Comments with Response



State of California – The Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Bay Delta Region
7329 Silverado Trail
Napa, CA 94558
(707) 944-5500

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director

Comment Letter A



May 23, 2018

www.wildlife.ca.gov

Ms. Kellyx Nelson San Mateo County Resource Conservation District 625 Miramontes Street, #103 Half Moon Bay, CA 94109

Dear Ms. Nelson:

Subject: Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project, Initial

Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, SCH #2018052007, San Mateo County

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) reviewed the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) provided for the Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project (Project) by the San Mateo Resource Conservation District (SMRCD). The Project is located in Butano Marsh/Pescadero Lagoon near the intersection of Pescadero Creek Road and Highway 1 in the Town of Pescadero, County of San Mateo. The IS/MND was received in our office on May 7, 2018.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

Ecological conditions in the Butano Marsh/Pescadero Lagoon have deteriorated over the past decades, a result of changing sediment management practices and other lagoon processes. The historic Butano Creek channel has filled in, obstructing fish passage to spawning habitat. Hydrogen sulfide concentrations and anoxia have increased, leading to a number of fish mortality events ("fish kills"). CDFW Fisheries staff estimate that fish kills in the lagoon have occurred on a nearly annual basis since 1995, with multiple fish kills in certain years. Habitat conditions for additional special-status species, such as the San Francisco garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*) and California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) have also deteriorated due to water quality conditions and filling in of channel habitat. Other impacts, such as flooding of Pescadero Road, have also occurred.

The Project would address fish passage, water quality, and flooding issues affecting Butano Creek and the Town of Pescadero. In particular, the Project would restore and enhance the hydrologic connectivity of Butano Creek through Butano Marsh to Pescadero Lagoon and re-establish fish passage for federally threatened/state endangered Central California Coast coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) and federally threatened Central California Coast steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). The goals of the Project are consistent with the objectives of the *Recovery Strategy for Coho Salmon* (CDFW, 2004) and other fisheries

¹ Personal communication: CDFW Fisheries Biologists, Jon Jankovitz and George Neillands, May 21, 2018.

Ms. Kellyx Nelson May 23, 2018 Page 2 of 4

management strategies. The Project would also restore channel and floodplain habitat and improve water quality conditions, which would be expected to benefit special-status amphibians and reptiles.

The Project would excavate approximately 46,300 cubic yards of sediment from an approximately 7,400-foot-long section of Butano Creek. Excavation would extend from just upstream of the Pescadero Creek Road bridge to approximately 300 feet downstream of the confluence with the Butano channel near the pedestrian bridge and existing marsh control structure. Other project elements include augmenting an existing berm at two locations in the Butano Marsh along the reconnected Butano Creek, improving a marsh control structure, and reusing sediment excavated from Butano Creek.

CDFW ROLE IN EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT AND IS/MND

CDFW is a trustee agency with responsibility under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15386 for commenting on projects that could impact fish, plant and wildlife resources. CDFW is also considered a responsible agency if a project would require discretionary approval, such as the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Permit, the Native Plant Protection Act, the Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) and other provisions of the Fish and Game Code that afford protection to the State's fish and wildlife trust resources.

Public agencies are required to consult with CDFW in its capacity as a trustee agency for fish and wildlife resources. [CEQA Guidelines,' §§ 15060.5, subd. (b)]. The consultation process provides the lead agency with the opportunity to ask CDFW whether a proposed action may have a significant effect on a special-status species, such as a species protected under CESA.

The SMRCD solicited and incorporated CDFW input on the Project from its inception. CDFW has been a participant in a technical advisory group convened by the SMRCD in 2013 to evaluate conditions in the Butano Marsh/Pescadero Lagoon and identify possible solutions to ongoing impacts. As part of this group, CDFW has provided technical information to the SMRCD and has assisted in evaluation of potential design alternatives. CDFW has been involved in the environmental review and permitting of various upstream sediment control projects and permitted a related upstream floodplain reconnection project, which the SMRCD constructed in 2016. CDFW also served in an advisory capacity when temporary measures were implemented by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) Restoration Center to avoid catastrophic fish kill events in 2017. CDFW staff are actively involved in monitoring lagoon conditions in partnership with SMRCD and other entities. Finally, SMRCD also provided an administrative draft of the IS/MND for CDFW review and comment on April 20, 2018, prior to circulating the document to the public.

Additionally, the applicant is seeking an LSAA, pursuant to Fish and Game Code §§ 1600 et. seq., and CESA authorizations for take of listed species. Avoidance and minimization during Project construction will be addressed through the permitting process. Throughout

Ms. Kellyx Nelson May 23, 2018 Page 3 of 4

the design and environmental review process, CDFW identified potential impacts to resources within our jurisdiction and proposed mitigation measures, which were then incorporated in the Project design.

COMMENTS ON IS/MND

A-1

A-3

A-5

CDFW has the following comments on Chapter 2, Project Description, and Chapter 3, Environmental Checklist. These comments are clarifications and do not substantially change the conclusions in the impact analysis.

Section 2.1, Project Background

The IS/MND states that the upper reaches of the Butano Creek are inaccessible to salmonids (p. 2-1, third paragraph). Please note that under extreme flow conditions, limited passage may be possible; however, it is unlikely in most years and is associated with flooding of Pescadero Creek Road, an adverse condition. The Project would address both fish passage and road inundation. The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission documented four steelhead redds in Butano Creek during the wet winter of 2016/2017, immediately downstream of the anadromous limit of mainstem Butano Creek. Sedoryk (2017) states that "frequent and severe flooding of Pescadero Creek Road during the 2016/2017 season likely provided enough water for anadromous fish to travel upstream through the marsh and over the road."

The IS/MND states that fish mortality associated with anoxia is due to suffocation (p. 2-1, last paragraph). Please note that poisoning by hydrogen sulfide, caused by the anoxia, is also a contributing factor in fish kills.

Subsection 2.3.4, Butano Marsh Control Structure Upgrade

The IS/MND states that "the primary purpose of the existing marsh control structure is to reduce the rapid flow of hypoxic water from the marsh into the lagoon when the lagoon breaches" (p. 2-11, last paragraph). Please note that limiting the output of hypoxic/anoxic sediment from the Butano Channel and Marsh is also a goal that would be addressed by the Project.

Section 2.7, Required Permits and Approvals

Please note that a CESA permit will be required for take of State listed species, such as tidewater goby and coho (Table 6). Because the Project would restore habitat for these species, a management action, the Project would likely be subject to a memorandum of understanding under Fish and Game Code, § 2081(a). Permits for take of San Francisco garter snake, including relocation of individuals out of harm's way, are described in BMP-21.

Tidewater Goby Analysis

The IS/MND indicates that lagoon mouth closures generally occur in August or September, but may occur as early as July (p. 3-33, paragraph two). Please note that earlier closures were documented in 2014 (March) and 2017 (May). If earlier closures were to occur, manual breaching would be necessary to protect water quality conditions during construction.

Ms. Kellyx Nelson May 23, 2018 Page 4 of 4

CONCLUSION

If you have any questions about the contents of this letter, please contact Ms. Randi Adair, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory), at (707) 576-2786; or Mr. George Neillands, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory), at (707) 576-2812.

Sincerely,

Gregg Erickson Regional Manager

Shegg Erich

Bay Delta Region

CC:

State Clearinghouse

Jon Jankovitz, CDFW Fisheries George Neillands, CDFW Fisheries

Eric Larson, CDFW Fisheries

REFERENCES

Sedoryk, M. 2017. Escapement Estimates for Central California Coast Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) and Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) in Coastal San Mateo and Santa Cruz Counties for 2016-2017. Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. 36 pg unpublished report.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 4
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Comment Letter B



Making Conservation a California Way of Life.

