



January 5, 2023

**TO:** LOCSO Board of Directors

**FROM:** Ron Munds, General Manager

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item 9G – 01/05/2023 Board Meeting**

Approve Letter of Support for a Morro Coast Audubon Society Grant from the State Coastal Conservancy

**President**

Matthew D. Fourcroy

**Vice President**

Charles L. Cesena

**Directors**

Troy C. Gatchell

Marshall E. Ochylski

Christine M. Womack

**General Manager**

Ron Munds

**District Accountant**

Robert Stilts, CPA

**Unit Chief**

John Owens

**Battalion Chief**

Paul Provence

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

This item will be approved along with the Consent Calendar unless it is pulled by a Director for separate consideration. If so, Staff recommends that the Board adopt the following motion:

***Motion:***

***I move that the Board approve the letter of support for Morro Coast Audubon Society Grant from the State Coastal Conservancy and authorize the Board President to sign.***

**DISCUSSION**

Judy Neuhauser, President of the Morro Coast Audubon Society, submitted a correspondence to the Board requesting a letter of support for a grant they have applied for through the State Coastal Conservancy. The grant is for continued restoration of the Sweet Springs Nature Preserve by removing veldt grass and replacing it with native plants, many of which are grown by the Los Osos Middle School. The District has supported past efforts by allowing recycled water from the Los Osos Water Reclamation Facility to be used onsite instead of potable water.

**Financial Impact**

There are no direct financial impacts related to the recommended action made in this report.

**Attachments**

Draft Letter of Support

**Mailing Address:**

P.O. Box 6064

Los Osos, CA 93412

**Offices:**

2122 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 110

Los Osos, CA 93402

**Phone:** 805/528-9370

**FAX:** 805/528-9377

[www.losososcsd.org](http://www.losososcsd.org)



January 6, 2023

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1515 Clay Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

**Re: Coastal dune habitat restoration project, Sweet Springs Nature Preserve, Morro Bay**

**President**  
Matthew D. Fourcroy

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Dear Chair Bosco:

I am writing to urge your board's support for a \$50,000 grant to the Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) to restore coastal dune habitat in its Sweet Springs Nature Preserve on the south Morro Bay shoreline in San Luis Obispo County. Conversion of native coastal dune habitat to non-native veldt grass in the preserve has diminished sensitive habitat for birds, insects and the federally-listed Morro Shoulderband Snail.

With previous funding from Conservancy and others MCAS has for the past 15 years removed invasive veldt grass and restored native dune vegetation at the Preserve. The proposed Conservancy funds would be used to support this on-going effort including removal of veldt grass, native plant propagation, replanting with natives, and supporting those plantings with drip irrigation throughout the establishment period using recycled water obtained from the Los Osos Water Recycling Facility. During the proposed three-year project period, MCAS will restore two acres of degraded dune habitat, and will submit annual project monitoring reports with photos to document survival data for the replanted plots. As with the restoration efforts completed to date, California Conservation Corps crews will provide support for major weed removal.

The local community has been deeply involved in ongoing efforts by MCAS to restore dune habitat at the Preserve. For the past 10-plus years students and teachers from the nearby Los Osos Middle School have successfully propagated native plants at their school and have participated in replanting those natives at the Preserve. The school will continue to provide this critical support for the proposed restoration project. Community residents have also provided hundreds of hours of volunteer time, including installing and managing the drip irrigation system throughout the summer and during extended dry periods during the rainy season.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

XXXXX  
President  
Los Osos Community Services District