



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

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August 19, 2025

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1000
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chair Bosco,

This letter demonstrates the County of Humboldt's support for the Murray Field Airport Sea Level Rise Planning and Economic Feasibility Study (Project), currently a proposal for State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) grant funding. The Project is a proposed planning study to determine future impacts of sea level rise (SLR) on the 145-acre airport property, develop adaption strategies, and evaluate the associated economic impacts of these strategies. Cal Poly Humboldt is the applicant for \$420,000 to complete the study.

The Murray Field Airport is a locally and regionally important public airport which serves the community and is highly vulnerable to sea level rise. The airport is located at an elevation of 2-10ft and is situated on diked former tidelands, which today are lower in elevation than the adjacent salt marsh on Humboldt Bay. US Highway 101 runs between the airport and Humboldt Bay, so the sea level rise accommodation strategy of the highway will have a direct effect on the airport. Critical for the long-term management of the public airport, and surrounding lands, is to fully understand the extent of the vulnerabilities and the possible adaptation strategies and costs.

The Project complements the Humboldt County Climate Action Plan as well as the Humboldt Bay Regional Sea Level Rise Planning Study. The latter, completed in 2023, developed options for sea level rise adaptation planning in the Humboldt Bay region that will foster a cooperative and coordinated regional approach to the identification, funding, and implementation of various sea level rise adaptation options. Currently, a regional approach is being used successfully for roads and trails and other local infrastructure projects and may serve as a good model for other coastal communities struggling to adapt to sea level rise. This study provided a foundation for future more detailed planning efforts that are proposed in this Project.

We encourage the Coastal Conservancy to fund the Murray Field Airport Sea Level Rise Planning and Economic Feasibility Study application and look forward to partnering to complete this effort.

Sincerely,


Michelle Bushnell, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors