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# **Coastal Conservancy**

Date: April 24, 2008

To: Conservancy Board

From: Sam/Tim Duff

Re: Response to public comment received at the Conservancy board meeting 1/17/08

regarding the East Sweet Springs acquisition

At the Conservancy board meeting held 1/17/08 in Avila Beach, public comment was received by two members of the public with concerns regarding the item on the agenda titled the "East Sweet Springs Acquisition" located along the Morro Bay shoreline in San Luis Obispo County. The board approved the proposed grant to the Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) for the project, and requested staff to provide a response to the public comment on the project.

1) Public comment was received expressing concern with past MCAS performance managing the existing Sweet Springs Marsh Preserve, and a potential lack of capacity and funding to manage the additional East Sweet Springs property.

### **Response:**

The 8-acre East Sweet Springs property is located adjacent to the Sweet Springs Marsh Preserve, a 24-acre property the State Department of Fish and Game (DFG) acquired in 1990 with Conservancy funding support. DFG contracted with MCAS to prepare a management plan for the site and to build trails, a boardwalk with foot bridges, fences, and viewing platforms using staff of the California Conservation Corps. MCAS also began thinning some of the eucalyptus trees and reintroducing native vegetation on the site. In 1991 the Conservancy formally approved the transfer of the property from DFG to MCAS.

MCAS is currently in the process of revising their Sweet Springs Marsh Resource Enhancement and Access Management Plan to include the adjacent East Sweet Springs property. Surveys will be done to determine existing geology and hydrology conditions, vegetation, wildlife, cultural resources, and public access. Based on the survey findings, MCAS will update the plan to include resource management zones and criteria, specific resource enhancement recommendations, and an access management plan consistent with resource protection. In addition to the \$100,000 in Conservancy funds awarded for improvements and management of the East Sweet Springs and Binscarth sites, MCAS manages a \$60,000 endowment for the long-

term maintenance of the Preserve. MCAS also intends to apply for other land restoration grants. See the attached MCAS work plans and budgets for the proposed use of the Conservancy management and restoration funds.

### 2) Public comment was received expressing concern with lack of bathroom facilities at the existing Sweet Springs Marsh Preserve.

#### **Response:**

The Sweet Springs Marsh Resource Enhancement and Access Management Plan previously prepared with Conservancy funds outlines goals and objectives for the Preserve, including include minimal disturbance to the site. MCAS's current policy recommends that other than a kiosk, boardwalk, interpretive signs, and viewing platform, no other structures are allowed on the site.

Although there are no bathrooms on or in the vicinity of the Preserve, prior to the Conservancy board meeting MCAS had not received any complaints regarding lack of such facilities on this property. The one sanitation issue that did arise was in regards to people not picking up after their dogs. MCAS remedied this situation by providing mutt mitts and a disposal can at the entrance to the property. In the update to the management plan, MCAS will evaluate opportunities and constraints associated with providing a bathroom on the Preserve.

### 3) Public comment was received expressing concern with inadequate ADA-compliant access facilities at the Preserve.

#### **Response:**

When updating the management plan, MCAS will include recommendations for upgrading the site to be fully ADA compliant.

## MORRO COAST AUDUBON SOCIETY SWEET SPRINGS EAST PROPERTY, ESTIMATION OF EXPENSES, THREE-YEAR TIMELINE

Task Item	Description	Personnel	Units	Quantity	Cost Per	Total
1. Resource Inventory	·					
	Comprehensive survey of plant and wildlife species and habitat	Audubon/Consultant	hours	30	\$65	\$1,950
	Develop a digital map of the sites biological resources.	Audubon/Consultant	hours	40	\$65	\$2,600
	Monitor habitat	Audubon/Consultant	hours	80	\$65	\$5,200
2. Public Access and Facility Improvements						
	Boarder	Expense	sq.ft	10,000	0.25	\$2,500
	Removal of Cyclone Fence	Expense	sq.ft	1,000	0.5	\$500
	Split Rail Fence	Expense	feet	1600	\$4.33	\$6,928
	Bench Seating	Expense	each	2	\$1,500	\$3,000
	Educational signage	Expense	complete sim	3	\$400	\$1,200
	Dog waste cleanup facility	Expense	each	2	\$400	\$800
	Staff Labor	Audubon	hours	350	\$50	\$17,500
3. Native Habitat Restoration Plan						
	Exotic Removal	Audubon/Consultant	hours	70	\$80	\$5,600
	Container Stock	Expense	individual pla1	1,000	\$3.60	\$3,600
	Mulch	Expense	sq.ft	4,000	\$0.20	\$800
	Eucalyptus Maintenance	Audubon/Consultant	individual tree	45	\$67.00	\$3,015
	Staff Labor	Audubon/Consultant	hours	80	\$40	\$3,200
4. Annual Habitat and Tree Maintenance						
	Exotic Removal	Audubon/Consultant	hours	110	\$80	\$8,800
	Container Stock	Expense	individual pla	300	\$3.60	\$1,080
	Mulch	Expense	sq.ft	5,000	\$0.20	\$1,000
	Eucalyptus Maintenance	Audubon/Consultant	individual tree	45	\$67 .00	\$3,015
	Staff Labor	Audubon/Consultant	hours	200	\$40	\$8,000
S. Project Management	Staff Labor	Audubon	hours	250	\$25	\$6,250
Estimated Total						\$80,288

### MORRO COAST AUDUBON SOCIETY

FORMER SECLOTS/BINSCARTH PROPERTY, ESTIMATION OF EXPENSES, THREE-YEAR TIMELINE

Task Item	Description	Personnel	Units	Quantity	Cost Per	Total
1. Resource Inventory						
	Comprehensive survey of plant and wildlife species and habitat	Audubon/Consultant	hours	8	\$65	\$52(
	Develop a digital map of the sites biological resources.	Audubon/Consultant	hours	8	\$65	\$52(
	Monitor habitat	Audubon/Consultant	hours	8	\$65	\$520
2. Public Access and Facility Improvements						
	Trail - Decomposed Granite with	Expense	sq.ft	5,000	0.25	\$1,250
	Spl it Rail Fence	Expense	feet	600	\$4.33	\$2,598
	Bench Seating	Expense	each	1	\$1,500	\$1,500
	Educational signage	Expense	complete sign	1	\$400	\$40(
	Dog waste cleanup facility	Expense	each	1	\$400	\$40(
	Staff Labor	Audubon	hours	25	\$50	\$1,250
3. Native Habitat Restoration Plan						
	Exotic Removal	Audubon/Consultant	hours	20	\$80	\$1,600
	Container Stock	Expense	individua I plar	500	\$3.60	\$1,800
	Mulch	Expense	sq.ft	2,000	\$0.20	\$400
	Eucalyptus Maintenance	Audubon/Consultant	individual treE	10	\$67.00	\$670
	Staff Labor	Audubon/Consultant	hours	20	\$40	\$800
4. Annual Habitat and Tree Maintenance						
	Exotic Removal	Audubon/Consultant	hours	18	\$80	\$1,440
	Conta iner Stock	Expense	individua I pla	100	\$3.60	\$360
	Mulch	Expense	SQ.ft	3,000	\$0.20	\$600
	Eucalyptus Maintenance	Audubon/Consultant	individual treE	25	\$67.00	\$1,675
	Staff Labor	Audubon/Consultant	hours	24	\$40	\$960
5. Project Management	Staff Labor	Audubon	hours	30	\$25	\$750
Estimated Total						\$20,013