

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

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Assemblymember.Chan@assembly.ca.gov



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CHAIR, CALIFORNIA'S CHILDREN'S
SCHOOL READINESS AND HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEES
BUDGET #2 - EDUCATION FINANCE

June 4, 2004

Paul Morabito, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Morabito,

I'm writing to respectfully request that the Conservancy support the proposal submitted by the San Francisco Estuary Institute for "A Rapid Assessment Survey for Exotic Species in San Francisco Bay." Exotic species are a major environmental stressor in San Francisco Bay. They alter habitats, reduce the populations of native organisms, harm fisheries, impede restoration efforts, and foul boat hulls, waterways and water systems. Exotic species have become so common that the Bay is now considered to be one of the most invaded ecosystems in the world.

The proposed survey will provide information that we desperately need to manage this problem, including data on the extent and spread of exotic species and on the recent arrival of new species. The survey will also serve to encourage media coverage and increase public awareness of this problem. The lead scientist for the project, Dr. Andrew Cohen, has been very helpful in providing information from previous studies that has been used by the Legislature (for example, in the development of California's ballast water law) and by state resource and regulatory agencies (including the Department of Fish and Game, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board). Information from the current survey will no doubt be similarly useful. I strongly encourage support for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Wilma Chan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a horizontal line.

Wilma Chan
Assemblywoman, 16th District

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**COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.**



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EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support



Loni Hancock

ASSEMBLYWOMAN, FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

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THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP, CHAIR

June 3, 2004

Paul Morabito, Chairman c/o Abe Doherty
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Morabito,

I'm writing to express my support for the proposal for a survey of exotic organisms in San Francisco Bay submitted by Dr. Andrew Cohen of the San Francisco Estuary Institute.

Exotic species are one of the major threats to the San Francisco Bay ecosystem. Over 200 exotic species have invaded the Bay, which have impacted wildlife, wetlands and fisheries, interfered with water supply and delivery systems, and undermined efforts at restoration. In recent years the Legislature and many state agencies have been attempting to deal with this problem, and the information provided by Dr. Cohen's studies has frequently been of use in developing better policies and management approaches. The information to be developed by this survey—data on the number and distribution of exotic species in the Bay, and the identification of any new invaders—will surely be of further help in this effort. *National Geographic's* interest in profiling the survey is a tremendous opportunity to enhance the public's knowledge of this problem. I strongly encourage you to provide support for this effort.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Assemblymember Loni Hancock
Assembly District 14

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

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Advocates for Wild, Healthy Oceans

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San Francisco, CA 94105
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www.oceanconservancy.org

Formerly the Center for
Marine Conservation

June 4, 2004

Paul Morabito
Chair, California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612-2530



Re: Rapid Assessment Survey of Exotic Organisms in San Francisco Bay

Dear Mr. Morabito:

I write to urge your support the exotic species survey of San Francisco Bay proposed by Dr. Andrew Cohen and the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI). Exotic species are a major threat to California waters and ecosystems, and The Ocean Conservancy has been deeply involved at both state and federal levels in developing and encouraging better policy approaches to this serious environmental problem. Among other things, The Ocean Conservancy is represented on the national Invasive Species Advisory Committee and has sponsored two successful state bills to control exotics in San Francisco Bay. We have worked with Dr. Cohen on invasive species issues for the last six years, and we have found him to be extremely knowledgeable on, and of great service in our efforts to control, aquatic invasive species. Scientific knowledge is the base on which we build better policy, and the data and analyses that Dr. Cohen and SFEI have been producing over the years have been tremendously useful not only to us and but also to the government agencies and other policymakers engaged in these efforts.

The up-to-date information on the extent of invasion and new arrivals in San Francisco Bay that we expect the survey will produce is just the sort of information we need to move policy forward. We expect that such an effort will also be attractive to the media, which has always been interested in this issue; and without media support, many of our initiatives to date would have failed. I strongly encourage you to fund this project.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Linda Sheehan
Director, Pacific Regional Office

The Ocean Conservancy strives to be the world's foremost advocate for the oceans. Through science-based advocacy, research, and public education, we inform, inspire and empower people to speak and act for the oceans.

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June 4, 2004

Paul Morabito
Chairman, California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland CA 94612-2530

Subject: Support for Rapid Assessment Survey for Exotic Species in San Francisco Bay

Dear Chairman Morabito,

I'm writing in support of the proposal submitted by Dr. Andrew Cohen at the San Francisco Estuary Institute, for a Rapid Assessment Survey of Exotic Species in San Francisco Bay. The San Francisco Estuary Project is a joint federal/state/local partnership established in 1987 under the Clean Water Act's Section 320: National Estuary Program. It is a cooperative effort to promote effective management of the Bay-Delta Estuary and to restore and maintain its water quality and natural resources. Preventing exotic species from entering the estuary is one of our top priorities, and we have often relied on Dr. Cohen's expertise and assistance in this area. The survey would provide us with current information on the status of invasions in the Bay, which would be very useful for our work.

I've worked with Dr. Cohen for more than 15 years on a wide variety of projects dealing with San Francisco Bay, and he has my unqualified endorsement. He is extremely knowledgeable about the Bay ecosystem, and adept at translating scientific information into language that members of the public and policymakers can relate to. I'm very excited by the possibility that National Geographic may write about the exotic species survey, which would be a tremendous boost to our public outreach efforts. I strongly support this important proposal and truly hope that you can fund it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marcia Brockbank".

Marcia Brockbank
Program Manager

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support



San Francisco Estuary Institute

7770 Pardee Lane
2nd Floor
Oakland, CA 94621
Office (510) 746-SFEI
Fax (510) 746-7300

June 3, 2004

Paul Morabito, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Morabito:

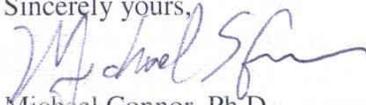
I'm writing to request your support for our proposal for a Rapid Assessment survey of the non-indigenous species in San Francisco Bay.

The San Francisco Estuary Institute is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit research institution whose mission is to provide the scientific information and analysis needed to maintain and restore the health of the San Francisco Bay and Delta. Biological invasions are now widely recognized as a key factor threatening the health of the San Francisco Bay ecosystem. The Regional Water Quality Control Board has listed San Francisco Bay as among the waters impaired by bioinvasions, and the San Francisco Estuary Project recently made dealing with bioinvasions one of its top priorities. The Conservancy itself is involved in controlling one set of invaders, the exotic cordgrasses in the genus *Spartina*, which pose a serious threat to marsh restoration; and we are currently assisting the Conservancy's *Spartina* project in organizing an international workshop.

Key to managing the invasion problem is understanding what nonindigenous species are present in the Bay, and quickly recognizing new invaders before they spread. The proposed survey would answer both these questions, and would also aid public awareness of the issue (as did the previous surveys in the early 1990s) -- *especially* with the attention of National Geographic magazine.

I think this survey is a tremendous opportunity to simultaneously develop important scientific information needed to protect and restore the Bay, and to provide outreach and education to the public. I hope that you can provide the funding needed for this worthy effort.

Sincerely yours,


Michael Connor, Ph.D.
Executive Director

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

