



County of Monterey

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September 30, 2024

California State Coastal Conservancy
c/o Douglas Bosco, Chairman
1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, CA 95612

Subject: Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP) – Phase VII Letter of Support

Dear Chairman Bosco,

On behalf of the County of Monterey, I write to express strong support for Phase VII of the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP).

IWRP grew out of a series of watershed assessments and plans completed in Santa Cruz County in the late 1990s and early 2000's that characterized the resource needs and opportunities for restoration. IWRP brought together federal, state, and local resource and funding agencies to select and oversee the design and implementation of high-priority projects to restore watersheds. IWRP has its roots in Santa Cruz County, but in 2008 it was successfully expanded to include San Mateo and Monterey Counties.

Over the past decades, IWRP has been extremely successful in both implementing critical projects and developing a culture of trust and collaboration. IWRP has won national and statewide recognition and continues to be the go-to program for coordinated regional restoration, recovery, and resilience planning.

The State Coastal Conservancy has played a pivotal role in IWRP by providing funding to support development of designs and permits, in addition to support in the form of technical assistance to develop projects with resource agency guidance. The Conservancy's \$10.4 million investment has leveraged over \$67 million for implementation of over 200 restoration projects protecting natural resources while boosting local economies and creating jobs.

The Santa Cruz, San Mateo, and Monterey Resource Conservation Districts seek to build on this success through Phase VII to address resource concerns that have become ever more urgent in recent years due to extremes of drought, flood, and fire. IWRP VII will continue support of the program as a key mechanism for advancing critical IWRP restoration projects and engaging the many resource agencies in collaborative problem solving. Additionally, IWRP VII will design and permit high priority restoration projects, advancing the pipeline of critical restoration actions across the tri-county region.

For these reasons, the County of Monterey enthusiastically supports IWRP Phase VII as an important mechanism for continued watershed restoration in Santa Cruz, San Mateo, and Monterey Counties.

Sincerely,

Glenn Church, Chair
Board of Supervisors

