

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

SACRAMENTO OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 445-4961

DISTRICT OFFICE
18552 MAC ARTHUR BLVD
SUITE 395
IRVINE, CA 92612
(949) 833-0180
(714) 630-3304
(800) 221-2225

California State Senate

SENATOR
ROSS JOHNSON

THIRTY-FIFTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
INSURANCE
RULES
JOINT COMMITTEE ON RULES



October 27, 2003

TRISH CHAMPARD

Mr. Paul Morabito
Chair, Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, California 94612

RE: Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project (UNBERP)

Dear Mr. Morabito:

I am writing to urge you to allocate \$12.5 million to the County of Orange for the U.S. Army Corps-administered project known as the Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project.

As you know, the Upper Bay provides valuable habitat for a diverse array of migratory and resident birds, fish, vertebrates, invertebrates and plants. The Restoration Project \$33 million project will increase open water and subtidal habitat area by increasing the capacity of sediment basins within the Bay; improve tidal circulation and restore intertidal habitat; reduce predator access to the marsh and California Least Tern nesting islands; and address the requirements of the Sediment and Nutrient TMDLs for Newport Bay.

Perhaps most importantly, the Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project includes an ongoing maintenance dredging program to ensure that benefits of this effort will be maintained. The City of Newport Beach and the Regional Board have already set-aside more than \$3 million towards this long-term dredging program.

The Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project is absolutely vital to the long-term protection of Upper Newport Bay, the largest functioning full tidal wetland in southern California. I urge your favorable consideration of this request for funding.

Sincerely,

Ross Johnson
ROSS JOHNSON
Senator, 35th District

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OCT 29 2003

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
LELAND (TAX)

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942649
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0070
(916) 318-2070
FAX (916) 318-2170
DISTRICT OFFICE
14952 MacArthur Blvd
SUITE 4220
IRVINE, CA 92612
(949) 863-7070
FAX (949) 863-8337

Assembly California Legislature



JOHN CAMPBELL
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, SEVENTIETH DISTRICT
Assemblymember.John.Campbell@assembly.ca.gov

COMMITTEES
VICE CHAIRMAN
BUDGET
MEMBER:
INSURANCE
UTILITIES AND COMMERCE

October 30, 2003

Trish
Mr. Paul Morabito
Chair, Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, California 94612

RE: Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project (UNBERP)

Dear Chair Morabito:

I, Assemblyman John Campbell, offer my strong support of the Conservancy's pending consideration of allocating \$12.5 million to the County of Orange for the US Army Corps-administered project known as the Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project. This Project is vital to the long-term protection of Upper Newport Bay, the largest functioning full tidal wetland in southern California. It provides valuable habitat for a diverse array of migratory and resident birds, fish, vertebrates, invertebrates and plants.

As your Conservancy Board is aware, this \$33 million project -- funded with a significant federal share to meet the proposed \$12.5 million state/local share -- is a result of a long-term partnership between several agencies in the Newport Bay watershed, including the cities of Newport Beach, Irvine, Costa Mesa, Tustin, Lake Forest, Laguna Woods, the Irvine Ranch Water District, the Irvine Company, the County of Orange, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Region) and the California Department of Fish and Game. The broad agency support is mirrored by broad public support throughout the watershed.

The Project will provide the following benefits -- it will:

- Increase open water and subtidal habitat area by significantly increasing the capacity of sediment basins within the Bay;
- Improve tidal circulation and restore intertidal habitat;
- Reduce predator access to the marsh and California Least Tern nesting islands; and
- Directly address the requirements of the Sediment and Nutrient TMDLs for Newport Bay.

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EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

Importantly, the Project includes an ongoing maintenance dredging program to ensure that benefits of this specific effort will be maintained. The City and the Regional Board have already set-aside more than \$3 million towards this long-term dredging program.

Again, we respectfully urge your Conservancy's support of this important allocation. We look forward to working cooperatively with the Conservancy and its staff to see the Project through to completion.

