

Environmental Co-Chair
Tracy Katelman
Registered Professional Forester

Labor Co-Chair
Jim Smith
President, Central Labor Council of
Humboldt & Del Norte Counties

Ernie Behm
United Food and Commercial Workers
Local 101

Brian Bishop
Operating Engineers Local 3

Bob Borck
Carpenters Local 751

Cynthia Elkins
Environmental Protection Information
Center

Richard Gienger
Watershed Restorationist

Mark Greenleaf
California State Employees Association
Local 1000, SEIU

Candice Ludlow
Chris Peters
Seventh Generation Fund

Emeritus
Freeman House
Author, Totem Salmon

Staff
Andrea Davis
Project Coordinator

December 23, 2003

Mr. Dave Tyson
City Manager, City of Eureka
531 K Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Mayor Peter La Vallee
City of Eureka
531 K Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Re: Eureka Marsh project

Dear Mr. Tyson and Mayor La Vallee,

The North Coast Restoration Jobs Initiative, a local coalition of labor, environmental, and community leaders committed to creating high quality jobs through restoring damaged ecosystems, would like to take this opportunity to address our concerns regarding the much delayed Eureka Marsh project. It has come to our attention that the City continues to be negligent in its implementation of the Eureka Marsh project, as funded by the Coastal Conservancy nearly 20 years ago.

The North Coast Restoration Jobs Initiative encourages the City to move quickly to restore the Eureka Marsh area. We strongly believe this special area has great potential to enhance the ecological recovery of Humboldt Bay, present open space opportunities for public use and education, and stimulate economic growth in Eureka by providing additional job opportunities through the project's implementation.

We are united in our concern regarding the loss of jobs the City is creating as it continues to sit on this project, delaying construction as well as ecological recovery. Recent research indicates that watershed restoration projects in Humboldt County are a significant contributor to local employment as well as the county's economic base, largely due to efforts not unlike the Eureka Marsh project. We urge the City to expedite the implementation of the Eureka Marsh project, per the intentions and agreements of the City's contracts with the Coastal Conservancy.

Furthermore, the North Coast Restoration Jobs Initiative believes the City is acting irresponsibly in jeopardizing its ability to

leverage future Coastal Conservancy funds for similar projects as a result of the City's troubling track record with the agency. We believe the loss of this potential revenue puts related job creation at further risk, exacerbating the urgency of this issue in our community.

Given our interest in the Eureka Marsh project, we look forward to assisting the City in properly completing this project in a timely manner. It has been our experience that partnering with community-based groups such as ours oftentimes is helpful in actualizing challenging objectives, such as the Eureka Marsh project.

Sincerely,

Tracy Katelman
Environmental Co-Chair

Jim Smith
Labor Co-Chair

Cc: Councilmember Bass-Jackson
Councilmember Jones
Councilmember Kerrigan
Councilmember Leonard
Councilmember Wolford
Lisa Shikany, Environmental Planner, City of Eureka
Moira McEnespy, Coastal Conservancy