

LYNN WOOLSEY
6TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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AND GLOBAL HEALTH

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0506

October 7, 2008

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TELEPHONE: (415) 507-9554

WEB PAGE AND E-MAIL:
<http://www.woolsey.house.gov>

Mr. Douglas Bosco
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my support of the Marin Audubon Society's application for funding to complete the marsh restoration project at Bahia to provide the hydroseeding needed to control erosion and the invasion of non-native plants.

It is my understanding that the Bahia restoration project will restore approximately 400 acres of tidal marsh and adjacent terrestrial habitat and wetlands. It will greatly expand habitat for the endangered California Clapper Rail and will improve water quality by filtering sediments and pollutants. This project is another important Bay Area contribution in the fight against global warming. The restored marsh will not only sequester carbon, it will provide shoreline protection from rising sea levels.

I strongly support the Marin Audubon Society and believe this project will greatly benefit Marin County. I urge you to give this application your full and careful consideration. If you have any questions or comments, please contact my grants coordinator, Alexandra Walter, in my Santa Rosa office at (707) 542-7182.

Sincerely,



Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress

LW:aw

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF

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P.O. BOX 942849
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Assembly
California Legislature



JARED HUFFMAN
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SIXTH DISTRICT

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October 8, 2008

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

RE: Marin Audubon Society application for Bahia Marsh Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Bosco:

Please join me in supporting the Marin Audubon Society's application for funding to hydro seed and conduct post-construction surveys which are necessary to complete construction of the Bahia marsh restoration project.

This restoration has been planned and undergone environmental review over the last five years, since the 632-acre Bahia property was purchased with support by a majority of Novato voters in a 2002 referendum. This acquisition presented an opportunity to restore marsh habitats, protect the only known Blue Oak dominated woodland adjacent to salt marsh in the state, and safeguard the extensive trail system that is now open to the public.

The project will restore to tidal action approximately 300 acres of marsh that had been diked and/or filled many years ago. The restored marsh will provide critical habitat for endangered species and many other migratory resident birds and native fish.

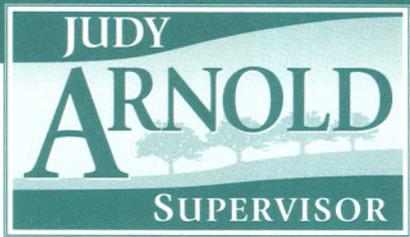
I hope your Board will approve this worthy project.

Sincerely,


JARED HUFFMAN
Assemblymember, 6th District

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OAKLAND, CALIF.





October 3, 2008

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
Coastal Conservancy Board of Directors
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: APPLICATION FOR BAHIA MARSH RESTORATION

Dear Mr. Bosco, *Doug*

This letter conveys my strong support for Conservancy funding to support the restoration project being implemented by the Marin Audubon Society at Bahia, in the City of Novato. Approximately 300 acres will be restored to tidal action and will eventually decolonize with marsh plants and restored to marsh.

An impressive array of federal and state agencies and private organizations have provided funding that enabled this important property to be acquired.

I had the privilege to be in on the beginning of the Bahia project when I worked for Senator John Burton who as Pro Tem of the State Senate was instrumental in launching this program. It is now permanently protected in the ownership of Marin County Open Space District and California Department of Fish and Game and Marin Audubon Society, which donated the oak wooded hills to the District and the diked marsh to the Department of Fish and Game.

I understand the Conservancy's grant funding will be used for hydro seeding and for surveys to document the final condition of the site after channels have been excavated, levees have been removed and breached, and fill, that was placed as pads to build houses, is removed. Hydro seeding is critical to prevent invasion by nonnative plants such as broom and to prevent erosion.

The Conservancy has played a major role in preserving Bahia, and I thank you for continuing that vital partnership.

Warm wishes,
Judy
JUDY ARNOLD

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