

Exhibit 3: Letters of Support



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

Southwest Region  
777 Sonoma Ave., Room 219-A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404-6528

October 5, 2006

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I'm writing to support the San Francisco Estuary Institute's request for \$25,000 for the survey and removal of the non-indigenous Pacific oyster, *Crassostrea gigas*, from San Francisco Bay.

Although valued for food, *C. gigas* has spread aggressively in some parts of the world, where it has excluded or smothered native species including other oysters, altered habitats and disrupted food webs. In San Francisco Bay, *Crassostrea gigas* is larger and faster-growing than the native oyster, and may out compete native oysters for food or space. It could similarly impact other epibenthic species and other bottom-dwelling and pelagic species by over consuming phytoplankton and reducing primary productivity.

NOAA is involved in efforts to restore native oyster and eelgrass beds, to restore intertidal communities in salt ponds, and to develop subtidal habitat and resource goals for San Francisco Bay. The establishment and spread of *Crassostrea gigas* in San Francisco Bay could threaten species that are critical to these restoration efforts and to achieving subtidal goals, harming them through competition for space, overgrowth, and/or consumption and depletion of phytoplankton with impacts propagating up the food chain.

We therefore support the San Francisco Estuary Institute's effort to eliminate this oyster population before it spreads. A timely response to this invasion will save money in the long run and reduce the risk to California's waters. We therefore urge you to provide the requested funding.

Please call me at 707-575-6081 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Natalie Cosentino-Manning".

Natalie Cosentino-Manning  
Marine Habitat Specialist  
NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center





## United States Department of the Interior

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

**San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex**  
**Mailing Address: 9500 Thornton Avenue, Newark, CA 94560**  
**Shipping Address: 1 Marshlands Road, Fremont, CA 94536**  
**Phone: (510) 792-0222 Fax: (510) 792-5828**

September 19, 2006

State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Douglas Bosco:

This is a letter of support for \$25,000 of funding the San Francisco Estuary Institute's proposed project to survey and remove the exotic Pacific oyster, *Crassostrea gigas*, from San Francisco Bay. This project is a priority to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge where a small population of this exotic has been found. This Refuge along with many partners including the Coastal Conservancy is embarking on the largest tidal wetland restoration project on the West Coast. The removal of this exotic oyster will help contribute to the goals of this project including restoring a healthy native ecosystem in South San Francisco Bay.

Our Refuge has provided SFEI with a permit to conduct the survey and removal of the exotic oyster on the Refuge and has provided staff and airboats to the project. We expect to continue to support the effort in the future. I understand that our agency is just one of a group of partners that is cooperating in this important project.

In summary, the Service supports the effort led by SFEI and encourages your program to fund the proposed grant. If you have any questions, please call me at 510/792-4275 X25

Sincerely,

  
Clyde Morris, Manager  
Don Edwards San Francisco Bay  
National Wildlife Refuge

✓ Cc: Andrew Cohen, SFEI

Exhibit 3: Letters of Support



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Stockton Fish and Wildlife Office  
4001 N. Wilson Way  
Stockton, California 95205-2486

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

RE: Support of the San Francisco Estuary Institute's request for \$25,000 to survey and remove the exotic Pacific oyster, *Crassostrea gigas*, from San Francisco Bay.

The Aquatic Nuisance Species Program, California/ Nevada Operations (CNO) office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service supports the San Francisco Estuary Institute's request for \$25,000 to survey and remove the exotic Pacific oyster, *Crassostrea gigas*, from San Francisco Bay. This effort is fundamental to any future efforts to prevent, manage, or control this or other aquatic invasive species in California. Potential beneficial outcomes are agency coordination, development and refinement of protocols, and the removal of an invasive species.

The introduction of non-native aquatic invasive species into the marine and freshwater resources of California threatens the ecological, social, economic and public health integrity of the state's water resources. This project could enhance our ability to respond to invasive species as well as strengthening coordination efforts. The San Francisco Estuary Institute has made significant progress towards the coordination of multiple facets of this project. These efforts are enhancing the current knowledge of the distribution and ecology of this invasive species and practical approaches to its control.

