March 10, 2014

Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman, Chair
Committee on Agriculture
California State Assembly
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0041

RE: Support for AB 2402

Dear Assembly Member Eggman,

On behalf of Golden Hour Restoration Institute, I want to express our strong support for AB 2402. By providing $2.5 million to the state’s network of Weed Management Areas (WMAs), this bill makes a vital investment in the long-term protection of California’s water resources, agriculture, economy, infrastructure and environment.

WMAs have been effective because they bring together all land management stakeholders at the local and regional scale. Partners include public agencies, private landowners and interested NGOs. The collaborative structure generates strong local buy-in for high-priority weed control projects. I’ve personally worked to treat and restore areas like this at Coyote Ridge where WMA monies help eliminate incipient goatgrass invasions that threaten native grasslands. WMA money has helped preserve areas like the one at right.

**WMA’s are a vital part of the non-profit land management landscape.** Along with significant in-kind contributions, the seed grants provided by the state’s program help leverage additional funding. Please support the passage of this important bill.

Sincerely,

Lech Naumovich, Executive Director

cc: Assembly Member Joan Buchanan
Assembly Member Jim Frazier