



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
9500 Thornton Avenue
Newark, California 94560

October 6, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Bosco,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) manages Pond SF2 which is part of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project on the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, located in San Mateo County. The Refuge is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System and is one of over 550 refuges encompassing almost 100 million acres of land. The Pond SF2 project is a critical first step in the restoration of almost 10,000 acres on the refuge and another over 5000 acres on the Eden Landing State Ecological Reserve. The habitat enhancement on the 240 acre pond is intended to provide nesting habitat for a suite of shorebirds that will inform the overall project for future restoration and enhancement actions.

We support the funding request submitted on behalf of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project to the California Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) Bay Program. Conservancy funding will be combined with funding from the Federal government, California Department of Transportation and the City of Menlo Park to complete this important project that will include, in addition to the nesting habitat and associated water control structures, public use enhancement such as restrooms, observation platforms, benches, a hiking trail and interpretive signage.

The Conservancy has been a tremendous partner in the South Bay Salt Pond Project. Through your efforts we have completed the planning process and we look forward to embarking on the habitat improvements at Pond SF2.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call at (510) 792-0222 ext. 23.

Sincerely,

G. Mendel Stewart
Manager, San Francisco Bay National
Wildlife Refuge Complex



Chairman Douglas Bosco
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

Cargill wishes to convey support for the \$4.5 million authorization request that comes before the Conservancy Board on Nov. 6, 2008 to fund the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project implementation and the South Bay Shoreline Study.

We are advised that \$2 million of the \$4.5 million requested is specifically targeted for the restoration of Pond SF2. This requested authorization is recommended for two reasons: 1) it will enhance habitat on the most visible property within the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project area – a dry salt pond seen by 60,000 commuters daily; and 2) it will leverage by at least a ratio of 3:1 -- millions of dollars of privately donated land, thus achieving environmental improvements at a relatively low cost to the public. By authorizing this project, the Conservancy will maximize the environmental return of the public's restoration dollar.

As you are no doubt aware, in 2003 Cargill transferred to public ownership 15,100 acres of salt ponds and salt making rights at a cost of \$100 million – properties valued by state and federal and independent appraisers at \$243 million. Cargill donated the majority of the land value to the public. Subsequently, Cargill donated outright, Pond SF2, a highly visible 252-acre pond located in Menlo Park on the Southwest approach to the Dumbarton Bridge.

The remaining \$2.5 million would be spent to develop and integrate an adaptive management program within the restoration construction project. This will ensure that, as the landscape is changed, undesired impacts to wildlife habitat are detected and corrected. In addition the funding will be used for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study – a critical component that will enable the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to participate in this project, particularly as it relates to flood protection.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Mapelli".

Pat Mapelli
Manager, Real Property

Bay Planning Coalition

Celebrating 25 Years of Leadership

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Agency*

October 15, 2008

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

Subject: South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project

Dear Chairman Bosco and Board members,

Bay Planning Coalition is writing to convey our support for the Conservancy Board authorization of \$4.5 million for the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project implementation and the South Bay Shoreline Study on November 6, 2008. This 15,100 acre project is one of the largest wetland restoration projects on the West coast of the United States. This restoration project is a unique opportunity to restore critical habitat on a large landscape scale and contribute to the recovery of threatened and endangered species.

The BPC was one of the early supporters of the subject Project eight years ago, has been and continues to be a strong advocate for state and federal funding, and has been honored to serve on the Stakeholders Advisory Committee. The Project team has worked very hard, and we are excited to see the progress. Continued funding is very important for the project's success.

We also encourage the Conservancy to support additional funding for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study. The Shoreline Study is a critical component of the project since this will enable the Corps of Engineers to participate in some aspects of this multi-objective project including a flood protection project. As sea level rises and the existing salt pond levees erode, flood protection has become more critical than ever.

We look forward to continuing our active involvement and support.

Sincerely yours,



Ellen Joslin Johnck
Executive Director

Exhibit 5: Project Letters



October 14th, 2008

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

Dear Chair Bosco:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and 3,500 members of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, I am writing to convey our support for the Conservancy Board authorization of \$4.5 million for the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project implementation and the South Bay Shoreline Study on November 6, 2008. This 15,100 acre project is one of the largest wetland restoration projects on the West coast of the United States. This restoration project is a unique opportunity to restore critical habitat on a large landscape scale and contribute to the recovery of threatened and endangered species.

For over 50 years, our Audubon chapter has organized volunteers to conduct bird counts in the south bay salt ponds. From first hand experience we can attest to the extraordinary resource the salt ponds are, representing a rare combination of summer breeding, migratory stopover, and wintering non-breeding habitat of hemispheric importance. The south bay salt ponds are identified by the Audubon Society as an Important Bird Area, carrying our organization's stamp of significance for the value and importance of the salt pond footprint for both migratory and resident bird species.

Funding for both restoration construction and adaptive management is needed to make the project a success. The adaptive management program has been integrated into the project starting before construction and continuing over time. This will ensure that undesired impacts will be detected early enough to take corrective action and that project success will be documented. Furthermore adaptive management will chart the course of future implementation phases since we'll answer key questions through the adaptive management process.

