



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

C1

For the meeting of: October 10, 2017

Date: September 26, 2017

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor Virginia Bass

Subject: Letter of Support for the City of Eureka's Elk River Estuary Project to the California State Coastal Conservancy

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

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: The City of Eureka has requested a letter of support for their funding request to the California State Coastal Conservancy for their Elk River Estuary project. The proposed project represents a critical opportunity to regain lost salt marsh around Humboldt Bay. The adjacent coastal wetlands could provide over 100 acres of critical habitat for coho salmon, chinook salmon, steelhead trout and coastal cutthroat trout, and provide additional protection for Highway 101 and other critical infrastructure from storms and flooding.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: Letter of Support

Prepared by Kathy Hayes

Signature

Virginia Bass

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 *Wilson* Seconded by Supervisor *Fennell*

Ayes *Wilson, Fennell, Bohn, Bass*

Nays _____

Abstain _____

Absent *Sundberg*

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

Dated: *10/10/2017*

By: _____

Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board



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