June 1, 2018

SCH # 2018052007 GTS # 04-SM-2018-00180 GTS ID: 10572

PM: SM - 1 - 14.031

Kellyx Nelson San Mateo County Resource Conservation Dist. 625 Miramontes Street Suite 103 Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project – Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)

Dear Ms. Nelson:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project. In tandem with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), Caltrans' mission signals a modernization of our approach to evaluate and mitigate impacts to the State Transportation Network (STN). Caltrans' *Strategic Management Plan 2015-2020* aims to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by tripling bicycle and doubling both pedestrian and transit travel by 2020. Our comments are based on the May 3, 2018 MND.

Project Understanding

The Project would excavate approximately 46,300 cubic yards of sediment from an approximately 7,400-foot-long section of Butano Creek. Excavation would extend from just upstream of the Pescadero Creek Road Bridge to approximately 300 feet downstream of the confluence with Butano Channel, near the pedestrian bridge and existing marsh control structure (i.e., sandbag dam). Other project elements include: augmenting an existing berm at two locations in Butano Marsh along the reconnected Butano Creek; improving the existing marsh control structure; and beneficially reusing sediment removed from Butano Creek.

Bridges

B-1

The bridges, which may be impacted based on their distance from the project include the State Route (SR) 1 bridge over Pescadero Creek (Bridge Number 35 0028), and four County bridges.

Ms. Nelson, San Mateo County Resource Conservation Dist. June 1, 2018 Page 2

B-1 (cont'd)

A bridge hydraulic engineer specializing in bridge scour, sediment transport, and tidal influence should comment on the anticipated post construction status of the SR 1 bridge; the findings should be submitted to Caltrans for review.

B-2

The SR 1 bridge surface should not be used for staging of equipment. Transport or staging of equipment may be permitted if alternative ways are not available, pending Caltrans approval. Load rating analysis and bridge deck protection procedures should be submitted to Caltrans for review and approval prior to proceeding.

Lead Agency

B-3

As the Lead Agency, the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District is responsible for all project mitigation, including any needed improvements to the STN. The project's fair share contribution, financing, scheduling, implementation responsibilities and lead agency monitoring should be fully discussed for all proposed mitigation measures.

Encroachment Permit

Please be advised that any work or traffic control that encroaches onto the state right-of-way (ROW) requires an encroachment permit that is issued by the Department. To apply, a completed encroachment permit application, environmental documentation, and five (5) sets of plans clearly indicating state ROW must be submitted to: Office of Permits, California DOT, District 4, P.O. Box 23660, Oakland, CA 94623-0660. Traffic-related mitigation measures should be incorporated into the construction plans during the encroachment permit process. See the website link below for more information: http://www.dot.ca.gov/hg/traffops/developserv/permits/.

Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Jake Freedman at 510-286-5518 or jake.freedman@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA MAURICE District Branch Chief

Local Development - Intergovernmental Review

State Clearinghouse c:

Comment Letter C

From: Krzysztof Lisaj
To: Naftali Moed

Cc: Jim Porter; Ann Stillman; Joe Lo Coco; Mark Chow; Carter Choi; Gilles Tourel; Anthony Lum; Julie Casagrande;

Danielle Lee; Hilary Papendick; Deborah Hirst

Subject: IS/MND Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project County of San Mateo Department of Public

Works Comments

Date: Friday, June 1, 2018 6:06:47 PM

Naftali,

The County of San Mateo Department of Public Works (Department) has reviewed the Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project (Project). We commend the Resource Conservation District on the analysis and express our continued support for the project. We would like to provide the following comments:

- Based on the number of haul trips and heavy equipment in the area the Department anticipates potential impacts to Pescadero Creek Road and Bean Hollow Road. The project should ultimately restore damage that it causes to local roads, including any others used but not listed above.
 The Department would like to direct your attention to the fact that utilities (water distribution pipe) are attached to the Pescadero Creek Road bridge. The project will be required to state that the utilities are to be protected in place. It should also be noted that there are low overhead utility lines in the area.
 - 3. In addition to coordination with Caltrans, the project will need to apply for an encroachment permit from the Department for work within the County's right-of-way. A Traffic Control Plan will need to be submitted for review by the Department.
 - 4. While the Best Management Practices list includes street sweeping, the Department will likely require continuous sweeping throughout the day, especially during the dredge material transport. All project entrances/exits will need appropriate tracking measures that should be included in the Project's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.
 - 5. The project mentions the continued dredging of County right-of-way near Pescadero Creek Road bridge. Can you provide clarification on if this is a requirement for a successful outcome of the overall project. If a requirement, was this a result of the model? At this point in time, the Department does not have any plans to continue to dredge at this location.
 - 6. Can the RCD provide clarify on who will be performing the post-construction work?
 - 7. It states sediment removal would be considered if the stream conveyance capacity is reduced by 30%. How frequent does this occur? Annually? Biannually? How will this be measured?
 - 8. It is the Department's understanding that one of the Project's goals is to reduce low magnitude flooding (i.e. 2- year event). Please confirm our understanding.
 - 9. Please provide us with a list of anticipated materials and/or equipment that will be stored in the staging areas that are within the County's right-of-way.

Additional comments that could of help for the Project but do not require a response include:

C-10 C-11 C-12 C-13 C-13

C-6

- 1. Although there are measures proposed to address impacts to nesting birds, there is a high likelihood for potential construction restrictions. The documents states that vegetation clearing is planned for Spring 2019. One concern is that it nesting could start before and that water levels could be too high for vegetation clearing depending on the timing of storms. Also, it's not clear when the access road would be cleared. Any pro-active clearing prior to the start of the nesting season will be beneficial.
- 2. During the Departments project to dredge the channel within the County's right-of-way near Pescadero Creek Road bridge it was discovered that banks did not hold shape well in some areas.
- 3. It should be noted that there are many woodrat nests in Reach 3.
- 4. The effectiveness of fish relocation and frog relocation may be challenging given water depths, especially in Reach 1 & 2 that will not be dewatered. Fish relocation in Reach 3 may need to take place after cofferdams are in place and as channel is dewatered. Dewatering in

C-13 (cont'd)

this reach will be challenging given infiltration into dredge area and given the extensive length to be dewatered. Dewatering in phases may need to be considered.

The Department thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the Project and looks forward to your responses.

Regards,

Krzysztof Lisaj, P.E. Senior Civil Engineer Department of Public Works Utilities-Flood Control-Resource Protection



June 1, 2018

Naftali Moed San Mateo County Resource Conservation District 625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103 Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

Re: Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project

Dear Naftali

On behalf of Committee for Green Foothills (CGF), thank you for the opportunity to comment on the IS/MND for the above-referenced Project. CGF has a long standing interest in the Pescadero Marsh.

CGF appreciates the focused efforts that have resulted in the Project which proposes to reestablish fish passage, restore access to upstream spawning and rearing habitat, provide refuge during times of low water quality in the marsh, reduce the conditions that create toxic water quality, and reduce the extent, duration and frequency of flooding at Pescadero Creek Road. As is the case with other coastal estuaries, the Pescadero Marsh is a dynamic environment of change. The marsh supports multiple listed rare and sensitive species, some of which have conflicting habitat requirements.