I remain respectfully,



JOHN CAMPBELL
Assemblyman, 70th District

cc: Members of the Newport Beach City Council

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NOV 06 2003
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support



THOMAS W. WILSON

CHAIRMAN

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT

10 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, P. O. BOX 687, SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92702-0687

PHONE: (714) 834-3550 FAX: (714) 834-2670

WEBSITE: <http://www.oc.ca.gov/supes/fifth> EMAIL: thomas.wilson@ocgov.com

October 22, 2003

TRISH CHAPMAN

Mr. Paul Morabito
Chair, Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Morabito:

As co-chairs of the Orange County Wetlands Recovery Project Task Force we are writing in support of a grant for \$200,000 to the WRP Science Advisory Panel (SAP). The SAP fulfills a critical role in helping the WRP Managers Group and our individual task force make environmental management decisions based on the best available science. The information and guidance they provide help in setting task force goals and objectives and in prioritizing restoration, enhancement and acquisition projects.

The SAP, through its work to develop a suite of tools for decision making and restoration management, further helps the task force and participating organizations develop better projects and ask appropriate science-based questions of project proponents. We also look forward to the project and habitat monitoring tools under development by the SAP.

Through research, presentations at individual task force meetings and day-to-day availability to answer questions and provide feedback, the SAP helps our task force and the WRP as a whole accomplish its work more efficiently and effectively. Moreover, they can help us focus our efforts where they will have the greatest impact and where successful restoration and preservation can occur.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Thomas W. Wilson in black ink.

THOMAS W. WILSON
Chairman, Orange County Board of Supervisors
Co-Chair, O.C. WRP Task Force

Handwritten signature of Jean Watt in blue ink.

JEAN WATT
Co-Chair, O.C. WRP Task Force

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OCT 27 2003

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Mayor

Steven Bromberg

Mayor Pro Tem

Tod W. Ridgeway

October 21, 2003

Council Members

Garold B. Adams

John Heffernan

Richard A. Nichols

Gary L. Proctor

Don Webb

TRISH CHAPMAN

Mr. Paul Morabito
Chair, Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, California 94612

VIA FACSIMILE: 510-286-0470

RE: Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project (UNBERP)

Dear Chair Morabito:

The City of Newport Beach offers its strong support of the Conservancy's pending consideration of allocating \$12.5 million to the County of Orange for the US Army Corps-administered project known as the Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project. This Project is vital to the long-term protection of Upper Newport Bay, the largest functioning full tidal wetland in southern California. It provides valuable habitat for a diverse array of migratory and resident birds, fish, vertebrates, invertebrates and plants.

As your Conservancy Board is aware, this \$33 million project -- funded with a significant federal share to meet the proposed \$12.5 million state/local share -- is a result of a long-term partnership between several agencies in the Newport Bay watershed, including the cities of Newport Beach, Irvine, Costa Mesa, Tustin, Lake Forest, Laguna Woods, the Irvine Ranch Water District, the Irvine Company, the County of Orange, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Region) and the California Department of Fish and Game. The broad agency support is mirrored by broad public support throughout the watershed.

The Project will provide the following benefits -- it will:

- Increase open water and subtidal habitat area by significantly increasing the capacity of sediment basins within the Bay;
- Improve tidal circulation and restore intertidal habitat;

City Hall • 3300 Newport Boulevard • Post Office Box 1768
Newport Beach, California 92658-8915 • www.city.newport-beach.ca.us
(949) 644-3004

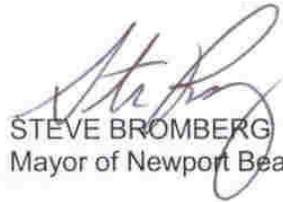
EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

- Reduce predator access to the marsh and California Least Tern nesting islands; and
- Directly address the requirements of the Sediment and Nutrient TMDLs for Newport Bay.

Importantly, the Project includes an ongoing maintenance dredging program to ensure that benefits of this specific effort will be maintained. The City and the Regional Board have already set-aside more than \$3 million towards this long-term dredging program.

