



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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MATT MACHADO
DEPUTY CAO
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

June 23, 2021

CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL
CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Middle Struve Slough Water Quality and Habitat Enhancement Project

Dear Ocean Protection Council:

On behalf of the Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation District – Zone 7, I am writing to offer strong support for the City of Watsonville’s Middle Struve Slough Water Quality and Habitat Enhancement Project. This project represents a collaboration between the City of Watsonville, Watsonville Wetlands Watch and many other project partners to develop measures to protect and enhance the water quality, coastal wetlands and watershed habitat within the City and the Watsonville Slough System. The Watsonville Slough System is the largest coastal wetlands between Elkhorn Slough to the south and Pescadero Marsh to the north. At 800 acres, the slough system represents one of California’s last remaining large and contiguous coastal freshwater wetlands, which support over 270 resident and migratory bird species and 23 different native plants and animals that are listed as threatened, endangered, or species of special concern.

The City of Watsonville is a State recognized disadvantaged community. This project will use creative and meaningful community engagement strategies that will provide targeted benefits to those who will be disproportionately affected and are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Project implementation will result in improved and safe public access to coastal natural resources for Watsonville residents, will improve surface water quality, and provide a high quality demonstration project that integrates meaningful community engagement and watershed and stormwater enhancement in a way that is replicable throughout Coastal California. The project will also utilize an extensive effort to encourage diverse community participation throughout the implementation process and will emphasize youth participation and paid internships for Watsonville area youth in a way that recognizes the value of their participation.

The Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation District – Zone 7 is a State-designated Special District charged with reducing flood risk within the Pajaro River system within Santa Cruz County, including within the Watsonville Slough. The District accomplishes

this mission, in part, through strong collaboration with the City of Watsonville on capital investment and operational projects. The District strongly supports this unique multi-benefit project and urges OPC to provide the funding needed to bring habitat enhancement, water quality protection, and climate-change resilience to economically disadvantaged communities in the City of Watsonville.

We look forward to partnering with the City of Watsonville on this important project and we thank you for your consideration of this work which will provide essential and much needed resources for Watsonville's unique coastal environment and community.

Sincerely,



MATT MACHADO
District Engineer

MWS:jv

Middle Struve_ LOS Zone 7.doc

Regeneración/Regeneration

PÁJARO VALLEY CLIMATE ACTION

California Ocean Protection Council
California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

June 25, 2021

Re: Middle Struve Slough Water Quality and Habitat Enhancement Project

Dear Ocean Protection Council,

I am writing to offer my strong support for the City of Watsonville's Middle Struve Slough Water Quality and Habitat Enhancement Project. This project represents a collaboration between the City of Watsonville, Watsonville Wetlands Watch and many other project partners to develop measures to protect and enhance the water quality, coastal wetlands and watershed habitat within the City and the Watsonville Slough System. The Watsonville Slough System is the largest coastal wetlands between Elkhorn Slough to the south and Pescadero Marsh to the north. At 800 acres, the slough system represents one of California's last remaining large and contiguous coastal freshwater wetlands, which support over 270 resident and migratory bird species and 23 different native plants and animals that are listed as threatened, endangered, or species of special concern.

Advisory Board

Mayra Bernabe

Organizer, COPA (Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action)

Adam Bolaños Scow

Senior Strategist, Public Water Now

Francisco Estrada

Fund Development Officer,
Pájaro Valley Community Health Trust; 2019 Mayor, Watsonville

Anne Hayes

Director of Development, Western Region, Climate Central

Kirsten Liske,

Vice President of Community Programs, Ecology Action

Neily Vaquera-Boggs

President,
Pájaro Valley Federation of Teachers

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Regeneración - Pajaro Valley Climate Action works with many community partners to inspire everyone in the Pajaro Valley to respond locally to the global challenge of a changing climate. We support cross-sector initiatives that promote equitable climate resiliency by reducing carbon emissions and enhancing adaptation to rapidly changing conditions.



Regeneración/Regeneration

PÁJARO VALLEY CLIMATE ACTION

We look forward to partnering with the City of Watsonville on this important project and we thank you for your consideration of this work which will provide essential and much needed resources for Watsonville's unique coastal environment and community.

Sincerely,



Nancy Faulstich

Director, Regeneración

California Ocean Protection Council

California Resources Agency 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311 Sacramento, CA 95814

June 28, 2021



Community Action Board
of Santa Cruz County, Inc.

Re: Middle Struve Slough Water Quality and Habitat Enhancement Project

Dear Ocean Protection Council,

I am writing on behalf of Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc. (CAB) to offer my strong support for the City of Watsonville's Middle Struve Slough Water Quality and Habitat Enhancement Project. This project represents a collaboration between the City of Watsonville, Watsonville Wetlands Watch and many other project partners to develop measures to protect and enhance the water quality, coastal wetlands and watershed habitat within the City and the Watsonville Slough System. The Watsonville Slough System is the largest coastal wetlands between Elkhorn Slough to the south and Pescadero Marsh to the north. At 800 acres, the slough system represents one of California's last remaining large and contiguous coastal freshwater wetlands, which support over 270 resident and migratory bird species and 23 different native plants and animals that are listed as threatened, endangered, or species of special concern.

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As Santa Cruz County's designated Community Action agency dedicated to joining with the community to fight poverty and create social change, CAB understands how critically important it is for our climate solutions to protect and include the perspectives of community members most impacted by climate change. CAB's Watsonville Works! program, whose participants are dedicated to cleaning up Watsonville's levies and sloughs as they transition back into the workforce, is part of CAB's contribution to this important effort within the climate change movement.

We look forward to partnering with the City of Watsonville on this important project and we thank you for your consideration of this work which will provide essential and much needed resources for Watsonville's unique coastal environmental and community.

Sincerely,

Maria Elena De La Garza

Executive Director

Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc.

Our Mission
To partner with the community to eliminate poverty and create social change through advocacy and essential services.

Our Programs:

Emergency Payment Programs

Employment Programs: Alcance and Day Worker Center

Davenport Resource Service Center

Housing Programs: Rental Assistance Program Youth Homeless Response Team Watsonville Works!

Immigration Services: Santa Cruz County Immigration Project and Thriving Immigrants Initiative