Proposed Project: The Proposed Project involves excavating approximately 46,300 cubic yards of sediment from approximately 7,400 linear feet of Butano Creek. Excavation would extend from approximately 150 feet upstream of the Pescadero Creek Road bridge to approximately 300 feet downstream of the confluence with Butano Channel in the Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve. Other elements including re-using sediment within the project area to improve water quality conditions. There is only a 2.7 foot (0.04%) change in elevation on this 7.400 foot. long project. The proposed completed channel will be 25 feet wide at the bottom, with a top width that varies from 30 to 60 feet except upstream of Pescadero Creek Road where the width at the top will be 80 feet.

CGF is concerned about the difficult challenges of avoiding short and long-term impacts to species of concern other than federally protected steelhead trout and Coho salmon as well as impacts to environmentally sensitive habitats, particularly freshwater riparian forest.

CGF believes there will likely be several significant adverse effects, from the Project that will need to be mitigated as detailed below.

Page 2-2, Figure 4 **Longitudinal Profiles for Existing and Design Conditions**, shows existing bed level elevation of 4.0 ft, at Station 3500 (approx.) and a projected 1.5 ft, elevation post-project pre-Sediment Transport simulation. Post-project Sediment Transport simulation

D-1

D-2 at the same Station shows bed level elevation is 3 ft. and upstream aggradation to Station (cont'd) 5500 (approx.). What is the time frame for the projected post-project ST simulation?

Page 2-5 **Background: Alternatives Development Process**: The IS/MND states: "With respect to tidal prism dynamics, the historic alignment would remove a greater volume of material within the tidal range of the site relative to the marsh alignment. Analysis conducted by cbec eco engineering indicates that using the historic alignment would also restore tidal action up to the Pescadero Creek Road bridge (approximate), a location commonly cited by local residents as the historic extent of tidal influence. The historic alignment is also expected to fill with sediment at a slightly lower rate than the marsh alternatives, and therefore, would increase longevity for flood risk reduction and salmonid passage." What impacts to habitats within the adjacent uplands, particularly to the riparian forest, are anticipated due to increased salinity due to restored tidal action up to the Pescadero Creek Road bridge? What is the projected rate of deposition of sediment within the restored channel, given the very low slope of 0.04%? How many years will the stated benefits, particular for fish passage, be expected to last, absent any regular program to remove accumulated sediment? (see also comments on Operations and Maintenance)

Page 2-12 **Elements of the Proposed Project, Beneficial Sediment Reuse**: The IS/MND states that excavated sediment would be used to fill a number of artificial open water areas, including relic borrow pits. The "Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve Hydrologic Enhancement Project", August 1992, included excavation of 12 twenty-foot diameter sag ponds to provide optimum habitat for San Francisco garter snakes and the California red-legged frog, some of which are within the area now proposed for filling – see attachment. CGF does not know whether the sag ponds were in fact created, but if they were, and if some of them are now slated to be filled, this is one example of how well-intentioned alterations of of land and water in the marsh can have unintended consequences.

D-5 Page 2-21, **Vegetation Clearing**, line 24: change "Pacifica" to "Pacific".

D-3

D-4

D-6

D-7

Page 2-27 **Potential Lagoon Mouth Management**: The IS/MND states that the permits from USFWS and CDFW to manually breach the Pescadero Lagoon sandbar up to two times per year to maintain water quality in the lagoon will expire at the end of 2018. The discussion is unclear as to whether extension of these expiring permits will be incorporated into relevant permits for this project, or will they be subject to a separate approval? In either case, for what period of time would these sandbar breaching activities be authorized?

Page 2-34 **BMP 11: Trees**: Citation of the "Midcoast Local Coastal Program Policies of San Mateo County Planning and Building Department is erroneous. Please delete "Midcoast". Nearly all of the proposed project is located within the California Coastal Commission's area of "retained permit jurisdiction" which typically includes development proposed on tidelands, submerged lands, and public trust lands. In this case, CGF believes that the Commission's retained jurisdiction is generally within the marsh seaward of Pescadero Creek Road. The Commission and San Mateo County Planning often reach agreement as to which agency will be responsible for issuance Coastal Development Permits when a project is partially located

D-7 (cont'd) within both agency's jurisdiction, as in this case. A CDP for Significant Trees in County Scenic Corridors cited in BMP-11 could appropriately be the responsibility of the Coastal Commission even though some of the significant trees are located within the County's CDP responsibility area. This divided jurisdiction and associated regulatory requirements is also applicable to the noted **Grading and Land Clearing Permit** requirement from San Mateo County, page 2-42, **Required Permits and Approvals**.

Page 2-41 **Operation and Maintenance**: The IS/MND states that the Project is not expected to require significant maintenance, once implemented. Yet the discussion acknowledges that unspecified measures are necessary to address upstream sources of sediment. Absent such measures, the benefits of the project will be temporary at best. Focusing on monitoring by San Mateo County Public Works within the small area adjacent to the Pescadero Creek Road Bridge seems misplaced, since the projected area of greatest aggradation appears to be at the area near Station 3500, which will then move upstream as stream velocities are reduced, enabling deposition of sediment in the lowest, flattest segment of the Project Area. Reducing accumulated sediment over 30% at the bridge will not significantly reduce the downstream aggradation. Whether upstream sources of sediment can be effectively reduced within a reasonable time frame remains a major question. For example, a new Timber Harvest Plan (1-18-051SMO) "Carousel Creek THP" was submitted to CalFire on May 14, 2018. This THP is located adjacent to and upslope of the North Fork of Butano Creek, and will allow timber harvesting on 293 acres. The Erosion Hazard Rating is High, ground based equipment will be used on slopes over 50% and winter operations are proposed. Timber harvesting has been identified in various studies of the Pescadero-Butano Watershed as one of the contributing sediment sources. CGF is not aware of any instance where CalFire required monitoring of sediment in 404(d) impaired streams before, during, and after a THP in order to better quantify sediment in San Mateo County. The TMDL for Pescadero-Butano watershed has not yet been approved by the Regional Board.

D-9

D-8

Page 3-1 Environmental Checklist: General Plan Designation of Agriculture and Institutional/Open Space/Future Study is erroneous. The Project area within Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve and Pescadero State Beach is designated Public Recreation. The southern portion of the Project area is designated Agriculture.

D-10

Page 3-4, 3-5: **Aesthetics**: The IS/MND recognizes that the upstream extent of Butano Creek Channel would be cleared of woody vegetation. This vegetation is a significant riparian forest, that is a scenic feature along this stretch of Pescadero Creek Road, a county scenic road. The IS/MND inappropriately minimizes the significance of this impact, describing it as "thinning of vegetation". In fact, the riparian forest on both sides of the road will be completely removed to allow construction of the dredged channel, which will be up to 60 feet wide on the north side of the road, and 80 feet wide on the south side. This change would be a permanent and substantial adverse effect on the area's existing visual character and visual quality, since re-growth of the riparian forest within the channel would defeat the purpose of the Project (see also comments under special status birds and riparian habitat below).