Again, we respectfully urge your Conservancy's support of this important allocation. We look forward to working cooperatively with the Conservancy and its staff to see the Project through to completion.

Sincerely,



STEVE BROMBERG
Mayor of Newport Beach

cc: Members of the Newport Beach City Council
Members of the Watershed Executive Committee

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support



LARRY AGRAN, Mayor

www.ci.irvine.ca.us

City of Irvine, One Civic Center Plaza, P.O. Box 19575, Irvine, California 92613-9575 (714) 724-6233

OCTOBER 27, 2003

Paul Morabito
Chair, Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, California 94612

Subject: Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project (UNBERP)

Dear Chair Morabito:

The City of Irvine offers its strong support of the Coastal Conservancy's pending consideration of allocating \$12.5 million to the County of Orange for the US Army Corps-administered project known as the Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project. This project is vital to the long-term protection of Upper Newport Bay, the largest functioning full tidal wetland in Southern California. It provides valuable habitat for a diverse array of migratory and resident birds, fish, vertebrates, invertebrates and plants.

As your Conservancy Board is aware, this \$33 million project--funded with a significant federal share to meet the proposed \$12.5 million state/local share--is the result of a long-term partnership between several agencies in the Newport Bay watershed, including the Cities of Irvine, Newport Beach, Costa Mesa, Tustin, Lake Forest, Laguna Woods, the Irvine Ranch Water District, The Irvine Company, the County of Orange, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Region), and the California Department of Fish and Game. The broad agency support is mirrored by broad public support throughout the watershed.

The project will provide the following benefits:

- Increase open water and subtidal habitat area by significantly increasing the capacity of sediment basins within the Bay;
- Improve tidal circulation and restore intertidal habitat;

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

Paul Morabito
October 27, 2003
Page 2

- Reduce predator access to the marsh and California Least Tern nesting islands, and
- Directly address the requirements of the Sediment and Nutrient Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for Newport Bay.

This project also includes an ongoing maintenance-dredging program to ensure that benefits of this specific effort will be maintained.

Again, we respectfully urge your Conservancy's support of this important allocation. We look forward to working cooperatively with the Conservancy and its staff to see the project through to completion.

Sincerely,



LARRY AGRON
Mayor

cc: Irvine City Council
Watershed Executive Committee
Allison Hart, City Manager
Judy Vonada, Deputy City Manager
Marty Bryant, Acting Director of Public Works
Mark Carroll, City Engineer
Dave Kiff, Newport Beach Assistant City Manager

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

CITY OF LAKE FOREST



October 28, 2003

Mr. Paul Morabito
Chair, Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, California 94612

TALISH CHAPMAN

Subject: Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project (UNBERP)

Mayor
Richard T. Dixon

Mayor Pro Tem
Peter Herzig

Council Members
Kathryn McCullough
Marta Rudolph
Helen Wilson

City Manager
Robert C. Burek

Dear Chair Morabito:

As a shareholder in the watershed, the City of Lake Forest offers its strong support of the Conservancy's consideration of allocating \$12.5 million to the County of Orange to implement the Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This Project is vital to the long-term protection of Upper Newport Bay. The Bay is the largest functioning full tidal wetland in Southern California. It provides valuable habitat for a diverse array of migratory and resident birds, fish, vertebrates, invertebrates and plants.

The Conservancy Board is aware, this \$33 million project is funded with a significant Federal share to meet the proposed \$12.5 million State and local share. It is also the result of a long-term partnership between several agencies in the Newport Bay watershed, including the City of Lake Forest and the cities of Newport Beach, Irvine, Costa Mesa, Tustin, Santa Ana, Orange, Laguna Hills, Laguna Woods, the Irvine Ranch Water District, the Irvine Company, the County of Orange, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Region) and the California Department of Fish and Game. Throughout the watershed, the universal agency support is echoed by wide public support.

The Project is expected to provide the following benefits:

- Increase open water and subtidal habitat area by significantly increasing the capacity of sediment basins within the Bay;
- Improve tidal circulation and restore intertidal habitat;
- Reduce predator access to the marsh and California Least Tern nesting islands; and
- Directly address the requirements of the Sediment and Nutrient TMDLs for Newport Bay.

