



Ms. Lynda Hopkins, Chair
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
575 Administration Drive, Room 102A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

March 10, 2025

Re: Support of Item No. 2025-0226, PLP23-0014 and Rejection of Continuance

Honorable Chairwoman Hopkins and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The State Coastal Conservancy respectfully requests your support of Staff's recommendation for this item at the March 11 Board meeting, and rejection of continuance.

Staff presents a well-designed proposal that reverses the havoc inflicted by decades of terrace mining along the Russian River. This project would provide floodplain habitat where none exists, achieve traffic safety along a dangerous corridor, lay the foundation for a small river park accessible to the general public and provide untold benefits to listed salmonids, songbirds and countless other species. This project has been developed through grants from both the State Coastal Conservancy and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the project would occur entirely on land essentially donated by the project owner.

EHC, the property owner and County staff deserve your support for spending a decade navigating complex land use issues fairly and effectively with agencies and private property owners. The Mariani's future speculation is no reason to postpone a resilience project that will coequally achieve reclamation and restoration of a once-pristine segment of the Russian River while also providing important public access benefits along a river where few such opportunities exist.

This project is an unprecedented opportunity to truly reclaim historic terrace mines in a way that will restore habitat and enhance public benefit of the entire Russian River.

We appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Amy Hutzel
Amy Hutzel
Executive Officer

1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, California 94612-1401
Scc.ca.gov
510-286-1015 Fax: 510-286-0470

Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: C330FC05-7BA3-4F8D-ACF3-CD3E36A2F1EA	Status: Completed
Subject: Complete with Docusign: SCC-Sonoma County_Russian River Floodplain_3.10.25.pdf	
Source Envelope:	
Document Pages: 1	Signatures: 1
Certificate Pages: 2	Initials: 0
AutoNav: Enabled	Envelope Originator:
Envelopeld Stamping: Disabled	Michael Bowen
Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)	11493 Sunset Hills Rd
	Suite 100
	Reston, VA 20190
	Michael.Bowen@scc.ca.gov
	IP Address: 23.24.215.97

Record Tracking

Status: Original	Holder: Michael Bowen	Location: DocuSign
3/10/2025 12:34:17 PM	Michael.Bowen@scc.ca.gov	
Security Appliance Status: Connected	Pool: StateLocal	
Storage Appliance Status: Connected	Pool: State Coastal Conservancy	Location: Docusign

Signer Events

Signer	Signature	Timestamp
Amy Hutzel amy.hutzel@scc.ca.gov Executive Officer State Coastal Conservancy Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)	<i>Amy Hutzel</i> Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style Using IP Address: 23.24.215.97	Sent: 3/10/2025 12:37:33 PM Viewed: 3/10/2025 1:05:54 PM Signed: 3/10/2025 1:06:24 PM

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
Not Offered via Docusign

In Person Signer Events

Signature	Timestamp
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Editor Delivery Events

Status	Timestamp
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Agent Delivery Events

Status	Timestamp
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Intermediary Delivery Events

Status	Timestamp
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Certified Delivery Events

Status	Timestamp
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Carbon Copy Events

Status	Timestamp
Joel Gerwein Joel.gerwein@scc.ca.gov North Coast Regional Manager State Coastal Conservancy Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)	COPIED Sent: 3/10/2025 1:06:24 PM

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
Not Offered via Docusign

Robert Pennington robert.pennington@sonoma-county.org Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)	COPIED Sent: 3/10/2025 1:06:25 PM
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Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
Not Offered via Docusign

Witness Events

Signature	Timestamp
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Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	3/10/2025 12:37:33 PM
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	3/10/2025 1:05:54 PM
Signing Complete	Security Checked	3/10/2025 1:06:24 PM
Completed	Security Checked	3/10/2025 1:06:25 PM


Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
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From: [Robert Pennington](#)
To: [Stacie Groll](#)
Subject: FW: CalTrout Support for Use Permit PLP23-0014 File #2025-0226
Date: Monday, March 10, 2025 4:12:17 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)


For the comments.