We also encourage the Conservancy to support additional funding for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study. The Shoreline Study is a critical component of the project since this will enable the Corps of Engineers to participate in some aspects of this multi-objective project including a flood protection project.

We look forward to continuing to support the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project and South Bay Shoreline Study and wish to thank you and the Conservancy Board for your thoughtful consideration of funding approval for these projects.

Sincerely yours,



Bob Power, Executive Director
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society



CITIZENS COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE THE REFUGE

453 Tennessee Lane, Palo Alto CA 94306

Tel 650 493-5540

Fax 650 494-7640

Florence@refuge.org

October 17, 2008

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

The Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge urges you and your fellow Board members to vote on November 6, 2008 for the authorization of \$4.5 million for the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project implementation and the South Bay Shoreline Study.

The Citizens Committee has played a long and vital role in the acquisition and restoration of wetlands along the South Bay shoreline from Oakland to Redwood City. With the tremendous help of Congressman Don Edwards we played a key role in the expansion of the boundaries of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (DESFBNWR) by 20,000 acres. The 2001 acquisition of the Cargill salt pond lands helped fulfill much of the goals of that boundary extension. A prior incarnation of the Citizens Committee was responsible for the creation of the original San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge in 1972, again with the leadership of Congressman Don Edwards.

Therefore we look forward with great anticipation at the prospect of restoring to tidal action many of the 15,000 acres of salt ponds acquired from Cargill and urge you to authorize \$4.5 million towards that goal.

However, as expressed in our comments on the South Bay Salt Pond DEIS/FEIS we have grave concerns over this project. There are still substantial amounts of land within the DESFBNWR boundary that are yet to be acquired. Some of these lands could be restored to tidal marsh at less cost and with less sediment demand than will be required for tidal restoration of the recently acquired properties. Also, some of these lands could play an important role in offsetting the impacts to shorebirds and waterfowl that are expected to result from the South Bay Salt Pond Project's alteration of salt ponds into tidal marsh. Finally, we fear that absent the acquisition of these properties rare habitats such as willow sausals and transitional and upland habitats not included in the Cargill purchase will be lost forever.

Therefore, in your authorization resolution we suggest you include a statement urging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game to continue to make every effort to acquire the remaining lands within the DESFBNWR boundary.

Exhibit 5: Project Letters

Despite these concerns, we recognize that funding for both restoration construction and adaptive management is essential if the current project is to succeed. Funding for monitoring is also essential since adaptive management is a futile concept if one does not know what management needs are necessary and that can only be determined through extensive monitoring of project conditions over time.

We also encourage the Conservancy to support additional funding for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study. The Shoreline Study is a critical component of the project since this will enable the Corps of Engineers to participate in some aspects of this multi-objective project including a flood protection project. As sea level rises and the existing salt pond levees erode, flood protection has become more critical than ever. **This is yet another reason for the acquisition of the remaining DESFBNWR boundary parcels, since these all will help put a buffer between sea level rise and existing communities.**

We look forward to continuing to work with your staff in making the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project one that not only helps recover endangered species but also preserves and restores rare habitats and continues to provide essential habitat for the shorebirds and waterfowl currently dependent upon the salt ponds.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur Feinstein
Conservation Coordinator

Regional Open Space

October 20, 2008

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

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

RE: Support for South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Funding
November 6, 2008 Conservancy Board Meeting

Dear Chair Bosco:

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District wishes to convey its support for the Conservancy Board authorization of \$4.5 million to implement the first phase of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and to provide additional funding for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study.

The District currently provides public shoreline access at one of the Phase 1 restoration project sites – the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Salt Pond SF2 restoration project adjacent to the Highway 84 approach to the Dumbarton Bridge. With the goal of converting a former commercial salt pond into managed pond habitat supporting a dense shorebird population, the Salt Pond SF2 restoration project incorporates public access improvements including an ADA-compliant trail, wildlife viewing platforms, and trailhead facilities that will greatly improve the visitor experience and accessibility to this shoreline. To allow this project to move forward, the District Board of Directors recently granted permission to the FWS to construct these public access improvements and pond restoration features along a shoreline where the District manages 106 acres of baylands either owned in fee or leased from the State Lands Commission. This pond restoration project furthers the expressed purposes of the District's lease of State lands to provide public access and preserve these baylands for wildlife habitat and environmental study.

Funding for both the initial restoration work and ongoing adaptive management is needed to make the project a success. In this regard, the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study is also a critical component of the project since this will enable the Corps of Engineers to participate in key flood protection aspects of this multi-objective project. As sea levels rise and the existing salt pond levees erode, flood protection will become more critical than ever.

We look forward to seeing the Phase 1 restoration projects get underway, and wish to thank the Conservancy Board for considering the authorization of significant funding support for this worthwhile effort.