- Page 3-8: **Agricultural Resources**: The IS/MND notes that the project area south of Pescadero Creek Road where the proposed sediment stockpile area would be located is zoned Planned Agricultural District (PAD). The stockpile area and associated access road would be located on Prime Agricultural Lands (as defined in the LCP) and Prime Farmland (CDOC 2016) that are currently used for growing vegetable row crops and hay. LCP allowable uses on Prime Agricultural Lands do not include temporary stockpiling of dredging spoils. This inconsistency with the LCP policies would be a potentially substantial adverse effect.
- D-12 Page 3-18 **Habitats in the Project Area**, line 41: Change white alder (Alnus rhombifolia) to red alder (Alnus rubra).
 - Page 3-35: Substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species, Special Status Birds, first paragraph: The IS/MND concludes that complete removal of up to 3.53 acres of woody riparian vegetation as well as an additional 4.35 acres of riparian vegetation that would be temporarily disturbed due to placement of sediment on top of existing vegetation would not be a significant impact to special status birds, as "riparian habitat would regenerate along the newly dredged Butano Creek channel and portions of the natural levee analog and marsh habitat would regenerate within filled areas of lower. (sic) There is no explanation as to how or where riparian habitat would regenerate, and fully replace the lost 3.53 acres of riparian habitat. Moreover, the Project Description does not include any provision for allowing the riparian vegetation to re-colonize the dredged or excavated channel, and if it did allow such regeneration/recolonization, the fundamental purpose of flood hazard reduction and reduction of sediment deposition would be defeated. Therefore, this loss of riparian habitat is a substantial adverse impact that must be mitigated.

D-13

D-14

- Pages 3-38 and 3-39: **Substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community:** Similarly to CGF comments regarding substantial adverse effect on **Special Status Birds** above, we are particularly concerned that IS/MND's conclusion that the complete removal of 3.53 acres of riparian forest vegetation that includes 302 significant trees as well as other riparian species would not be a significant adverse effect.. The IS/MND's conclusion that the 3.53 acres of riparian habitat will be replaced by 3.53 acres of riverine habitat and therefore does not require mitigation is erroneous, as riverine habitat is not equivalent to riparian. Additionally, the suggested "anticipated long-term expansion of riparian habitat into Upper Butano Marsh" (page 3-39, line 13) is vague, unsupported, and highly speculative, particularly in light of the anticipated increased salinity of Butano Creek due to restoration of tidal action up to the Pescadero Creek Road bridge. On page 3-38, Line 16: change white alder to red alder.
- Page 3-42: **Conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources**:
 The IS/MND notes that the Project site is in the Coastal Zone, and must comply with policies in the San Mateo County Local Coastal Program (LCP). Yet the only LCP policy cited in this section is Policy 8.9 which pertains to tree protection, and then goes on to discuss impacts to the San Francisco tree lupine (which is a plant). First, the LCP has numerous policies in the Sensitive Habitats Component that are directly applicable to this project. However, due to the

project's location within the Coastal Commission's area of retained jurisdiction (per discussion above), the standard of review should be the Chapter 3 (Coastal Resources Planning and Management) Policies of the Coastal Act.

D-16

Page 3-65 and 3-66: **Conflicts with land use plans or policies**. Please see previous corrections to Environmental Checklist page 3-1 regarding incorrect Land Use Designation in the San Mateo County General Plan. Page 3-66 second paragraph discusses the Federal Consistency determination that NOAA RC would submit to the California Coastal Commission. Based on our review of the NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center Federal Consistency Determination, March 28, 2013, CGF does not believe the proposed Project meets the criteria for Qualifying Project Types for Sediment Removal (copied below), as it is not small in scale, and does involve major dredging operations.

Qualifying Project Types:

14. Sediment Removal Sediment accumulation in from either natural or anthropogenic processes (e.g., erosions, forest roads, upland development) can alter normal flow patterns, bury or suffocate aquatic species eggs, entrap or demobilize fish, cause flooding, block migratory fish from reaching spawning areas. and otherwise adversely affect the aquatic environment. Sediment removal projects are undertaken to alleviate these situations and restore natural flow regimes. Such projects undertaken by the CRP are typically small in scale and do not involve major dredging operations, but would involve the use of heavy equipment (e.g., front-end loaders and dump trucks) to haul the sediment to a disposal location.

D-17

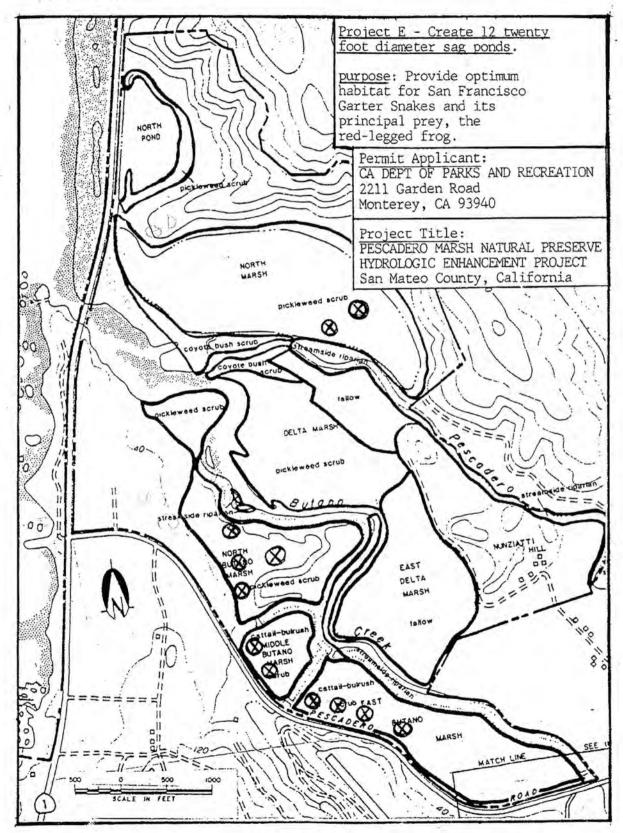
CGF therefore believes that the Coastal Commission will need to evaluate the project's consistency with Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act, including but not limited to, Public Access and Recreation, Visual Resources, Hazards, ESHA, and Agriculture policies, either through its Federal Consistency authority or through issuance of a CDP which incorporate appropriate conditions of approval and mitigations, including for loss of riparian habitat.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. CGF looks forward to working with the RCD, State Parks, NOAA RC, Coastal Commission, and other interested parties to ensure that this proposed restoration project fully addresses the environmental issues we have raised, and is effectively implemented.

Cennie Robert

Lennie Roberts, San Mateo County Legislative Advocate

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Comment Letter E

From: <u>Hilary Morgan</u>
To: <u>Naftali Moed</u>

Subject: Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project.

Date: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 11:11:04 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

E-1 I am a 23 year resident of Pescadero (short by local standards), but believe that in response to the Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilence Project, that we should have a full EIR (Environmental Impact Report) done before making a decision about dredging.

Thank you,

Hilary Morgan

5685 Pescadero Creek Road Pescadero, CA 94060

Comments that Require No Response

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Director

March 4th, 2018

Resource Conservation District of San Mateo County 625 Miramontes St #103 Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

RE: Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project

California State Parks would like to take this opportunity to express our support for the Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project, and the Notice of Intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration, in regards to the California Environmental Quality Act.

This project will have multiple benefits for the natural resources of the Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve, through the restoration of natural processes. The Pescadero Marsh has been severely impacted in the past century by a variety of land uses both within and outside of the marsh, and this project takes a step towards repairing some of those impacts.

While a project of this scale cannot be implemented without impacts, Sate Parks has worked closely with the San Mateo RCD to design avoidance and minimization measures that we believe reduce these impacts to a less than significant level. We look forward to working with both the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to refine those measures in order to limit impacts from the project to the greatest degree feasible.

California State Parks mission is to steward the incredible natural resources with which the people of California have entrusted us. It is our policy to use the restoration of natural processes to achieve this goal. This project meets both of these objectives and we support it wholeheartedly.

Regards,

Chris Spohrer

District Superintendent Santa Cruz District

303 Big Trees Park Rd.

Felton, CA 95018



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southwest Region 777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 219-A Santa Rosa, CA 95404-6528

May 21, 2018

Ms. Kellyx Nelson San Mateo Resource Conservation District 625 Miramontes Street, Suite 203 Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

Re: Comments for Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project.

Dear Ms. Nelson, Kanada

This letter is to indicate National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Restoration Center's (NOAA RC) strong support for the Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project. We strongly endorse the San Mateo Resource Conservation District (RCD) adoption of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project.

This project is the realization of years of studies and monitoring to evaluate the ongoing impacts of degraded water quality, sediment and the lost ecological function of a highly modified lagoon. This project is also an example of collaboration and leadership by the RCD to address a community issue. From our perspective, there is no procedural reason to delay the implementation of this project. The RCD and its partners have been very thorough in evaluating conservation options and vetting those options through a multi-disciplinary technical team of biological and physical process experts. The project, as described in the CEOA document is based on the best available science, analyzed through sophisticated decision support tools such as two-dimensional hydrodynamic and sediment transport models, and it represents the best available option for implementing an essential recovery action. Additional analysis will just prolong the potential for take of federally listed salmonids and the risks of flooding at Pescadero Creek Road. No new information will offer the RCD or its vast array of partners and collaborators a different alternative or decision option. The NOAA RC has been involved in the collection and analysis the pertinent scientific data as well as all phases of the design for this project. We understand that construction will have short-term impacts to the system, but these short duration impacts are far outweighed by the long-term ecological benefits of the project. The long-term benefits will not just move the dial for steelhead recovery, but set-up the Pescadero Creek watershed for future recovery actions for the federally endangered Central California Coast (CCC) coho salmon as well the federally listed San Francisco garter snake and California redlegged frog.

From our perspective, this project is the first coordinated effort to address impacts to listed species in the lagoon. Collaboration and cooperation between the US Fish and Wildlife Service

RCD, California State Parks, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, San Mateo County, Trout Unlimited, the University of California (Berkeley and Davis/Bodega Marine Lab), and local residents has been a model for cooperative conservation. While the NOAA RC conducted an artificial lagoon breach in 2012 to prevent a fish kill, fish kills that directly affect ESA listed Central California Coast (CCC) Threatened Steelhead have occurred every year an artificial breach has not occurred. The worst documented fish kill occurred in 2016 that killed well over one-thousand steelhead in addition to multiple other marine and fresh water species. The practice of artificial beaching is not sustainable and is indicative of a system that is out of balance. The NOAA RC is a main funder of this project and believes that no action will result in significant impacts to both steelhead and other listed species. Not to expedite the implementation of this project prolongs the public "settling" for a degraded lagoon and chronic impacts to our public trust species. For the NOAA RC, this project includes restoring suitable habitat conditions that could support the reintroduction of ESA Endangered CCC coho salmon into the system - a key recovery action listed in NOAA National Marine Fisheries' 2012 CCC Coho Recovery Plan. Just as importantly, the flooding of Pescadero Road is an ongoing public safety issue and this project is a step toward community security in the face of variable precipitation patterns. The ecological degradation of the marsh and the urgency to resolve a critical public safety issue was the basis for NOAA RC Resiliency Grant award for this project.

We commend the San Mateo RCD leadership for stepping up to implement such an important project. If you have any questions or need additional information from the NOAA RC, please feel free to contact my Project Lead, Joe Pecharich, (joe.pecharich@noaa.gov; 707 575-6095), or myself, (patrick.rutten@noaa.gov; 707 575-6059).

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Rutten, Southwest Regional Supervisor

NOAA Restoration Center

June 1, 2018

Naftali Moed San Mateo Resource Conservation District 625 Miramontes Street, Suite 203 Half Moon Bay, California 94019

Dear Mr. Moed:

This letter is in regards to the San Mateo Resource Conservation District's (RCD) consideration of adopting the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project (Project). The Project is a partnership between the RCD, California State Parks, San Mateo County, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Restoration Center (NOAA RC)¹ to address impaired fish passage, flooding, and fish kills that have been occurring in Pescadero Lagoon for decades. The ecological degradation of habitat conditions in the Project area and the urgency to resolve a critical public safety issue was the basis for awarding the NOAA RC Resiliency Grant to the Project.

The RCD has long been a stalwart partner of NOAA and others in recovering listed salmonids in San Mateo County. They have collaborated with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and many other partners—including NOAA RC, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Trout Unlimited, and the University of California—to develop a viable solution to an extremely complex set of problems that have plagued the health of the Pescadero Lagoon for decades. Namely, the RCD has developed the Project which is expected to: (1) restore access to 10.1 miles of Butano Creek for Federally threatened Central California Coast (CCC) steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and Federally endangered CCC coho salmon (*O. kisutch*); (2) reduce the extent, duration, and frequency of flooding at Pescadero Creek Road; and (3) improve adult salmonid returns by reducing the risk and/or severity of fish kills. All of which support the recovery² of threatened CCC steelhead and endangered CCC coho salmon.

NMFS believes the RCD incorporated the best scientific information available into their design of the Project and we would like to see it implemented as soon as possible. The proposed construction and sediment excavation activities are expected to result in short-term impacts that are commonly addressed in our biological opinions and typically result in very low levels of incidental take (e.g., temporary decrease in water quality, temporary increase in turbidity, fish

¹ The NOAA RC helped fund the RCD to design and implement the Project and is the lead Federal action agency for the Project.

² NMFS recovery plans for CCC steelhead (2016) and CCC coho salmon (2012) can be found at: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected_species/salmon_steelhead/recovery_planning_and_implementatio n/north_central_california_coast/north_central_california_coast_salmon_recovery_domain.html

capture and relocation, etc.). However, if the Project does not occur or is delayed, we are confident that annual fish kills in the lagoon will continue and habitat conditions for CCC steelhead and CCC coho will worsen.

If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding our support for this Project, please contact William Stevens at (707) 575-6066, or by email at William.Stevens@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Alecia Van Atta

Assistant Regional Administrator California Coastal Area Office
 From:
 Scott Morrow

 To:
 Naftali Moed

 Subject:
 Butano creek project

Date: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 4:01:51 PM

I am the San Mateo County Health Officer and am responsible for both human health and environmental health in our county. I also have lived in the affected area for almost 20 years. I support the Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project and I support it going forward without any delay. RCD has been diligently engaging agencies and stakeholders about this project for many years and it is time to move it forward.

Scott Morrow MD, MPH, MBA, FACPM San Mateo County Health Department Health Officer 225 W. 37th Ave. San Mateo, CA 94403

Phone: (650) 573-2519 Fax: (650) 573-2116

E-mail: <u>SMorrow@smcgov.org</u> Website: <u>www.smchealth.org</u>

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625 Miramontes Street #103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019



Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

- 1. Project Title & Number Button Creeks hannel Reconnection and Resilience Project
- 2. Property Owner(s): California State Parks Department, Courty of San Mateo, and private property owners
- 3. County contact person: Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director; (650) 712-7765; kellyx@sanmateoRCD.org
- 4. Project location: The Project site is within Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve between State Route 1 and Pescadero

Creek Road, Pescadero State Beach, and private property to the south of Pescadero Creek Road.

5. Project APNs: 086-221-010, 086-221-020, 086-221-030, 086-230-030,

086-230-020, 086-160-060, 086-090-010, 086-111-190, and 086-270 010

6. Project Sponsor: San Mateo Resource Conservation District

7. General Plan designation: Agriculture and Institutional/Open Study/Futur Sody

8. Zoning: Planned Agricultural District/Coastal Development District (PAD/CD)

9. Brief Description of the Project: The Project involves excavating approximately 46,30° cubic yards of sediment from approximately 7,400 linear feet of Butano Creek. Excavation of the creek would extend from upstream of the Pescadero Creek Road bridge to approximately 300 feet downstream of the confluence with Butano Channel, near a pedestrian bridge and existing marsh control structure (i.e., sandbag dam) in Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve. Other Project elements include: augmenting an existing berm on private property upstream of Pescadero Creek Road; enhancing an existing berm at two locations in Butano Marsh along the reconnected Butano Creek; improving the existing marsh control structure; and beneficially reusing sedim at removed from Butano Creek to improve water quality conditions and reduce the severity of fish kills.

The primary objectives of the Project are to:

- Restore access to 10.1 miles of Butano Creek for threatened steelhead trout and control coho salmon by reestablishing unimpeded fish passage for a decade or more.
- Reduce the extent, duration and frequency of flooding at Pescadero Creek Road.
- 3) Improve salmonid survival by reducing the risk and/or severity of fish kills by:
 - creating access to oxygen-rich freshwater refuge during times of low water quality; and
 - reducing anoxic conditions by preventing percolation and movement of freshwater from Butano Creek through and across the marsh

10. The project site is not located on the lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code, including, but not limited to lists of hazardous waste facilities.

WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD: May 3, 2018 – June 1, 2018

Please send written comments to the attention of Kellyx Nelson at 625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019 or via e-mail to Naftali Moed at Naftali@sanmateoRCD.org.

PUBLIC MEETING:

All interested persons are encouraged to attend a public meeting to present written and/or verbal comments on the IS/MND. The public meeting will be held at the following location and time:

• Pescadero, CA: May 17, 2018 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the La Honda Pescadero Unified School District, 360 Butano Cut-Off, Pescadero, CA 94060.

PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION:

The San Mateo Resource Conservation District has determined that the project analyzed in the attached initial study checklist would not have a significant effect on the environment and the San Mateo Resource Conservation District intends to adopt a mitigated negative declaration. An electronic copy of the proposed mitigated negative declaration is available for review online at http://www.sanmateorcd.org/butano-reconnect-cega/

DATE OF THIS NOTICE

BY: Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

Public Meeting Comment Form

Name: Lee M. Bickers
Group/Organization (optional):
Mailing Address: PO Box 278 PESCHOENO, CA 9860
Telephone No. (optional):
Email (optional): LM BICKERS & GMATZ - Com
Comments/Issues:
I live in Pescadero/Butano/Loma Mar, etc. I am familiar with the dredging plan that has been proposed, The project will improve safety for drivers on Pescadero Road, will benefit Pescadero, and will make a path for the fish. I am satisfied with the studies that have been done. I support going ahead with the project without delay.

Please use additional sheets if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2018) TO:

MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

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Public Meeting Comment Form

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Please use additional sheets if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2018) TO:

MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

Public Meeting Comment Form

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Name: Christina Road (Keelly
Group/Organization (optional):
Mailing Address: 610 MADRONE, PESCADERO (494060
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MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

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Public Meeting Comment Form

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MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

Public Meeting Comment Form

Name: KATHLEEN Malong	
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MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

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SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2018) TO:

MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:



Public Meeting Comment Form

Public Meeting Comments
Name: William McCahon
Group/Organization (optional):
Mailing Address: PD BOX 50
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SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2018) TO:

MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

Public Meeting Comment Form

Name: William L THOMPSON	
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MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

Public Meeting Comment Form

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Group/Organization (optional):
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Please use additional sheets if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2018) TO:

MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

Public Meeting Comment Form

Name: Holly Sollars
Group/Organization (optional):
Mailing Address: P. O. BOX7Z2 (72-2)
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MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

Public Meeting Comment Form

Name: JIM BOLLIER
Group/Organization (optional):
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I live in Pescadero/Butano/Loma Mar, etc. I am familiar with the dredging plan that has been proposed, The project will improve safety for drivers on Pescadero Road, will benefit Pescadero, and will make a path for the fish. I am satisfied with the studies that have been done. I support going ahead with the project without delay.

Please use additional sheets if necessary.

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MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

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SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2018) TO:

MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

Public Meeting Comment Form

Name: Michael T Ball
Group/Organization (optional):
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 27 Pescadero A 94060 Telephone No. (optional):
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MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

Public Meeting Comment Form

Name: Elizabeth Mateja				
Group/Organization (optional):				
Mailing Address: DO130x 23/ Pescadero, CA 94060				
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MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

Public Meeting Comment Form

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MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:



Public Meeting Comment Form

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Please use additional sheets if necessary.

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Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

Public Meeting Comment Form

Jame: Craig Mc Cormuck	<u></u>
Group/Organization (optional):	e Are, Pescadero, CA 94060
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SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2018) TO:

MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:





Public Meeting Comment Form

Name: BILL ACEXANDER
Group/Organization (optional):
Mailing Address: P.O. BOX 722, PESCADERO, CA. 94060
Telephone No. (optional): 336 - 212 - 1196
Email (optional): William. alexander, in box @ qmail.com
Comments/Issues: Please do not wait to implement the plan to
Aredge the creek. Enough studies, we need action now.

Please use additional sheets if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2018) TO:

MATL

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

Public Meeting Comment Form

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SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2018) TO: Please use additional sheets if necessary.

MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

Public Meeting Comment Form

Name: ROSS NOGUCH	
Group/Organization (optional):	(E.)
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Please use additional sheets if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2018) TO:

MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

Public Meeting Comment Form

Name: Carolyn Andrews
a (Our instant (ontional):
Mailing Address: PO BOX 124, Pescuson CH 94 Ue
Telephone No. (optional):
Email (optional):
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Please use additional sheets if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2018) TO:

MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

Public Meeting Comment Form

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Name: Barbara O'Ke'lly	
Group/Organization (optional): Home Jouner	
Mailing Address: 610 Madrone Ave	Pescadero, CA
Telephone No. (optional):	Butano Caryon
Email (optional):	
Comments/Issues:	
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with the hope of restoring fish populati	ons in Butano + other
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Please use additional sheets if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2018) TO:

MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

Public Meeting Comment Form

Public Meeting
ame: JOHN MALONEY
roup/Organization (optional).
Tailing Address: 30 REDWOOD AVE
Email (optional):
Comments/Issues: I SUPPORT THE PROPOSAC TO DREDGE PESCADERO CREEK WITHOUT DELAY, I LIVE TN PESCADERO IN BUTANO CANYON. PESCADERO IN BUTANO CANYON.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2018) TO: Please use additional sheets if necessary.

MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

Public Meeting Comment Form

Name:	_	Indreal	01/1	11010
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SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2018) TO:

MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

Public Meeting Comment Form

Vame: levi Modre
Group/Organization (optional):
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Telephone No. (optional):
Email (optional):
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Please use additional sheets if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2018) TO:

MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

Public Meeting Comment Form

Name: Blaine Moore
Group/Organization (optional):
Mailing Address: 102 Malxone Pesylen
Telephone No. (optional):
Email (optional):
Comments/Issues: I would like to see the Marsh Oredged
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Please use additional sheets if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2018) TO:

MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

Public Meeting Comment Form

Name:	Tyler McCornick
Group/O	rganization (optional):
Mailing .	Address: 102 Madrone, Pescadero CA
Telephor	ne No. (optional):
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Please use additional sheets if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2018) TO:

MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

Public Meeting Comment Form

Name: MARTY MCCORMICK Group/Organization (optional): BUTANO CANYON PROPERTY OWNER Mailing Address: 136 ROBIN WAY LOS GATOS CA 95032-SH2 Telephone No. (optional): 408 221-1624 Email (optional): MARTY MOCORMICK FAMILY HAS OWNED Comments/Issues: MCCORMICK FAMILY HAS OWNED PROPERTY ON BUTANO CREEK SINCE 1873 WE MISS THE FISH I live in Pescadero/Butano/Loma Mar, etc. I am familiar with the dredging plan that has been proposed, The project will improve safety for drivers on Pescadero Road, will benefit Pescadero, and will make a path for the fish. I am satisfied with the studies that have been done. I support going ahead with the project without delay. THIS HAS BEEN STUDIED AND DEPATED FOR DECADES NOW IS THE TIME NO MORE WAITING NO MORE WAITING THAWKS FOR EVER THING THE RCD HAS DONE Please use additional shock if necessary. SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2018) TO: MAIL: Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director	Public Meeting Communication
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Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director District	SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMAKNED TO DIRECTOR
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Matan Resource Conservation	Com Matan Resnurce Conservation
625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103	625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019	Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

Naftali@sanmateoRCD.org

EMAIL:

Public Meeting Comment Form

MARTY MCCORMICK, PRESIDENT Group/Organization (optional): CENTRAL COAST FOREST ASSOCIATION Name: P.O. BOX 66868 SCOTTS VALLEY CA 95067 Mailing Address: 408 221-1624 marty_mccormick@hotmail.com Telephone No. (optional): Email (optional):

Comments/Issues: THE CCFA IS A NON-PROFIT ALLIANCE OF SMALL FOREST LANDOWNERS, FOREST PROFESSIONALS WITH CLOSE AFFINITY TO WOODS, MOUNTAINS, STREAMS &

I live in Pescadero/Butano/Loma Mar, etc. I am familiar with the dredging plan that has been proposed, The project will improve safety for drivers on Pescadero Road, will benefit Pescadero, and will make a path for the fish. I am satisfied with the studies that have been done. I support going ahead

WILDLIFE OF THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA COAST. SEE WEBSITE: CCFQSSOCIATION. Drg

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS WHOLEHEARTED OY SUPPORT THIS PROPOSED PROTECT. " WE HAVE STUDIED & WAITED LONG ENOUGH

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2018) TO:

MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

Public Meeting Comment Form

Name: Beverly Armstrons					
Group/Organization (optional):					
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 852 Pescadero, Ca. 94060					
Telephone No. (optional):					
Email (optional):					
Comments/Issues:					
I live in Pescadero/Butano/Loma Mar, etc. I am familiar with the dredging plan that has been proposed, The project will improve safety for drivers on Pescadero Road, will benefit Pescadero, and will make a path for the fish. I am satisfied with the studies that have been done. I support going ahead with the project without delay.					

Please use additional sheets if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2018) TO:

MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

Public Meeting Comment Form

Name: Norm Armstrong					
Group/Organization (optional):					
Mailing Address: P.O.Box	852 Pescadoro CA. 94060				
Telephone No. (optional):	'				
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Please use additional sheets if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2018) TO:

MAIL:

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EMAIL:

From: jloraine0215
To: Naftali Moed

Subject: Comments in support of the Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project

Date: Thursday, May 31, 2018 11:34:41 AM

Dear Ms. Moed,

Thank you for your leadership and for collecting comments from the community regarding the Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project. Although I was unable to attend the recent meeting, I have been following this issue closely for many years. As a member of the community and a citizen who values our natural environment, I would like to offer my support of the proposed project.

As you know, Pescadero Marsh is an important estuary that provides habitat for several threatened and endanger species. As such, it has been studied for decades by many qualified scientists and wildlife specialists, and almost every one of these studies mentions the detrimental effects of extreme sediment impairment. While the proposed project may not provide a complete solution, it is an important—and long awaited—step in the right direction.

In addition to improving conditions for fish and wildlife in Pescadero Marsh, this plan will also provide some relief from the flooding that jeopardizes the safety of people who live and work in our small community. Our family lives six miles inland on Pescadero Creek Road, and during winter storms, it is not uncommon for us to be completely cut off from repair crews and emergency services. This threat to public safety cannot continue.

I have chosen to live in this beautiful area because of the richness of the wild space that surrounds us, and I feel that this proposal will help rather than harm both the natural environment and the humans who inhabit it. Further study via an environmental impact report (EIR) is unnecessary and would only delay the relief that is so urgently needed.

Sincerely,

Janet Clark 6152 Pescadero Creek Rd. Pescadero, CA 94060 650.879.9047
 From:
 Susan Lydon

 To:
 Naftali Moed

 Cc:
 Susan Lydon

Subject: Fwd: Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project

Date: Thursday, May 24, 2018 10:05:43 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Susan Lydon** <<u>sdlydon89@gmail.com</u>>

Date: Thu, May 24, 2018 at 9:59 PM

Subject: Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project

To: NaftaliMoed@sanmateorcd.org

Cc: Susan Lydon < sdlydon89@gmail.com>

Hello San Mateo RCD -

I live in Butano Canyon, Pescadero, CA. I have attended a number of public meetings about dredging the Pescadero Marsh, including the public meeting on May 16, 2018 where I listened to the description of the proposed project.

I support the IS/MND process, and I do not believe an EIR is necessary. It is important not to delay this project for the safety of the community, for the benefit of the town of Pescadero, and to provide a path for the fish.

Thank you.

Susan Lydon

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Susan Lydon sdlydon89@gmail.com 650-879-9976 (home) 650-743-3981 (cell)

650-879-9983 (fax)

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Susan Lydon <u>sdlydon89@gmail.com</u> 650-879-9976 (home) 650-743-3981 (cell) 650-879-9983 (fax) From: <u>William Stevens - NOAA Federal</u>

To: <u>Naftali Moed</u>; <u>Kellyx Nelson</u>; <u>Joe Pecharich</u>

Subject: Fwd: Butano Reconnection Letter of Support.pdf - signed using Adobe Fill & Sign.

Date: Friday, June 1, 2018 10:51:55 AM
Attachments: Butano Reconnection Letter of Support.pdf

Hi All,

Please see attached.

Bill

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Amanda Morrison - NOAA Federal amanda.morrison@noaa.gov>

Date: Fri, Jun 1, 2018 at 10:49 AM

Subject: Butano Reconnection Letter of Support.pdf - signed using Adobe Fill & Sign.

To: kelly.prince@noaa.gov Cc: william.stevens@noaa.gov

Butano Reconnection Letter of Support.pdf - signed using Adobe Fill & Sign.

--

William Stevens NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region 777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 325 Santa Rosa, California 95404 Office: (707) 575-6066

William.Stevens@noaa.gov

From: Lance Storm
To: Naftali Moed

Subject: Dredge Project Input.

Date: Tuesday, May 8, 2018 7:26:49 PM

Public Input and Thoughts.

One Optimum Solution is for the County and State to go in on a Dredge. They Are around \$100,000. New last I checked.

About the size we would need.

Have it staffed with a representative from every agency. So Decitions can be made on the Fly. Someone from the county, state parks, RCD,. Even the community might be a good idea.

Take Ownership of the Project.

Have Equipment on hand so more dredging projects Become inexpensive.

Pumping Mud.

