



February 21, 2016

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**Executive Director**

Mark Silberstein

**Mailing Address**

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[www.elkhornslough.org](http://www.elkhornslough.org)

Grant Review Committee  
Ocean Protection Council

RE: Letter of support for the grant proposal "*Completing Core Objectives of the Moro Cojo Slough Enhancement Plan*"

To the Grant Review Committee:

I am writing to support the proposal "*Completing Core Objectives of the Moro Cojo Slough Enhancement Plan*" submitted by the Central Coast Wetland Group. The Central Coast Wetland Group has been working in the Moro Cojo drainage for some time and has completed a number of projects that have positively improved water quality and habitat here.

The Moro Cojo Slough Management and Enhancement Plan, approved by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors in 1996, forms the basis of this proposal to address the potentially competing interests of maintaining estuarine habitats and at the same time, protecting freshwater resources and habitats for threatened species. The proposed concept addresses a way to improve water quality in the lower slough by increasing flow and protecting key natural resources in the upper slough by limiting salt-water intrusion.

The Moro Cojo Plan proposed a weir at the rail line crossing Moro Cojo. This work would fund the consultation, design, review, permitting and, pending approval, the construction of a weir described in the Moro Cojo Management and Enhancement Plan to protect freshwater wells, habitat and species in the upper slough from saltwater intrusion.

The Foundation currently owns almost four hundred acres of land in the lower Moro Cojo Slough and holds conservation easements in the upper slough. The Foundation, as an accredited land trust, is prepared to engage in transactions that are both consistent with its conservation goals and that support the goals of the Moro Cojo Slough plan.

Sincerely,

Mark Silberstein,  
Executive Director





LOUIS CALCAGNO ★ P.O.BOX 62 ★ MOSS LANDING, CALIFORNIA 95039 ★ PHONE 831/633/2289 ★ FAX 831/633/6320

February 22, 2016

Ocean Protection Council  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Proposition 1 Proposal Solicitation Notice Fiscal Year 2015-2016

RE: Letter of support for the grant proposal *"Completing Core Objectives of the Moro Cojo Slough Enhancement Plan"*

To the Grant Review Committee:

Please accept this letter of support for the proposal *"Completing Core Objectives of the Moro Cojo Slough Enhancement Plan"*. Since 2001 the Central Coast Wetland Group has been working with Monterey County and local stakeholders to implement the Moro Cojo Management and Enhancement Plan. As of 2015, CCWG and its partners have implemented (or are currently constructing) most of the key projects outlined within the plan. Efforts to obtain proper tidal management of the main slough have however not yet been completed.

Recently the County and CCWG have partnered with local land owners to better manage tidal exchange in the main slough to ensure the protection of sensitive species within the Moro Cojo State Marine Reserve. Efforts to manage tidal exchange within the lower estuary have come into conflict with needs to limit upstream impacts from saltwater inundation.

These grant funds will also support the construction of the control weir described in the Moro Cojo Management and Enhancement Plan to protect freshwater habitat and species in the upper slough from saltwater impacts. The construction of this structure is critical to the protection and long term management of this protected estuary.

Without this financial support, the Monterey County will not have resources to construct the proposed project and ensure proper management of this Marine Managed Area in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

Louis R. Calcagno  
Moon Glow Dairy



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE**  
**Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary**  
99 Pacific Street, Bldg 455a  
Monterey, CA 93940

February 18, 2016

Ocean Protection Council  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of support for the Proposition 1 grant proposal "*Completing Core Objectives of the Moro Cojo Slough Enhancement Plan*"

Dear Ocean Protection Council,

On behalf of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, I am pleased to offer support for the Central Coast Wetland Group's project titled "*Completing Core Objectives of the Moro Cojo Slough Enhancement Plan*". Since 2001, I have been working with the Central Coast Wetland Group and local stakeholders to implement the Moro Cojo Management and Enhancement Plan. As of 2015, CCWG and partners have implemented (or are currently constructing) most of the key projects outlined within the plan. However, efforts to obtain proper tidal management of the main slough have not yet been achieved.

Recently, Monterey County and CCWG have partnered with local land owners to better manage tidal exchange in the main slough to ensure the protection of sensitive species within the Moro Cojo State Marine Reserve. Efforts to manage tidal exchange within the lower estuary have come into conflict with needs to limit upstream impacts from saltwater inundation.