Aquatic Nuisance Species Program, California/ Nevada Operations (CNO) office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service supports the San Francisco Estuary Institute efforts toward this priority project. Our program supports San Francisco Estuary Institute's request for \$25,000 and our program is willing to contribute in-kind technical assistance, funds, and participation on the advisory/oversight committee for the project.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey J. Herod  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Non-native Invasive Species Program  
4001 N. Wilson Way  
Stockton, CA 95205



Exhibit 3: Letters of Support



California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Francisco Bay Region



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400, Oakland, California 94612  
(510) 622-2300 • Fax (510) 622-2460  
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay>

Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

October 4, 2006

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Re: Support for the San Francisco Estuary Institute's Proposal to Survey and Remove Exotic Oysters from San Francisco Bay

Dear Chairman Bosco:

We are writing to convey the strong support of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) and the San Francisco Estuary Project for the San Francisco Estuary Institute's (SFEI) proposal to "Survey and Remove Exotic Oysters from San Francisco Bay." SFEI is requesting \$25,000 from the Coastal Conservancy to assist with carrying out this important project.

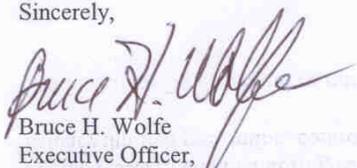
The San Francisco Estuary Project is a joint federal/state/local partnership established by Congress in 1987 under the Clean Water Act's Section 320: National Estuary Program. The Estuary Project is a cooperative effort to promote effective management of the Bay-Delta Estuary and to restore and maintain its water quality and natural resources through implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the San Francisco Estuary (CCMP). The Water Board is the lead agency for implementing the CCMP and SFEI is the lead entity for carrying out the research and monitoring actions. One of our top priorities is to reduce the impact of invasive species on the Estuary through prevention, control, eradication and education.

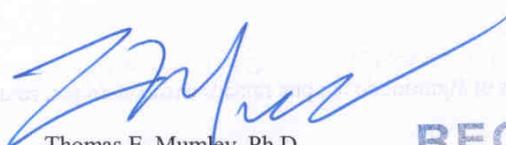
San Francisco Bay's natural resources have been heavily impacted by invasive species and the opportunity to stop another possible invasion is of critical importance in protecting native species. The *Crassostrea gigas*, exotic to San Francisco Bay, is fast-growing, smothers other native species, and competes with the already endangered native oysters.

SFEI's Dr. Andrew Cohen is a highly respected scientist with nationally recognized expertise particularly related to invasions of San Francisco Bay. Dr. Cohen has developed an efficient project design to respond quickly to this latest threat and has completed similar exotic species removal actions. The advisory committee is comprised of resource managers, land owners, NGOs, and agencies to oversee the project. The Water Board and the San Francisco Estuary Project participate in this committee.

The Water Board and the San Francisco Estuary Project strongly support this important and worthy project.

Sincerely,

  
Bruce H. Wolfe  
Executive Officer,  
San Francisco Bay Water Board

  
Thomas E. Mumley, Ph.D.  
Chair, Implementation Committee  
San Francisco Estuary Project

RECEIVED

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Preserving, enhancing, and restoring the San Francisco Bay Area's waters for over 50 years



Exhibit 3: Letters of Support



Making San Francisco Bay Better

September 22, 2006

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I'm writing in support of the request of the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) for \$25,000 to survey and remove the exotic Pacific oyster, *Crassostrea gigas*, from San Francisco Bay.

The San Francisco Bay Commission (Commission) is dedicated to protecting the long-term health and public resource values of the Bay's ecosystem. The Commission recognizes the threat of invasive non-native species to the Bay's ecosystem and has several policies regarding the monitoring, control, and eradication of non-native species in the Bay.

