

July 15, 2014

The Honorable Jared Huffman
United States Congress
1630 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515



Re: Request Support for USACE Corte Madera Creek Flood Control Project Completion

Dear Congressman Huffman:

Marin Conservation League (MCL) urges your continued support for federal funding toward completion of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Corte Madera Creek Flood Control Project.

As you know, the impacted Ross Valley community has adopted and is implementing a watershed-wide flood control and watershed improvement program to reduce flood hazards, improve fish passage, and enhance habitat in the Corte Madera Creek and its tributaries. The community assessed itself a local parcel fee to do this work and revenue from this fee serves as the local match for outside funding. The local program, however, relies on completion of the USACE project in order to achieve the basin-wide protection for which it was planned.

We appreciate efforts by you and your staff to keep the Corps' project on track and hope you will continue to make it a priority to obtain funding to complete it, e.g. completing the project through Ross (Unit 4) with remedial work in the unincorporated lower reach (Kentfield).

We ask that the Corte Madera Creek Flood Control Project be included in the USACE FY15 work plan and the FY16 budget, providing \$1.4 million over two years to complete the project's feasibility and environmental phase. We understand that the Corps' San Francisco office has capacity and willingness to do this work.

Along with public safety threats and property damage that flooding brings, MCL is also concerned about the unfavorable circumstances for fish survival that currently exist in the channel. Ross Valley streams once teemed with coho and steelhead. While we cannot bring back historic conditions, we can improve waterways sufficiently to boost current populations. The constrictions and passage barriers that impede floodwater flow, such as the fish ladder at the upstream end of the Unit 3 concrete channel, are also formidable obstacles for steelhead trying to reach upstream spawning gravels and rearing habitat. Completion of the combined federal and local programs would not only reduce flooding, but also improve conditions for steelhead trout and salmon.

Thank you for considering our request.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Elam".

Jon Elam, President

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