These grant funds will support the construction of a control weir described in the Moro Cojo Management and Enhancement Plan to protect freshwater habitat and species in the upper slough from saltwater impacts. The construction of this structure is critical to the protection and long term management of this protected estuary.

I hope that you will consider funding this worthy project. The MBNMS WQPP will work closely with our partners at the CCWG and will contribute to this effort as needed to protect and enhance the coastal waters of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Sincerely,

Bridget Hoover,  
Director, Water Quality Protection Program



# MONTEREY COUNTY

## WATER RESOURCES AGENCY

PO BOX 930  
SALINAS, CA 93902  
(831)755-4860  
FAX (831) 424-7935

DAVID E. CHARDAVOYNE  
GENERAL MANAGER



STREET ADDRESS  
893 BLANCO CIRCLE  
SALINAS, CA 93901-4455

February 23, 2016

Grant Review Committee  
Ocean Protection Council  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ladies and Gentlemen:

RE: Proposition 1 Proposal Solicitation Notice Fiscal Year 2015-2016  
Letter of support for the grant proposal "Completing Core Objectives of the  
Moro Cojo Slough Enhancement Plan"

Please accept this letter of support for the proposal "*Completing Core Objectives of the Moro Cojo Slough Enhancement Plan*". Since 2001 the Central Coast Wetland Group has been working with Monterey County and local stakeholders to implement the Moro Cojo Management and Enhancement Plan. As of 2015, CCWG and its partners have implemented (or are currently constructing) most of the key projects outlined within the plan. Efforts to obtain proper tidal management of the main slough have however not yet been completed.

The Monterey County water Resources Agency (Agency) and CCWG have partnered to begin addressing the need to manage tidal exchange in the main slough to ensure the protection of sensitive species within the Moro Cojo State Marine Reserve. Efforts to provide proper tidal exchange within the lower estuary have come into conflict with needs to limit upstream impacts from saltwater inundation. This grant application will support the purchase and restoration of the last remaining unrestored 35 acre parcel within the tidal zone and construct the control structure described in the Moro Cojo Management and Enhancement Plan to protect freshwater habitat and species in the upper slough from saltwater impacts. The Agency has participated in the planning and implementation of many of the previous restoration projects, and is prepared to aid the completion of the final efforts outlined within this project.

The Agency is fully committed to managing the downstream tide gates to provide the optimal hydraulic conditions for special status species and is partnering with CCWG to obtain the necessary resources to construct the necessary weir to allow adaptive management of this system. Without this

Grant Review Committee  
Page 2 of 2  
February 23, 2016

financial support, the Agency will not have resources to construct the proposed project and ensure proper management of this Marine Managed Area in perpetuity.

The Agency is able to commit \$60,000 of Staff time and tide gate maintenance funding in support of this grant project.

Sincerely,



**COMMITTEES**  
BANKING AND FINANCE  
HUMAN SERVICES  
NATURAL RESOURCES

**SELECT COMMITTEES**  
CHAIR: COASTAL PROTECTION  
CHAIR: EXPANDING ACCESS TO  
CALIFORNIA'S NATURAL RESOURCES



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SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060  
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FAX (831) 425-2580

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

Santa Clara County: (408) 782-0647

February 22, 2016

Grant Review Committee  
Ocean Protection Council  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 131  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Letter of support for CCWG Prop 1 Moro Cojo Slough Enhancement Plan grant proposal**

Dear Members of the OPC Grant Review Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal submitted by the Central Coast Wetlands Group (CCWG) to complete the core objectives of the Moro Cojo Slough Enhancement Plan. This proposal is a collaborative effort by CCWG, the County of Monterey, and local stakeholders committed to maintaining a more resilient and sustainably managed water system to protect the wildlife and habitats in Moro Cojo Slough.

Having already met most of the Enhancement Plan proposal objectives, CCWG and its public and private partners are currently addressing tidal exchange issues, including managing tidal exchange within the lower estuary while mitigating upstream impacts from saltwater inundation.

These grant funds will also support the construction of a control weir to protect freshwater habitat and species in the upper slough from saltwater impacts. The construction of this structure is critical to the protection and long term management of this protected estuary.

In past program endeavors, CCWG has demonstrated sound fiscal responsibility, expertise in project assessment and management, and an unwavering commitment to protecting and restoring our fragile coastal watersheds. I have every confidence that the current proposal under consideration will likewise be successful in achieving its goals.