Additionally, the Project includes an ongoing maintenance dredging program to ensure that the realized benefits of this specific effort will be maintained. The City and the Regional Board have already set aside more than \$3 million towards this long-term dredging program.

www.ci.lakeforest.ca.us



Lake Forest. Remember the Past ~ Challenge the Future

23167 Lake Center Drive, Suite 100
Lake Forest, CA 92630
(949) 461-3400

City Hall Fax: (949) 461-3511
Building/Planning/Public Works Fax: (949) 461-3512



EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

City of Lake Forest
October 28, 2003
Page 2

Again, your Conservancy's support of this important allocation is encouraged. We look forward to working cooperatively with the Conservancy and its staff to see the Project through to completion.

Very truly yours,



Richard T. Dixon
Mayor of Lake Forest

cc: Members of the Lake Forest City Council
Members of the Watershed Executive Committee

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support



CITY of LAGUNA WOODS

Bert Hack
Mayor

Robert B. Ring
Mayor Pro tem

Robert Bouer
Councilmember

Jan McLaughlin
Councilmember

Dr. Brenda B. Ross
Councilmember

Leslie A. Keane
City Manager

October 21, 2003

M. BEYERLEN

Mr. Paul Morabito
Chair, Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, California 94612

RE: Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project (UNBERP)

Dear Chair Morabito:

The City of Laguna Woods offers its strong support of the Conservancy's pending consideration of allocating \$12.5 million to the County of Orange for the US Army Corps-administered project known as the Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project. This Project is vital to the long-term protection of Upper Newport Bay, the largest functioning full tidal wetland in southern California. It provides valuable habitat for a diverse array of migratory and resident birds, fish, vertebrates, invertebrates and plants.

As your Conservancy Board is aware, this \$33 million project -- funded with a significant federal share to meet the proposed \$12.5 million state/local share -- is a result of a long-term partnership between several agencies in the Newport Bay watershed, including the cities of Newport Beach, Irvine, Costa Mesa, Tustin, Lake Forest, Laguna Woods, the Irvine Ranch Water District, the Irvine Company, the County of Orange, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Region) and the California Department of Fish and Game. The broad agency support is mirrored by broad public support throughout the watershed.

The Project will provide the following benefits -- it will:

- Increase open water and subtidal habitat area by significantly increasing the capacity of sediment basins within the Bay;
- Improve tidal circulation and restore intertidal habitat;
- Reduce predator access to the marsh and California Least Tern nesting islands; and
- Directly address the requirements of the Sediment and Nutrient TMDLs for Newport Bay.

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

P. Morabito
October 21, 2003
Page 2

Importantly, the Project includes an ongoing maintenance dredging program to ensure that benefits of this specific effort will be maintained.

The City of Laguna Woods urges Conservancy's support of Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project. We look forward to working cooperatively with all of the agencies involved to see this important project through to completion.

Sincerely,



Leslie Keane
City Manager

cc: Members, Laguna Woods Water Quality Committee

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OCT 24 2003

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support



October 22, 2003

Mr. Paul Morabito
Chair, Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, California 94612

TRISH CHAPMAN

RE: Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project (UNBERP)

Dear Chair Morabito,

The Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends (NBNF) strongly support the Conservancy's consideration of \$12.5 million allocation to the County of Orange for the US Army Corps-administered project known as the Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project. Having a close working relationship with the bay, the NBNF understands the importance of this project to the long-term protection of Upper Newport Bay. This tidal wetland provides valuable habitat for a diverse array of migratory and resident birds, fish, vertebrates, invertebrates and plants.

As we lead tours through the area, we point out to the visitors that the biggest threat to the bay is sedimentation. Without projects like this, the Newport Bay would quickly become a meadow. This project will:

- Increase open water and sub-tidal habitat area by significantly increasing the capacity of sediment basins within the Bay
- Improve tidal circulation and restore inter-tidal habitat
- Reduce predator access to the marsh and California Least Tern nesting islands
- Directly address the requirements of the Sediment and Nutrient TMDLs for Newport Bay.

