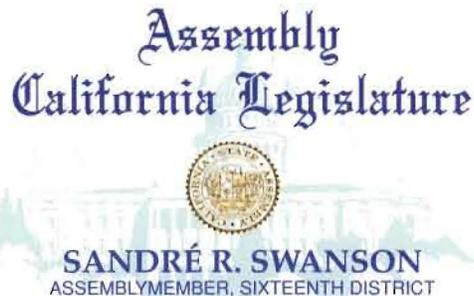


STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0016
(916) 319-2016
FAX (916) 319-2116

DISTRICT OFFICE
ELIHU M. HARRIS STATE BUILDING
1515 CLAY STREET, SUITE 2204
OAKLAND, CA 94612
(510) 286-1670
FAX (510) 286-1888



COMMITTEES
CHAIR, ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
CHAIR, SELECT COMMITTEE ON
STATE SCHOOL FINANCIAL
TAKEOVERS
BUDGET
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #2 ON
EDUCATION FINANCE
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #4 ON
STATE ADMINISTRATION
BANKING AND FINANCE
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS,
TOURISM, AND INTERNET MEDIA
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

November 12, 2008

Mr. Douglas Bosco
Chairman, Coastal Conservancy Board
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
Attn: Maxene Spellman

RE: Lake Merritt Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Project

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I support the Lake Merritt Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Project. This is a project that will make a significant contribution toward opening the Lake Merritt Channel and improving water quality, objectives toward which many resources have been dedicated.

The Lake Merritt Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Project will have significant impacts to water quality resulting from opening the Lake Merritt Channel. It will also yield habitat benefits through the creation of new tidal, upland and open water habitats. We also understand that the habitat and water quality benefits generated by the project will positively affect other proposed Measured DD and Conservancy funded projects at Lake Merritt.

Thank you for considering this application for funding. Your selection of this project will significantly enhance a natural landscape located within walking distance of a major downtown center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandré R. Swanson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sandré R. Swanson
Assemblymember, 16th District

California State Senate

COMMITTEES:
RULES
CHAIRMAN

SACRAMENTO OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 205
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 445-6577
FAX (916) 327-1997

DISTRICT OFFICE
1515 CLAY STREET, SUITE 2202
OAKLAND, CA 94612
TEL (510) 286-1333
FAX (510) 286-3885

SENATOR DON PERATA
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE



November 7, 2008

Mr. Douglas Bosco
Chairman, Coastal Conservancy Board
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
Attn: Maxene Spellman

RE: Lake Merritt Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Project

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I write in support of the Lake Merritt Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Project. This project will make a significant contribution toward opening the Lake Merritt Channel and improving water quality. As the Senator representing Oakland, I can attest to the community's dedication to this project - Oaklanders passed local Measure DD and have dedicated many resources towards these ends.

The Lake Merritt Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Project will have significant impacts to water quality resulting from opening the Lake Merritt Channel. It will also yield habitat benefits through the creation of new tidal, upland and open water habitats. I understand that the habitat and water quality benefits generated by the project also will positively affect other proposed Measured DD and Conservancy funded projects at Lake Merritt. Finally, I believe Bay Area residents and visitors from around the state will appreciate how this project significantly enhances a natural landscape within walking distance of a major downtown center.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don Perata". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the name.

DON PERATA

DP:rw



Golden Gate Audubon Society

2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G • Berkeley, California 94702
Phone: (510) 843-2222 • Fax: (510) 843-5351 • Email: ggas@compuserve.com

Americans Committed to Conservation • A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

November 11, 2008

Mr. Douglas Bosco
Chairman, Coastal Conservancy Board
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
Attn: Maxene Spellman

Re: Lake Merritt Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Project

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of the Golden Gate Audubon Society (GGAS), I write in support of the Lake Merritt Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Project (hereinafter the "Lake Merritt Project") for which the City of Oakland is seeking a grant from the Coastal Conservancy in the amount of \$9M. The Project is consistent with the goals of my organization and provides multiple benefits for the Bay Area as a whole.

The GGAS has a broad constituency comprised of concerned citizens throughout the Bay Area. This constituency includes persons from all walks of life who value and seek out for recreational observation and enjoyment natural environments that support viable populations of wildlife, particularly water and land-based avian species. We sponsor an extensive series of field trips to enable our members to see wild birds in their native habitats. A casual perusal of our field trip schedules reveals that Lake Merritt, together with its channel, is one of the most frequently visited sites for observing migratory waterfowl. One of our members, Hilary Powers, publishes a monthly report of bird observations in Lake Merritt in "Tidings," the monthly newsletter of the Lake Merritt Institute, our sister organization. Thus any undertaking that has the potential to affect, for better or worse, the quality of the wildlife habitat that Lake Merritt and its channel support is of great interest to us.

In the light of the well-known fact that over 90% of the historic wetlands that used to surround San Francisco Bay have been converted to upland uses or otherwise destroyed, one of the principal conservation/advocacy goals of the GGAS is the creation of new wetland habitat and the preservation and enhancement of the value of the remnant areas of such habitat that remain.

We are pleased to report that after carefully examining the Lake Merritt Project we have concluded that it is fully consistent with the above-stated goal and therefore we give it our unqualified endorsement.

We have many reasons for our support of the Lake Merritt Project. First, the opening of the Lake Merritt Channel that will occur as a part of the project will result increased tidal exchange

and flushing that will in turn have positive impacts to water quality in the lake and the channel. The project will result in additional water quality benefits as a result of the fact that the intertidal salt marsh system that the project will create will perform a filtration/treatment function for a portion of the stormwater runoff generated by the new 12th St. boulevard and bridge. Finally, grant money will also be used to fund the installation of up to three new stormwater filtration units to intercept stormwater-borne pollutants including plastics, sediment, and hydrocarbons before such pollutants are discharged into the environmentally sensitive waters of the lake and/or the channel.

