

CARMEL J. ANGELO  
Chief Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board



**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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May 16, 2017

The Honorable Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1515 Clay St., 10th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-1401

Re: Statement of Support for the Eel River Recovery Project (ERRP) Tenmile Creek Water Conservation and Restoration Grant Proposal for California Coastal Conservancy Proposition 1 Funding

Dear Chair Bosco:

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors endorses the proposal by the non-profit Eel River Recovery Project (ERRP) for a California Coastal Conservancy Proposition 1 grant to restore flow to Tenmile Creek, a very important tributary of the upper South Fork Eel River. Tenmile Creek flows from the valley where the community of Laytonville is located. The historic drought and changes in water use in the watershed have caused the creek to go dry in late summer and fall. This not only creates a problem for production of listed salmon and steelhead, but creates a severe hardship for the community.

Helping the community work together to figure out solutions to their water supply problem is exactly what is needed at present. The project would also identify opportunities for restoring riparian zones stabilizing stream banks and reducing or eliminating gully erosion. The ERRP worked extensively with the cannabis community and residents throughout the Eel River basin since 2012 and has the trust of the community, therefore, a high likelihood of success. ERRP and its contractors will work with the newly forming Tenmile Creek Watershed Council to help set up a mechanism for full implementation of the *Tenmile Creek Conservation Action Plan* that is being produced jointly by this group. Citizen scientists will help collect data during this project and be trained to continue trend monitoring in the future to assist with adaptive management and forbearance coordination.

There is a great amount of resources being expended by State agencies and Counties to deal with the legalization of cannabis including the side effects and growing pains associated with this effort. A big missing link is the capacity to work at the watershed scale to resolve issues like water supply and erosion control.

We hope you favorably consider this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John McCowen".

John McCowen, Chair

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