With broad public, agency, and city support, coupled with Conservancy support, this critically needed project can move forward. To ensure that benefits of this specific effort will be maintained, efforts are being made up stream to reduce sediment flow into the bay and this Project includes an ongoing maintenance dredging program

We respectfully urge, on behalf of the "critters" of and visitors to the Upper Newport Bay, your Conservancy's support of this important allocation. We are available to the Conservancy and its staff to assist in moving this Project through to completion.

Sincerely,

Jack Keating
 Jack Keating
 President, Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends
 600 Shelbaker
 Newport Beach,
 CA 92660
 949.640.6746
 www.newportbay.org

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 OCT 27 2003
 COASTAL CONSERVANCY
 OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support



FHBP Board Of Directors:

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Alice Sorenson, Vice President
Don Thomas, Treasurer
Carolyn Wood, Secretary
Garry Brown
Debra Clarke
Howard DeCruyenaere
Marilyn Ganahl
Sandy Genis
Shirley Grindle
Bob Joseph
Christopher Koontz
Paul Mudge
Kathie Matsuyama
Stephanie Pacheco
Theresa Sears
Nancy Skinner
Connie Spenger
Brenda Stouffer
Dick Zembal

Supporting Organizations

Amigos de Bolsa Chica
Aukubon, Sea & Sage Chapter
Bolsa Chica Land Trust
Caspers Wilderness Park
Volunteers
Equestrian Coalition of O.C.
Environmental Nature Center
Huntington Bch Wetlands Conservancy & Wildlife Care Center
Laguna Canyon Conservancy
Laguna Canyon Foundation
Laguna Greenbelt, Inc.
Newport Conservancy
Sierra Club, Orange City Group
Southeast Huntington Beach Homeowners
Surfriders Foundation, Newport Beach Chapter
Stop Polluting Our Newport
Upper Bay Naturalists & Friends
Wilderness Park Trust Fund

Advisory Board

Marian Bergeson
Connie Boardman
Marilyn Brewer
Roy & Ilse Byrnes
Laura Cohen
Joe Dunn
Roger Faubel
Louise Greeley
Tom Harman
Evelyn Hart
Jack Keating
Vic Leipzig
Matt Rayl
Claire Schlotterbeck
Dan Silver
Jack Skinner M.D.
Jan Vandersloot, M.D.

October 24, 2003

Mr. Paul Morabito
Chair, Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, California 94612

TRISH CHAPMAN

RE: Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project

Dear Chair Morabito:

The Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks offers our strong support of the Coastal Conservancy Board's pending consideration of approval of a \$12.5 million grant to the County of Orange for the Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project. This Project is vital to the long-term ecosystem health of Upper Newport Bay, the largest functioning full tidal wetland in southern California. It provides valuable habitat for an incredible array of migratory and resident birds, fish, vertebrates, invertebrates and plants.

As your Conservancy Board is aware, this \$33 million project -- funded with a significant federal share to meet the proposed \$12.5 million state/local share -- is a result of a long-term partnership between several agencies in the Newport Bay watershed, including the cities of Newport Beach, Irvine, Costa Mesa, Tustin, Santa Ana, Lake Forest, Orange, Laguna Hills, Laguna Woods, the Irvine Ranch Water District, the Irvine Company, the County of Orange, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Region) and the California Department of Fish and Game. The broad agency support is mirrored by broad public support throughout the watershed.

The Project will provide multiple benefits including: increasing open water and subtidal habitat area by significantly increasing the capacity of sediment basins within the Bay; improving tidal circulation and restoring intertidal habitat; reducing predator access to the marsh and California Least Tern nesting islands; and directly addressing the requirements of the Sediment and Nutrient TMDLs for Newport Bay.

Post Office Box 9256
Newport Beach, CA 92658-9256
949-399-3669

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

Importantly, the Project includes an ongoing maintenance dredging program by the City of Newport Beach and the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board to ensure that benefits of this specific effort will be maintained.

Again, we respectfully urge your Conservancy's support of this important grant.

Sincerely,



Jean H. Watt, President
Friends of Harbors, Beaches & Parks
Co-Chair, Orange County Task Force
Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

October 23, 2003

Mr. Paul Morabito
Chair, Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, California 94612

TRISH CHAPMAN

RE: Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project

Dear Chair Morabito:

I am writing to express my support for the Conservancy's pending consideration of allocating \$12.5 million for the US Army Corps-administered project known as the Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project. This Project is vital to the long-term protection of Upper Newport Bay, the largest functioning full tidal wetland in southern California. It provides valuable habitat for a diverse array of migratory and resident birds, fish, vertebrates, invertebrates and plants.

As the Conservancy is aware, this \$33 million project -- funded with a significant federal share (over \$20 million) to match the proposed \$12.5 million state/local share -- is a result of a long-term partnership between several agencies in the watershed, including the cities of Newport Beach, Irvine, Costa Mesa, Tustin, Santa Ana, Lake Forest, Orange, Laguna Hills, Laguna Woods, the Irvine Ranch Water District, the Irvine Company, the County of Orange, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Region) and the California Department of Fish and Game. As a local constituent that regularly paddles the Upper Bay along with thousands of other local supporters, I urge your support.

This Project will provide the following benefits:

- Increase open water and subtidal habitat area by significantly increasing the capacity of sediment basins within the Bay;
- Improve tidal circulation and restore intertidal habitat;

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

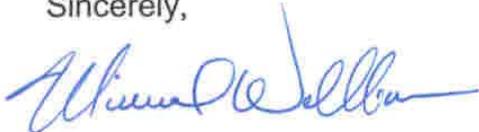
Mr. Paul Morabito
Page 2

- Reduce predator access to the marsh and California Least Tern nesting islands; and
- Directly address the requirements of the Sediment and Nutrient TMDLs for Newport Bay.

Importantly, the Project also includes an ongoing maintenance dredging program to ensure that benefits of this specific effort will be maintained. The City of Newport Beach and the Regional Water Quality Control Board have already set-aside more than \$3 million towards this long-term dredging program.

Again, I respectfully urge your Conservancy's support of this important allocation. I look forward to the work by the Corps, the Conservancy and its staff to see the Project through to completion.

Sincerely,



Michael Wellborn
9840 La Amapola
Fountain Valley, CA
92708-5129

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OCT 27 2003

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

FROM : Panasonic TAD/FAX

PHONE NO. :

Oct. 30 2003 09:17AM P2

John F. Skinner, M.D.
1724 Highland Drive
Newport Beach, California 92660
Phone/Fax (949) 650-5588
jskinnermd@aol.com

DIPLOMATE
AMERICAN BOARD OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

October 30, 2003

Mr. Paul Morabito
Chair, Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: The Importance of the Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Morabito:

I serve as the environmental representative on the Newport Bay Watershed Management Committee and also as a member of Stop Polluting Our Newport (SPON), an environmental group committed to protecting Newport Bay.

It is common knowledge that the major threat to the preservation of the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve is sediment entering Upper Newport Bay from the San Diego Creek watershed -- an area covering 152 square miles in central Orange County. Newport Beach, the upstream cities, the county, and the Irvine Company have worked assiduously to reduce the amount of sediment entering Newport Bay during major storm events.

However, without periodic dredging to preserve open water and maintain tidal circulation, I am concerned that valuable tidal wetlands will be lost due to sediment deposition. These wetlands currently provide habitat for wildlife including migratory birds and resident birds such as the endangered Clapper Rail, fish, and a variety of plant species.

For the above reasons, I respectfully urge the Coastal Conservancy Board to approve a \$12.5 million grant to assist in the future dredging program in order to preserve the Newport Bay Ecological Reserve for future generations.

Sincerely,


JOHN F. SKINNER, M.D.