



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southwest Region  
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200  
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

SEP 15 2006

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of the Wetlands Managers Group of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP), I am writing in support of Conservancy staff's recommendation that the Coastal Conservancy provide \$500,000 to the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project for the WRP's Science Advisory Panel (SAP). A fundamental tenet of the WRP partnership is that resource decisions should be based on the best-available science. With these funds the SAP will help our Task Force members design, build, and monitor effective wetland restoration projects.

In response to a 2002 endorsement by the Board of Governors of the WRP, the SAP developed an integrated assessment program for estuarine wetlands. This program is structured to assess overall condition and function of estuarine wetlands within the region through time. It also creates the framework to evaluate the performance of specific wetland restoration within the context of the changes in the region. Moreover, it may provide a basis for evaluating the effects of various regulatory actions on estuarine wetlands. Results from this monitoring framework could enhance the WMG's ability to implement effective wetland restoration projects and may facilitate a more effective regulatory approach to wetlands protection. However, in order for the full potential of this program to be realized, additional funding is needed by the SAP for 1) collection of baseline data; 2) project tracking; 3) coordination and leveraging with partner agencies and other interested stakeholders; and 4) the development of a similar assessment framework for riparian wetlands.

In addition to improving wetland monitoring, much work is needed to evaluate the many uncertainties that continually challenge the design and long-term management of wetland projects. Examples of such uncertainties include the effects of changing sea levels, physiographic complexities, and methods of establishing species diversity. With the proposed funding, the SAP is expected to address these uncertainties.

In summary, the Wetlands Managers Group supports the Conservancy funding of the SAP because of the direct assistance the SAP provides to the Managers' efforts to implement more effective and sustainable wetland restoration projects.

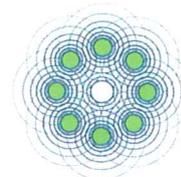
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bryant Chesney".

Bryant Chesney  
Chair, Wetland Managers Group



13 September 2006



Douglas Bosco, Chair  
Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco,

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Task Force of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP), I am writing in support of Conservancy's staff recommendation that the Coastal Conservancy provide \$500,000 to the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project for the WRP's Science Advisory Panel (SAP). A fundamental tenet of the WRP partnership is that resource decisions be based on the best-available science.

With these funds, the SAP will help our Task Force members inventory, assess and monitor Los Angeles County's wetland and riparian resources, including those in upland regions that often provide the nesting grounds for waterbirds. We need the information that will be generated by both programs recommended for funding under this request: the Integrated Regional Assessment Program (IRAP) and the Analysis of Restoration Uncertainties. With information from these programs, our Los Angeles County WRP stakeholders will more effectively and efficiently design, build and monitor restoration projects.

Again, our Task Force supports Conservancy funding of the SAP because of the direct assistance the SAP provides our community's efforts to implement more effective and sustainable wetland restoration projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nancy L.C. Steele'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nancy L.C. Steele, D.Env.  
Executive Director

Attn: Karen Bane, Project Manager, Coastal Conservancy



September 7, 2006

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

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**FHBP** Friends of Harbors,  
Beaches & Parks  
P.O. Box 9256  
Newport Beach, CA 92658  
(949) 399-3669

Dear Mr. Bosco,

On behalf of the Orange County Task Force of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP), I am writing in support of Conservancy staff's recommendation that the Coastal Conservancy provide \$500,000 to the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project for the WRP's Science Advisory Panel (SAP). A fundamental tenet of the WRP partnership is that resource decisions should be based on the best-available science. With these funds the SAP will help our Task Force members design, build, and monitor effective wetland restoration projects.

Our Orange County Task Force has been specifically working to complete restoration of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands in Huntington Beach and Upper Newport Bay in Newport Beach. Newer acquisition and restoration projects include the Huntington Beach, Banning and Corps of Engineers wetlands at the mouth of the Santa Ana River. These coastal wetland projects must be planned and maintained with understanding of new challenges in mind such as potential sea-level rise and long term management of marsh channels and plant diversity. The proposed funding can address these and other uncertainties.

Again, our Task Force supports Conservancy funding of the SAP because of the direct assistance the SAP provides our community's efforts to implement more effective and sustainable wetland restoration projects.

Sincerely,

Jean H. Watt  
President, FHBP and co-chair WRP Orange County Task Force

Attn: Karen Bane, Project Manager, Coastal Conservancy

RECEIVED

SEP 11 2006

COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.