



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.
C-5

For the meeting of: February 10, 2015

Date: February 5, 2015
To: Board of Supervisors
From: Supervisor Mark Lovelace
Subject: Freshwater Farms Nature Trail Project Letter of Support

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Board of Supervisors authorize the Chair to sign the Letter.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: The Northcoast Regional Land Trust has submitted a funding proposal to the State Coastal Conservancy for the Freshwater Farms Nature Trail Project and Community Engagement improvements. The proposed project will engage visitors with a series of interpretive signs, while providing recreational access to Humboldt Bay's land and water. The project has broad community support and the Northcoast Regional Land Trust has asked the Board of Supervisors for a letter of support for the project.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: Letter of Support.

Prepared by Kathy Hayes Signature _____
REVIEW: Auditor _____ County Counsel _____ Personnel _____ Risk Manager _____ Other _____

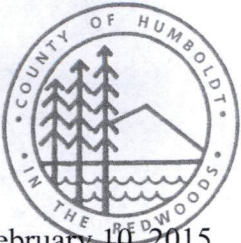
TYPE OF ITEM:
 Consent
 Departmental
 Public Hearing
 Other

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:
Board Order No. _____
Meeting of: _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
Upon motion of Supervisor Sundberg Seconded by Supervisor Bass
Ayes Sundberg, Lovelace, Fennell, Bohn, Bass
Nays _____
Abstain _____
Absent _____

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

1 Dated: Feb. 10, 2015
By: [Signature]
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET

EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501-1153 PHONE (707) 476-2390 FAX (707) 445-7299

February 10, 2015

The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612
c/o Michael Bowen, Project Manager

Re: Support for Freshwater Farms Nature Trail and Community Engagement Improvements

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of the Northcoast Regional Land Trust's proposal to the State Coastal Conservancy for accomplishing the well-planned Freshwater Farms Reserve Nature Trail and Community Engagement Improvements. This project builds on a series of farsighted strategic investments by the Coastal Conservancy and other community partners to restore saltmarsh and Coho salmon habitat while demonstrating the compatibility of these habitat enhancements with ongoing sustainable agriculture at the Freshwater Farms Reserve property. This phase of the Freshwater Farms Reserve project is particularly exciting because it focuses on providing safe and meaningful public access to a place where our families, our students, and all of California's diverse communities can learn about the compatibility of agriculture and restored coastal habitat, and where we all can be a part of this Coastal Act success story.

The Freshwater Farms Nature Trail, which has already been planned and permitted thanks to support from the Coastal Conservancy, will wind across the property and engage visitors with a series of interpretive signs, while providing much-needed recreational access to Humboldt Bay's land and water. A canoe and kayak launch will be part of the trail, inviting visitors to explore coastal environments far beyond a single property. In addition to the trail, this project includes rehabilitation of the historic Graham-Long Dairy Barn, a symbol of our shared agricultural heritage that will be revived to meet multiple community needs, including use as a wet-weather classroom for education programs on the property. And finally, a former native plant nursery at Freshwater Farms will be rehabilitated to serve agricultural, restoration, and public education needs.

With broad community support and strategic, visionary investment by the Coastal Conservancy, Freshwater Farms Reserve can serve as an ambassador property for the Coastal Act, a living laboratory of compatible uses, and a place where we can bring our families to learn, experience, and explore. We deeply appreciate your past support of this project and your thoughtful consideration of this proposal from the Northcoast Regional Land Trust to transform Freshwater Farms Reserve into an accessible resource for the community.

Sincerely,

Estelle Fennell, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors