



Napa County Resource Conservation District
1303 Jefferson St., Ste. 500B, Napa, California 94559
(707) 690-3110, NapaRCD.org

October 11, 2022

Steve Lederer, Director
Napa County Public Works
1195 Third St, Room 101
Napa, CA 94559

Dear Director Lederer:

I'm writing on behalf of Napa County Resource Conservation District (Napa RCD) to express our support for Napa County's grant application to remediate an anthropogenic barrier to fish passage on Campbell Creek by replacing the Dry Creek Road culvert with a bottomless arch design. Fish migration barriers have been a major driver of fish decline in the Napa River watershed, and this particular barrier is a high-priority candidate for remediation.

Over the past several decades Napa RCD has worked to assess and remediate barriers to fish passage in the Napa River watershed, which has close to 600 miles of stream, with roughly 25% of that flowing perennially. The watershed is fortunate to still have native anadromous fishes, specifically Pacific and River Lamprey, steelhead trout, and Chinook salmon. Historically, the Napa Valley had the most prolific salmonid run in the Bay Area, with a spawning population in the range of 6,000 fish reported as late as the end of World War II. Recent fish trap surveys report double-digit numbers. While many factors contribute to declines in salmonid populations, stream obstructions are the most reasonably subject to immediate improvement.

Napa RCD assessed the Dry Creek Road culvert at Campbell Creek in 2011 under California State Coastal Conservancy Agreement No. 08-069 and determined it to be a high-priority candidate for remediation. This culvert is the only anthropogenic barrier to fish passage on Campbell Creek, which offers perennial flow and high-quality steelhead spawning and rearing habitat. Based on the results of the assessment, Napa RCD found the culvert to be undersized and a complete barrier to the upstream movement of anadromous fishes. It is at risk of flooding and failure during large storm events and blocks or severely limits the ability of fish to access 0.67 miles of high-quality habitat. Although 0.67 miles of additional habitat is a relatively small contribution to the overall watershed, it is habitat of the highest quality in the area.

If you have questions, I can be reached at lucas@naparcd.org or 707-690-3119.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lucas Patzek".

Lucas Patzek, Ph.D.
District Manager
707-690-3119
lucas@naparcd.org