The establishment and spread of *C. gigas* in San Francisco Bay could threaten existing native oysters by outcompeting them for food or space, and may affect other organisms by consumption of phytoplankton. The success of several important native oyster and eelgrass restoration projects in the Bay could be compromised by *C. gigas*. Eelgrass and native oyster beds are highly productive communities and are ecologically important in that they act as juvenile fish and invertebrates nursery areas, and feeding grounds for fish, invertebrate and water birds. The survey and removal of *C. gigas* will advance the restoration efforts of native oysters and eelgrass beds in San Francisco Bay.

The Commission, in partnership with NOAA Fisheries, the Coastal Conservancy, and numerous other state and federal agencies, has undertaken the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Project, the purpose of which is to characterize the biological and physical properties of the Bay's subtidal areas and establish a comprehensive, long-term management vision to balance protection, restoration and appropriate use of San Francisco Bay. Survey and removal of *C. gigas* from the Bay, as well as possible further research on age, origin and method of introduction, is an important step towards creating better protection and restoration of subtidal habitats and would help advance the Subtidal Habitat Goals Project.

Therefore, we support SFEI's proposal to survey and remove exotic oysters from San Francisco Bay and believe that the proposed project is conceptually consistent with the Commission's management program for San Francisco Bay.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "WILL TRAVIS", is written over a series of horizontal lines that serve as a guide for the signature's placement.

WILL TRAVIS  
Executive Director

WT/cs

Exhibit 3: Letters of Support

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT



October 5, 2006

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Chairman Bosco,

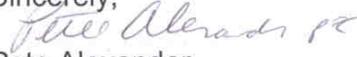
I'm writing to support the San Francisco Estuary Institute's proposal for surveying and removing the exotic oyster, *Crassostrea gigas*, from San Francisco Bay.

The East Bay Regional Park District owns and manages several park and open space properties on the shores of San Francisco Bay. The District manages these shoreline areas to support several objectives. These include providing a wide variety of recreational opportunities, educating the public about the Bay environment, and preserving and protecting Bay habitats and species.

The exotic oyster could affect these objectives by changing habitats and conditions at the shore, and by competing with other organisms. The exotic oyster has been found on two of the District's properties (at the Hayward and Richmond shorelines) and adjacent to a third (at Coyote Hills); and has the potential to colonize others. We believe it makes sense to take reasonable steps now to get rid of this oyster before it becomes unalterably established and spreads further through the Bay, and we support the effort by SFEI to organize and implement its removal.

This summer the District provided access to its shoreline areas and provided staff assistance to the survey and removal, and we can provide similar assistance on District properties in the future. We would also be willing to serve on an advisory panel to oversee the effort. *If it is to be effective, the removal needs to be completed throughout the oyster's distribution in the Bay.* We urge you to provide the funding needed to organize and implement the necessary survey, outreach and removal effort in the Bay.

Sincerely,

  
Pete Alexander  
Fisheries Program Manager  
EBRPD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ward 1

Pat O'Brien  
General Manager

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OCT 06 2006

COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.





**Hayward Area Recreation and Park District**

1099 'E' Street, Hayward, CA 94541

(510) 881-6700

September 28, 2006

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Sir:

The Hayward Area Recreation and Park District supports the San Francisco Estuary Institute's request for \$25,000 for surveying and removing the exotic oyster, *Crassostrea gigas*, from San Francisco Bay.

Our Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center, on the eastern shore of San Francisco Bay, is a site for observing and learning about the plants and animals that inhabit the bay. The exotic oyster that has been found in this area threatens the park's organisms and habitats, by competing for space and consuming the food of other animals, and by altering habitats through its reef-forming abilities. To avoid these impacts, we believe it would be prudent to eliminate this oyster before it becomes fully established and spreads through the rest of the bay.

We have offered to provide staff time and volunteer assistance for surveying and removing this oyster at the Hayward shore. We look forward to working with SFEI, and encourage you to provide the funding needed for this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Koslosky".