Thanks.

From: <u>greenwoodkelly3@gmail.com</u> on behalf of <u>Kelly Greenwood</u>

To: <u>Naftali Moed</u>

Subject: Pescadero Marsh Dredging Project Comments

Date: Monday, May 28, 2018 5:20:37 PM

Hi,

I'm writing to express my support for the marsh dredging project. This plan has evaluated the important issues, and dredging without additional delay is important for public safety, the benefit of the town, and the survival of the fish. The current IS/MND process is adequate, an additional EIR is not necessary. The extent of the annual flooding and the potential hazard to life and safety in town, as well as the long and sordid history of fish kills, should weigh heavily against further delay. My family lives in Loma Mar, and while we're not often able to attend the PMAC meetings, we do follow NextDoor. In future, requests for public comment should definitely include this forum so that locals can provide input to balance the perspective of outside individuals.

Thanks, Kelly

.....

650.996.4612

<u>Houzz</u>

Sweet Hollow Almanac

From: Mary Weersing
To: Naftali Moed

Subject: Pescadero Marsh/Dredging

Date: Saturday, May 26, 2018 6:40:42 PM

I live on Highway 1 in Pescadero. Every winter the flooding on Pescadero Creek Road makes travel into and out of town very difficult. I have read the Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project proposal and believe it addresses both the problem of flooding and that of fish working their way back through the marsh. I urge you to go ahead with the project ASAP.

Thank you,

Mary Weersing

From: Rebecca Mangano
To: Naftali Moed

Subject: Please Dredge Butano Creek Channel/Pescadero Marsh

Date: Friday, June 1, 2018 8:54:27 AM

Dear San Mateo Resource Conservation District,

I am a long-time resident of Butano (332 Madrone Avenue, Pescadero, CA) for more than 30 years.

I am writing to urge you to please approve the proposal to dredge the Butano Creek Channel and Pescadero Marsh. Dredging will remove the excessive build-up of sediment, which will stop fish die-off. Dredging will also help alleviate the costs from yearly flooding and related road closures in the town of Pescadero. Both of these problems have been worsening over the years due to sediment build-up.

Dredging is a much needed project that offers a solution for residents and wildlife in the Butano, Pescadero and Loma Mar areas.

Please - let us count on your support.

With best regards,

Jerry Haddox and Rebecca Mangano 332 Madrone Avenue Pescadero, CA. 94060 From: <u>Michael Lydon</u>
To: <u>Naftali Moed</u>

Subject: Proposal to Dredge Pescadero Marsh
Date: Thursday, May 24, 2018 8:55:11 PM

I am writing to support the Pescadero Marsh. Having been to several community meetings reviewing the proposal and its development, I strongly believe that the extensive work performed in preparing this proposal is more than sufficient to proceed. I have found that there has been extensive environmental review that more than satisfies any concerns about the impact of dredging.

In addition, I believe that delaying this dredging puts health and safety of residents and visitors at risk during the heavy runoff during winter.

I remember when there were native fish that were able to traverse the marsh and spawn in local streams. For several years I have not observed any fish able to travel up local creeks.

Sincerely,

Michael Lydon, Resident of Butano Canyon

R. Michael Lydon, LCSW, NCG, CLPF Professional Fiduciary PO Box 908 Pescadero, Ca 94060 Cell: 650-339-0979

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From: Shannon Webb
To: Naftali Moed

Subject: Proposal to Dredge Pescadero Marsh
Date: Thursday, May 24, 2018 12:49:44 PM

After over a decade of environmental studies it has been found in order to restore habitat and health to our marsh it must be dredged. Man made obstacles have inhibited creek flow and the dredging is addressing this. I commend the tireless work that has gone into the years of existing studies. The many hard fought court battles to get this done. All the evidence supports this plan. The studies themselves and the plan of action are already more than sufficient environmental impact reports. We do not need an additional EIR. There is more than 15 years of evidence that shows the health of the fish in the marsh, the snakes and birds, and the fish that travel up stream are all in desperate need of this action. In addition plant life in the marsh should benefit, and even local infrastructure should see some benefit.

I fully support This well designed plan from Kellyx and RCD.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Joan McCormick
To: Naftali Moed
Subject: Proposal to Dredge

Subject: Proposal to Dredge
Date: Friday, May 25, 2018 11:42:21 AM

I am a $4^{\rm th}$ generation in Butano Canyon and living there since the 1970's. It is time to fix this problem.

Joan McCormick

From: Catherine Peery
To: Naftali Moed

Subject: re: Comment on Proposal to Dredge Pescadero Marsh

Date: Thursday, May 24, 2018 12:28:10 PM

I would like to commend RCD for a very thorough job of investigating this and getting all the relevant agencies to agree to the proposed plan for dredging, and for the continuous education of the community of Pescadero. Considering the study and effort that has come before and how any negative impacts are being mitigated and are temporary, I fully support going forward with the dredging without an EIR.

I look forward to seeing fish swimming upstream in Butano Canyon as soon as that can happen.

Thanks to RCD for all the effort put into this.

Catherine M. Peery P.O. Box 28 47 Spruce Lane, Butano Canyon Pescadero CA 94060

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: James Reynolds
To: Naftali Moed
Cc: Nicole Reynolds

Subject: apoyamos complentamente el proyecto para el marsh

Date: Sunday, May 20, 2018 12:18:04 PM

We enthusiastically support the marsh project . sincerely, jim and nicole reynolds, level lea farm, pescadero.

From: <u>David Sandage</u>
To: <u>Naftali Moed</u>

Subject: Scheduling the Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project

Date: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 8:13:54 PM

Dear Naftali Moed,

I am writing to encourage your agency to proceed with the Butano Creek Channel Reconnection and Resilience Project as soon as possible. I am satisfied that the issues have been sufficiently studied and that the environmental risks will be addressed, leading to great improvements to the many elements involved. I am a resident of the coastside community (La Honda), a retired arborist and a supporter of our precious coastal environment. Please don't delay another year.

Thank you for your consideration,

David Sandage 7145 La Honda Road La Honda, CA 94020 From: glassmoll@aol.com
To: Naftali Moed

Subject: The town of Pescadero and the near by marsh area

Date: Friday, May 25, 2018 12:43:35 PM

I believe this plan has evaluated the important issues. I feel that dredging without delay is important for public safety, the benefit of the town, and the survival of the fish. We support the current IS/MND process and do not believe EIR is necessary.

thank you,

Darcie Connell 53 Redwood Ave. Pescadero, CA 94060 From: Tom Dodd
To: Naftali Moed

Subject:Butano Channel Reconnection ProjectDate:Tuesday, May 22, 2018 12:15:36 PM

I attended the presentation on May 17, and have looked over the CEQA documents. I spend a lot of time in the marsh area, and have long been frustrated by the sediment blockage of Butano Creek and the inability of the salmonids to move upstream to spawn. It's been sad witnessing the historic run be cut off, and that lineage threatened with extinction.

I'm very excited about the well worked out plan to restore stream flow and open passage for the Steelhead and Salmon. I appreciate the amount of careful planning on the excavation, it's route, and the reuse of the sediment to fill the voids in the marsh to decrease anoxic ponding and the fish kills that result. I also appreciate the work already done to head off the problem of sediment moving downstream. I desperately hope that nothing happens to further delay this important project. It has already taken too long to get to the point of an actual channel opening.

Thanks for the good work making plans, and best of luck to carrying the plans out in a timely manner.

Tom Dodd 6152 Pescadero Creek Rd Pescadero