Thank you for your consideration. If I can provide you with any additional information to assist you in your decision please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Stone', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mark Stone  
Assemblymember  
Twenty-Ninth District





# Sea Mist Farms

February 23, 2016

Grant Review Committee  
Ocean Protection Council

Proposition 1 Proposal Solicitation Notice Fiscal Year 2015-2016

RE: Letter of support for the grant proposal *"Completing Core Objectives of the Moro Cojo Slough Enhancement Plan"*

To the Grant Review Committee:

Please accept this letter of support for the proposal *"Completing Core Objectives of the Moro Cojo Slough Enhancement Plan"*. Since 2001 the Central Coast Wetland Group has been working with Monterey County and local stakeholders to implement the Moro Cojo Management and Enhancement Plan. As of 2015, CCWG and its partners have implemented (or are currently constructing) most of the key projects outlined within the plan. Efforts to obtain proper tidal management of the main slough have however not yet been completed.

Recently the County and CCWG have partnered with local land owners to better manage tidal exchange in the main slough to ensure the protection of sensitive species within the Moro Cojo State Marine Reserve. Efforts to manage tidal exchange within the lower estuary have come into conflict with needs to limit upstream impacts from saltwater inundation.

These grant funds will also support the construction of the control weir described in the Moro Cojo Management and Enhancement Plan to protect freshwater habitat and species in the upper slough from saltwater impacts. The construction of this structure is critical to the protection and long term management of this protected estuary. Sea Mist Farms has participated in the planning and implementation of many previous restoration projects, and is prepared to aid the completion of the efforts outlined within this project.

Without this financial support, the Monterey County will not have resources to construct the proposed project and ensure proper management of this Marine Managed Area in perpetuity.

My company has been in discussions with CCWG and the Elkhorn Slough Foundation to transfer ownership of the last remaining unrestored 35 acre parcel within the tidal zone. We are prepared to complete negotiations for the transfer of the 35 acre area once acquisition and due diligence funds have been secured.

Sincerely,  
  
Dale D. Huss  
Managing Partner

# MONTEREY COUNTY



## Monterey County Board of Supervisors

**John M. Phillips**  
Supervisor District 2

**Josh Stratton**  
Aide to the Supervisor

**Claudia J. Link**  
Aide to the Supervisor

P.O. Box 787  
Castroville, CA 95012  
831-755-5022  
831-633-0201  
District2@co.monterey.ca.us

February 4, 2016

Grant Review Committee  
Ocean Protection Council  
Proposition 1 Proposal Solicitation Notice Fiscal Year 2015-2016

**RE:** Letter of support for the grant proposal titled "*Implementation of key actions of the Moro Cojo Slough Enhancement Plan*"

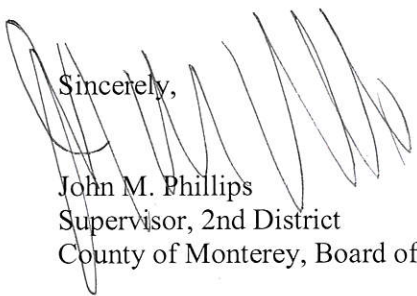
Please accept this letter of support for the proposal titled "*Implementation of key actions of the Moro Cojo Slough Enhancement Plan*". Since 1996 the Central Coast Wetland Group has been working with the agriculture community to implement the Moro Cojo Enhancement and Management Plan. As of 2015, CCWG and its partners have implemented (or are currently constructing) most of the key projects outlined within the plan. Recently however, failure of the Moro Cojo tide gates has led to flooding of the brackish and freshwater portions of the estuary with saltwater. This event has impacted estuarine habitat, threatened established communities of threatened and endangered species, and flooded adjacent farm operations. The funding outlined in this application is needed immediately to help address these environmental impacts and implement restoration and adaptation measures (weir structure) necessary to protect wetland habitat, endangered species, flatfish fisheries and adjacent farmland.

This grant application will support the community's efforts to acquire the last parcel of degraded tidal marsh, restore that parcel, install a control weir to protect freshwater habitat from marine impacts and complete the final key tasks outlined in the Enhancement plan (all actions prioritized by the 2013 TAC meeting).

Without this financial support, the community does not have the resources necessary to adequately protect the resources of this Marine Managed Area (Moro Cojo Slough SMR) and adjacent fresh water habitat already impacted by the recent tide gate failure.

Funding is needed now to address these resource management issues.

Sincerely,

  
John M. Phillips  
Supervisor, 2nd District  
County of Monterey, Board of Supervisors