



# SIERRA CLUB

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## SONOMA GROUP

P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0466  
(707) 744-7651 email: [songrp@sonic.net](mailto:songrp@sonic.net)  
[www.sierraclub.org/redwood/sonoma](http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/sonoma)

August 23, 2020

Jennifer Kuszmar  
Matching Grants Coordinator  
Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District  
747 Mendocino Ave # 100, Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
[Jennifer.kuszmar@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Jennifer.kuszmar@sonoma-county.org)

Dear Jennifer Kuszmar,

The Sierra Club strongly supports the mission of the Petaluma non-profit, Save the North Petaluma River and Wetlands (SNPRW) who, in partnership with the Rose Foundation, are seeking to purchase and protect in perpetuity, 19 privately-owned acres of wildlife habitat/open space in the upstream portion of the Petaluma River, known as the Corona Reach. This acreage, which comprises seasonal wetlands, mature riparian woodland, oak savannah, and grassland habitats, supports a number of United States Fish and Wildlife Service and California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Special Status Species. Petaluma's General Plan refers to this upstream segment of the river as, "the most environmentally sensitive of the river's six segments." Preservation of this site also supports the efforts of Casa Grande High school's award-winning United Angler's non-profit fish hatchery program, which is restoring federally-threatened steelhead trout and salmon in this portion of the Petaluma River.

The mission of SNPRW is in line with the Sierra Club's mission to enjoy and protect wild places, to promote the responsible uses of the earth's ecosystems/resources, and to protect/restore the natural environment.

Where 98% of the Petaluma Valley's wetlands have been lost (San Francisco Estuary Institute 2018 report), conservation of these remaining wetlands in the watershed is critical to ensure their ecological function of providing wildlife habitat, improving water quality, and recharging groundwater. This is in alignment with Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District's goals to protect waterways and natural lands that, 1) maintain water quality and supply and, 2) provide essential habitat for wildlife and, 3) contribute to the scenic beauty of Sonoma County. Thus, we ask that you assist SNPRW in acquiring and preserving this land.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Sachen  
Chair, Sierra Club Sonoma Group