From: Tennis Wick <Tennis.Wick@sonoma-county.org>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2025 4:12 PM
To: district4 <district4@sonoma-county.org>; PermitSonoma <PermitSonoma@sonoma-county.org>
Cc: Scott Orr <Scott.Orr@sonoma-county.org>; John Mack <John.Mack@sonoma-county.org>; Robert Pennington <Robert.Pennington@sonoma-county.org>
Subject: RE: CalTrout Support for Use Permit PLP23-0014 File #2025-0226

Thank you!



Tennis Wick, AICP
Director
2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
www.PermitSonoma.org
o: (707) 565-1900
d: (707) 565-1925
Tennis.Wick@Sonoma-County.org




Lobby hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Wednesday 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

From: district4 <district4@sonoma-county.org>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2025 10:11 AM
To: Tennis Wick <Tennis.Wick@sonoma-county.org>; PermitSonoma <PermitSonoma@sonoma-county.org>
Subject: FW: CalTrout Support for Use Permit PLP23-0014 File #2025-0226

FYI, if this should be added to the project file.

From: Charlie Schneider <cschneider@caltrout.org>
Sent: Saturday, March 8, 2025 1:40 PM
To: BOS <BOS@sonoma-county.org>; district4 <district4@sonoma-county.org>; district3 <district3@sonoma-county.org>; David Rabbitt <David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org>; Rebecca Hermosillo <Rebecca.Hermosillo@sonoma-county.org>; district5 <district5@sonoma-county.org>
Subject: CalTrout Support for Use Permit PLP23-0014 File #2025-0226



Re: Support for Use Permit PLP23-0014 for the Russian River Floodplain Restoration Project

Dear Chair Hopkins and Supervisors,

On behalf of California Trout, I am writing to express our strong support for the Use Permit application for the Russian River Floodplain Restoration Project (PLP23-0014). This project presents a significant opportunity to restore critical floodplain habitat, enhance fish and wildlife populations, and improve the resilience of the Russian River ecosystem.

Decades of gravel mining and river channelization have severely degraded habitat in the Russian River, cutting the mainstem off from its historic floodplain and reducing habitat complexity essential for native fish species like salmon and steelhead. The conversion of these former gravel pits back into functional floodplain and seasonal wetland habitat will provide over 160 acres of restored riparian and wet meadow areas, directly benefiting native salmonids by increasing food production, reducing predation risk from non-native species, and improving water quality. Additionally, eliminating the stagnant open-water habitat of the pits will reduce methylmercury production and help prevent harmful algal blooms.

Beyond the ecological benefits, this project will enhance flood resilience by lowering water velocities, decreasing bank erosion, and increasing temporary flood storage. Improved groundwater recharge, even during drought conditions, will contribute to long-term water security for the region. Furthermore, the inclusion of public trails and access features will ensure that local communities, including underserved populations, can benefit from restored natural spaces.

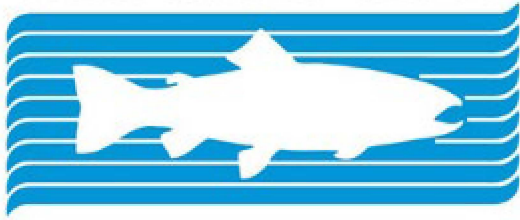
California Trout urges the Board of Supervisors to approve the Use Permit and Conditions of Approval to allow this vital restoration project to move forward. Thank you for your leadership in protecting and restoring the Russian River watershed.

Sincerely,
Charlie Schneider
Senior Project Manager
California Trout

Please find a PDF version of our comments attached.

Charlie Schneider (he/him)
Lost Coast Project Manager
C: 707.217.0409

CALIFORNIA TROUT



FISH · WATER · PEOPLE

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