River estuary and adjacent coastal wetlands could provide over 100 acres of critical winter refugia and rearing habitat for threatened coho salmon, chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and coastal cutthroat trout. All four species use the main stem of Elk River and many of its tributaries for adult and juvenile migration, rearing, and spawning. Restored and enhanced wetlands will also provide habitat for the endangered tidewater goby, Dungeness crab and many other species of concern including eelgrass, waterfowl and shorebirds. Enhancement of the estuary will complement enhancement projects currently in the planning stages upstream on both Elk River and Martin Slough.

The project will also provide protection for Highway 101 and other critical infrastructure from storms and flooding, hazards that are increasing in severity and frequency with climate change. In addition, the project will construct almost a mile of coastal trail, extending the popular Hikshari Trail south to Tooby Road, and provide non-motorized boat access.

We respectfully encourage you to support this important project for the protection and restoration of valuable estuarine wetlands and coastal access.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bass, Chair  
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

VB:kh

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**OCT 18 2017**

**COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.**



## State Water Resources Control Board

MAR 02 2016

Mr. Sam Schuchat  
Executive Officer  
Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

### ELK RIVER ESTUARY AND TIDAL WETLANDS ENHANCEMENT PLANNING (PROJECT)

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this Project. You requested that we review the Project for consistency with the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) activities under the Clean Beach Initiative Program (CBI) (Chap. 3 commencing with Section 30915 of Div. 20.4 of the Public Resources Code), an Integrated Watershed Management Program, adopted local watershed management plans, and water quality control plans adopted by the State Water Board, and applicable Regional Water Quality Control Boards.

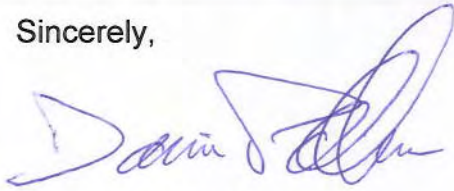
Division of Financial Assistance (Division) staff reviewed the Project synopsis included with your letter. The Project appears consistent with the goals of CBI.

Division staff also consulted with staff at the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board). The Project appears consistent with existing water quality control plans and policies of the State Water Board and the Regional Water Board, and is a necessary component of the Elk River restoration process. The City of Eureka (Applicant) should coordinate with the Elk River Watershed Stewardship Program to ensure consistency with other ongoing or emerging projects and to ensure that funds are being used effectively. Please have the Applicant contact Cybelle Immitt at (707) 267-9542, or at [cimmitt@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:cimmitt@co.humboldt.ca.us) to enroll in the process.

For questions concerning consistency with Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Programs, please have the Applicant contact the North Coast IRWM contact, Jennifer Jenkins Kuszmar at (707) 267-9540, or at [jjenkins@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:jjenkins@co.humboldt.ca.us).

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Patricia Leary at (916) 341-5167, or [patricia.leary@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:patricia.leary@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Darrin Polhemus  
Deputy Director  
Division of Financial Assistance

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MAR 07 2016

COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.





## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

May 19, 2017

State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612  
[karyn.gear@scc.ca.gov](mailto:karyn.gear@scc.ca.gov)

Dear Karyn Gear:

Re: Letter of Support for Phase 2 of the City of Eureka's Elk River Estuary, Tidal Wetlands Enhancement, and Coastal Access Trail Project.

On behalf of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board), I would like to express our support for the Elk River Estuary, Tidal Wetlands Enhancement, and Coastal Access Trail Project (Phase 2) being proposed by the City of Eureka. Phase 1 included the completion of the 30% design and initiation of the CEQA and permitting processes. Phase 2 will include development of the 100% design and construction documents and preparation of a monitoring and verification program. The enhancement and expansion of the Elk River estuary and Bay Trail extension will benefit the recovery of Coho salmon populations, be an asset to the community, provide public access, and protect critical infrastructure.

The Regional Water Board is one of nine regional water boards within the State of California responsible for preserving, enhancing, and restoring the quality of the state's water for the benefit of present and future generations. The North Coast Region includes all the waters that drain to the Pacific Ocean from the California-Oregon border to just north of Tomales Bay. The region includes Humboldt Bay and the Elk River Watershed.

Our responsibilities include implementing the federal Clean Water Act and California's Water Code. Within the Elk River Watershed, we are actively implementing watershed stewardship actions to attain a total maximum daily load (TMDLs) for sediment. We are implementing a permit program, funding a recovery assessment and sediment remediation projects through multiple funding sources, funding and partnering in the development of stewardship action plans, and more. The proposed project is an essential complementary

DAVID M. NEHER, CHAIR | MATTHIAS ST. JOHN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/)

activity to our ongoing work in the Elk River Watershed. Through these efforts, we strive to attain our vision of healthy watersheds, effective regulation, and strong partnerships.

This Project will provide important aquatic habitat for rearing and refugia to endangered Coho salmon and other oceanic species, which are impaired beneficial uses (EST/MAR and RARE) in this basin. The Project will also provide public access to the restored estuary, Elk River Slough, and Humboldt Bay by installing a boat launch ramp and extending the Bay (Hikshari') Trail in accordance with the Regional Trails Plan. These elements support existing navigation and recreation (NAV, REC1, REC2) beneficial uses in Humboldt Bay.

Winter storms and ever higher king tides present an increasing threat to critical infrastructure, including sewer lines, overhead power lines, optical fiber lines, and US 101. Not only will the Project's inter-tidal wetlands enhancement help protect this critical infrastructure from wave impacts and coastal erosion, the proposed conditions assessment of the North Coast Railroad Authority's railroad bed and seawall will help ensure that these vital structures continue to protect infrastructure and reduce the possible risks of related impairments to water quality.

The Regional Water Board supports this collaborative effort to enhance and expand Elk River's estuary and inter-tidal wetlands, especially as it enhances our Watershed Stewardship and other recovery-associated activities in the Elk River.

The Regional Water Board has been invited by the City of Eureka to participate in the collaborative stakeholder and technical advisory team, and we plan to do so to the best of our ability. We very much look forward to working with other organizations and agencies interested in enhancing and expanding the Elk River estuary and Hikshari' Trail.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Chuck Striplen, of my staff, at [Charles.Striplen@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Charles.Striplen@waterboards.ca.gov) or 707-576-2689.

Sincerely,

 Digitally signed  
by Matthias  
St. John  
Date: 2017.05.19  
11:49:49 -07'00'

Matthias St. John  
Executive Officer

170519\_CJS\_dp\_ElkEstuaryPhase2\_Prop1

cc: Steve Salzman, P.E., Principal Greenway Partners, [salzman@greenwaypartners.net](mailto:salzman@greenwaypartners.net)