



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

C-3

For the meeting of: June 2, 2015

Date: May 27, 2015

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor Ryan Sundberg

Subject: Letter of Support for the Prairie Creek Corridor Restoration and Recreational Enhancement Proposal.

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

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: CalTrout and Save the Redwoods League are working together on a habitat restoration and trails project on the Orick Mill Site along Prairie Creek in Humboldt County. This is a large scale project that would benefit the salmonid habitat and public access. This letter of support would be presented to the Coastal Conservancy's recommendation for the Prairie Creek restoration and trails project on the League's Orick Mill Site to be presented at the June 25th board meeting in Sacramento.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: CalTrout and Save the Redwood League

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: Letter of Support

Prepared by

Tracy Damico

Signature

REVIEW:

Auditor _____ County Counsel _____ Personnel _____ Risk Manager _____ Other _____

TYPE OF ITEM:

Consent
 Departmental
 Public Hearing
 Other _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Upon motion of Supervisor *Lovelace* Seconded by Supervisor *Sandberg*

Ayes *Sundberg, Lovelace, Fennell, Bohn*

Nays _____

Abstain _____

Absent *Bass*

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

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

Board Order No. _____

Meeting of: _____

1 Dated: *June 2, 2015*
By: *Ana Marshall*
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

June 2, 2015

Sam Hodder, President and CEO
Save the Redwoods League
111 Sutter Street, 11th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104

RE: Support for Prairie Creek Corridor Restoration and Recreational Enhancement Proposal

Dear Mr. Hodder,

I am writing on behalf of the Humboldt County Supervisors to support Save the Redwood League's proposal to restore habitat along Prairie Creek at the Orick Mill site, and enhance public access and recreational opportunities.

The Prairie Creek Corridor is the southern entrance to the Redwood National and State Parks, home to 45 percent of California's remaining old-growth redwood forest and the tallest trees in the world. Prairie Creek, which flows through the length of the corridor, is critical spawning and rearing habitat for federally listed coho salmon, state-listed Chinook salmon, and steelhead trout.

The proposal includes plans for:

- 1. Gateway to the Redwoods Visitor Center:** Situated on the Old Orick Mill site, the proposed visitor center could replace the nearby NPS Kuchel Visitor Center, currently slated for demolition. The gateway facility could include: a visitor center, small conference center, cultural center, logging museum, recreation kiosk, day-use area, parking shuttle, ADA-accessible trails, bike paths, and other visitor-support facilities such as a canopy walkway, fish viewing platforms, a marbled murrelet viewing platform, and interpretive and educational displays. The vision is for this facility to honor and showcase the full cultural and natural history of the Orick area, including the Native American culture, logging history, dairy industry, local community, and the breathtaking landscape of the Redwood National and State Parks.
- 2. Trails and Public Access:** The Prairie Creek Trail Corridor has been explored as a future preferred route and a priority project for the California Coastal Trail (CCT) in the *Humboldt County Coastal Trail Implementation Strategy* (2011). The CCT is envisioned as a continuous public right-of-way and trail for non-motorized users along California's coastline from Mexico to Oregon. Determined as a "gap" in the CCT, cyclists are currently directed off trail onto a narrow, curving section of Highway 101 around Orick. The Prairie Creek Trail Corridor through the Orick Mill Site would not only allow for this CCT gap to be

filled and could provide a safe, separated corridor for bicyclists, but would also connect existing Redwood National and State Park trails with those in the Redwood Creek watershed.

3. Salmonid Habitat Improvement and Restoration: Existing stream channel conditions and fish passage barriers limit salmonid access to the highly productive feeding grounds of the floodplain, cold water tributaries and existing wetland habitat. The vision for the site is to restore a functional creek channel that will reconnect Prairie Creek to the floodplain and provide access to the food-rich floodplain to strengthen juvenile coho before they venture forth into the Pacific Ocean.

I support the League's efforts to realize these important plans. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Estelle Fennell, Chair
Board of Supervisors
County of Humboldt