

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2015**

Prepared August 20, 2015

**ITEM NUMBER:** 14

**SUBJECT:** Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve

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**KEY INFORMATION**

**Location:** Monterey Bay Area

**THIS ACTION:** Informational

This is an informational item to update the Central Coast Water Board and public about the outcome of the Board's investment in the acquisition and restoration of key lands in the Elkhorn Slough watershed. Mr. Mark Silberstein is the Executive Director of the Elkhorn Slough Foundation and will provide a presentation focusing on an overview and successes from the Water Board funding through the mitigation of permitting the Moss Landing Power Plant.

The Elkhorn Slough Foundation's mission is to conserve and restore Elkhorn Slough and its watershed. As a partner to the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, the Foundation supports outreach, education and research. The foundation's role as a land trust supported the mitigation of impacts associated with the permitting of the Moss Landing Power Plant in 2001. Today, the foundation manages nearly 4,000 acres in the Elkhorn watershed and has been directly involved in the restoration of key habitats including tidal wetlands, coastal prairie, oak woodlands, freshwater ponds, riparian corridors and maritime chaparral. A peer reviewed study in "Coast and Estuaries" revealed a significant drop in nutrients coming into the upper slough subsequent to the acquisition and restoration of watershed lands through the mitigation program.

A project description and other information from the project proponents can be found at this website: <http://www.elkhornslough.org/> .