Michael E. Koslosky,  
Supervising Naturalist

Exhibit 3: Letters of Support



530 C Alameda del Prado #139  
Novato, CA 94949  
(415) 883-3854  
(415) 883-3850 Fax  
www.sfbayjv.org

MANAGEMENT BOARD:

- Bay Area Audubon Council
- Bay Area Open Space Council
- Bay Conservation & Development Commission
- Bay Planning Coalition
- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Resources Agency
- Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge
- Coastal Conservancy
- Coastal Region, Mosquito & Vector Control Districts
- Ducks Unlimited
- National Audubon Society
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Point Reyes Bird Observatory
- PG&E Corporation
- Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region
- San Francisco Estuary Project
- Save San Francisco Bay Association
- Sierra Club
- The Bay Institute
- Urban Creeks Council
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Wildlife Conservation Board

August 18, 2006

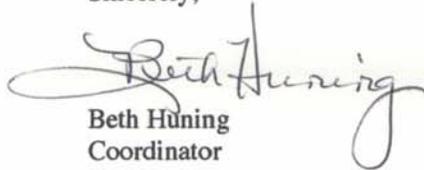
Andrew Cohen  
San Francisco Estuary Institute  
7770 Pardee Lane  
Oakland, CA 94612-1424

Dear Andy,

I am pleased to present to the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) \$2,000 in project support from the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture for the exotic oyster quick response eradication project. Joint Venture partners recognize the need to be able to respond quickly with financial support when there is a need and support SFEI's quick response to identify and take action to eradicate the invasive oyster.

We do request that SFEI recognize the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture as a partner on any appropriate publications. Thank you for keeping us informed as to the status of the project. Do continue to update us. There may be other ways that we can help.

Sincerely,



Beth Hüning  
Coordinator

Cc: Arthur Feinstein, Chair



## Exhibit 3: Letters of Support

350 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 900  
Oakland, CA 94612-2016

t. 510.452.9261  
f. 510.452.9266

[www.saveSFbay.org](http://www.saveSFbay.org)

October 5, 2006

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Bosco:

Save San Francisco Bay Association is pleased to write this letter of support of the San Francisco Estuary Institute's request for \$25,000 to survey and remove the exotic Pacific oyster, *Crassostrea gigas*, from San Francisco Bay. While we know that native oysters were once abundant in San Francisco Bay and played a critical role in providing habitat and improving water quality, there has been very little research on factors affecting *Ostreola conchaphila*, including the presence of non-native oysters and competition with these and other species including oyster drills and tunicates. The type of survey and research work described in Andrew Cohen's proposal is critical to the success of ongoing native oyster restoration efforts at multiple sites in San Francisco Bay.

Save The Bay can broaden the impact of our mission to celebrate, protect, and restore San Francisco Bay by supporting this project to learn more about the newly documented presence at multiple sites of non-native Pacific oysters, *Crassostrea gigas*. Through our Community-based Restoration Program, we engage more than 5,000 volunteers per year in habitat restoration projects. Save The Bay has partnered with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the NOAA Restoration Center in 2001-02 to involve more than 450 citizen volunteers in oyster monitoring efforts at multiple sites in San Francisco Bay. In May 2006, along with other partners including San Jose State University, NOAA Restoration Center, and the Smithsonian Invasive Research Program, we are now developing an oyster recruitment study at seven sites in the Central and South Bay that will also involve an education component and be staffed by volunteers, to begin on a small scale this summer. Groups like ours need more information such as this project will generate before we can move forward with large-scale oyster restoration efforts in our Estuary.

There is strong public and agency support for advancing native oyster restoration in San Francisco Bay. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal, which would result in more applied information that can be used to direct these efforts. Please feel free to contact me at Save The Bay at 510.452.9261 x110 or email [mlatta@savesfbay.org](mailto:mlatta@savesfbay.org) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Marilyn Latta  
Habitat Restoration Director  
Save The Bay