Sincerely,



Stephen E. Abbors
General Manager

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OCT 21 2008

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 5: Project Letters

ANDY COHEN
MAYOR

HEYWARD ROBINSON
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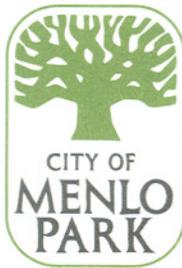
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FAX 650.327.5382

Planning
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FAX 650.327.1653

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FAX 650.327.4314

Transportation
TEL 650.330.6770
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701 LAUREL STREET, MENLO PARK, CA 94025-3483
www.menlopark.org

October 20, 2008

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

Subject: Support for Coastal Conservancy Authorization of Funding for the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The City of Menlo Park wishes to convey support for the Conservancy Board authorization of funding for the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project implementation on November 6, 2008. This 15,100 acre project is one of the largest wetland restoration projects on the west coast of the United States. This project is a unique opportunity to restore critical habitat on a large scale and to contribute to the recovery of threatened and endangered species.

Funding for both construction and adaptive management is needed to make this restoration project a success. The City of Menlo Park has contributed to this project by executing an agreement between the City, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) and the Peninsula Open Space Trust to use \$488,000 from the Menlo Park Bay Fund (mitigation fund for the former Marsh Road Landfill currently named Bedwell Bayfront Park) to finance a portion of the work.

We look forward to continuing to support the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project and encourage your Board to authorize the requested funding.

Sincerely,

Ruben Niño,
Assitant Director of Public Works

RN:LE:eg

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OCT 21 2008

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Cc: Steve Ritchie, South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Manager



October 22, 2008

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

Subject: Support for South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and South Bay Shoreline Study Implementation Funding

Dear Chairman Bosco:

On behalf of the Association of Bay Area Governments' San Francisco Bay Trail Project, I am writing to express our support for Coastal Conservancy Board authorization of \$4.5 million for implementation of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and the South Bay Shoreline Study.

This 15,100 acre project is one of the largest wetland restoration projects on the West coast of the United States. This restoration project is a unique opportunity to restore critical habitat on a large scale and contribute to the recovery of threatened and endangered species. It also presents an opportunity to increase public access to restored wetlands, provide settings for environmental education and complete gaps in the planned 500-mile Bay Trail.

This funding authorization includes improvements to the bayfront levee at Pond SF2 in the Ravenswood Complex. Resurfacing this 0.7-mile segment of the Bay Trail and installation of two interpretive platforms will greatly improve this area of the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve as a destination along the Bay. In addition, funding will contribute to the completion of a viewing platform at Bayfront Park in the City of Menlo Park.

Exhibit 5: Project Letters

Located directly adjacent to the existing Bay Trail spur that encircles the park, this overlook will provide interpretation of marsh ecology and views of the restoration project.

Authorization of this funding will also enable the implementation of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Adaptive Management Plan. Applied studies, monitoring and research are essential components of the decision-making process that will be used by project managers to develop current and future restoration actions. These studies will help restoration managers and trail planners understand the actions necessary to incorporate public access into restoration areas without significantly impacting habitat.

We also encourage the Conservancy to support additional funding for the South Bay Shoreline Study. The Shoreline Study is a critical component of the project since this will enable the Corps of Engineers to participate in some aspects of this multi-objective project including a flood protection project. As sea level rises and the existing salt pond levees erode, flood protection has become more critical than ever.

Thank you for the Conservancy's long-standing dedication to the Bay Trail. We look forward to continued collaboration with the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and South Bay Shoreline Study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Thompson".

Laura Thompson
Bay Trail Project Manager

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

t. 510.452.9261

f. 510.452.9266

saveSFbay.org

October 23, 2008

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

Dear Doug:

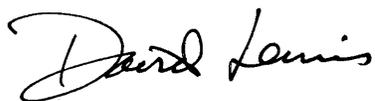
Save The Bay strongly supports the Conservancy Board authorizing \$4.5 million for the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project implementation and the South Bay Shoreline Study. As the region's largest membership organization working to protect and restore San Francisco Bay, Save The Bay has a long history of support for this project to restore Bay wetlands for people and wildlife.

Save The Bay worked closely with state and federal authorities to encourage and consummate the acquisition of these salt ponds from Cargill Salt, with the Project's stakeholder forum on planning and promotion of the restoration project, and with public and private entities to encourage funding of the project. We are providing direct support for on-the-ground restoration and planning on salt ponds with the California Department of Fish and Game at Eden Landing in Hayward, and with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Ravenswood Pond SF-2.

The Conservancy's leadership in planning and execution of the South Bay Salt Pond Project has significantly advanced the goals of its Bay Area Conservancy program, and offers an unmatched opportunity for progress towards the *Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals* objective of 100,000 acres of restored tidal marsh habitat. We highlighted this opportunity in our 2007 report, ***Greening the Bay***. Additional funding support for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study is also crucial for project success, as that study will enable U.S. Army Corps of Engineers participation in essential flood protection planning that incorporates sea level rise projections.

Thank you for supporting this important work to improve the Bay's health.

Sincerely,



David Lewis
Executive Director