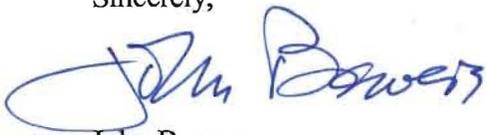
Second, the project will generate wildlife habitat benefits through the creation of new tidal, upland and open water habitats. For the foregoing reasons the project will benefit the many migratory species of waterfowl, such as greater and lesser scaup, bufflehead, and canvasback, which flock to Lake Merritt in great numbers during the winter migration season, as well as resident waterfowl such as egrets and cormorants.

The new intertidal marsh area adjacent to the channel will be of particular benefit to the species, such as American widgeon and Barrow's goldeneye (a species of special concern under the California Endangered Species Act) who are attracted by the natural banks and vegetation that occur in the channel (but not for the most part in the lake) and thus tend to be seen predominantly in that setting. Moreover, this new area of intertidal habitat is a type of habitat that before the damming of the lake and the construction of artificial bulkheads used to exist in this setting in great abundance, but that barely exists at all today. We have high hopes that the re-creation of this historic habitat will attract species of shorebirds, such as stilts and yellowlegs, that have not been seen in the setting of the lake except for isolated sightings for over a century.

Finally, we also believe that with the interpretive signage and other educational materials that we understand will be produced in connection with the project, the project will generate significant educational opportunities for Bay Area residents, including schoolchildren, and visitors.

Thank you in advance for considering this application for funding. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at 415-904-5229.

Sincerely,



John Bowers
Member, East Bay Conservation Committee

CC: Amy Hutzler, Coastal Conservancy
Lesley Estes, City of Oakland
Markley Bavinger, City of Oakland

Mr. Douglas Bosco
Chairman, Coastal Conservancy Board
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
Attn: Maxene Spellman

November 6, 2008

RE: LAKE MERRITT WATER QUALITY & HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Dear Mr. Bosco:

What better way to spend your hard earned grant money than by helping to remove Lake Merritt from the official, 303(d), EPA list of impaired water bodies? Yes, it's true. Ten years ago, in 1998, the lake was listed for trash and low oxygen, but regulatory action to remove it from the list is not even scheduled until 2019!!! We can't wait that long. Please help improve these problems by providing a grant that will improve circulation, create a wetland and install storm drain filters.

The Lake Merritt Institute encourages your support of a grant request for the Channel Project because:

- Past restriction of tidal flows is a major cause of impaired water quality: A major reason that oxygen often drops to acutely toxic levels (1 – 2 ppm) is restricted tidal flow from the Oakland Inner Harbor. In San Francisco Bay, tide levels rise and fall six feet daily but at poor little Lake Merritt, the variation is only one to two feet. The Channel Project will eliminate bottlenecks that restrict tidal flow, and thus improve oxygen levels.
- Access to this highly productive tidal lagoon will be enhanced for aquatic life: Lake Merritt is still a rich aquatic spawning area, but not nearly as productive as it was when the channel was 1000+ feet wide without culverts. By eliminating the dark tunnels which are impediments to the movement of marine life, the nursery areas of the Lake will be more accessible to invertebrates, fish and eventually even sea lions.

- At present, four storm water separators and a handful of inlet filters are the only things keeping urban runoff from 4,650 acres from polluting Lake Merritt. We have 62 storm water outlets, but filters on only 4 of the large drains. Help! The separators we have are really great. They work 24/7, need no energy to operate, last for decades and only need cleaning about six times a year. We need more of them, now.

For details on our trash and oxygen problems, go to www.lakemerrittinstitute.org. We sincerely hope you will be able to provide this grant.

Should you have any questions about the Lake, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Bailey,
Executive Director

Cc: Amy Hutzal, Coastal Conservancy
Lesley Estes, City of Oakland
Markley Bavinger, City of Oakland
Board of Directors, The Lake Merritt Institute



P.O. BOX 11456
OAKLAND, CA 94611-0456

November 10, 2008

Mr. Douglas Bosco
Chairman, Coastal Conservancy Board
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Lake Merritt Channel Project Funding Request

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The Board of Waterfront Action is writing in support of the City of Oakland's request to the California Coastal Conservancy Grant Program for the Lake Merritt Channel Project.

Waterfront Action is a citizen-based non-profit organization. Our mission is to promote public access to the Oakland-Alameda Estuary and Lake Merritt through public awareness, education, and direct action.

The Channel Project, which has had considerable public input, will remove the dam and culverts at 12th Street, construct clear span bridges, and create tidal marsh. By removing the dam we will significantly improve the water quality and the upland habitat in Lake Merritt. In addition, we will provide a vital educational element to the SF Bay Trail which circles Lake Merritt and goes along the Channel, with a few diversions, all the way to the Oakland-Alameda Estuary. The best educational tool is seeing nature work, and the increased flow from this project will enable nature to do its best.

Waterfront Action office can be reached at (510) 336-1824, if you wish to speak with me personally. We appreciate your consideration and support for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sandra Threlfall".

Sandra Threlfall
Executive Director

cc: Nadine Hitchcock, Coastal conservancy
Lesley Estes, City of Oakland
Markley Bavinger, City of Oakland

Board of Trustees:

Deborah Cooper

Frank Dobson

George Duncan

Robert Kidd

Nate Miley

Ann Richter

Doug Siden

Sandra Threlfall

Rick Wiederhorn

Brian Wiese

Richard Winnie

Coalition of Advocates for Lake Merritt

C/O OAKLAND HERITAGE ALLIANCE • 446 17TH ST. #301, OAKLAND, CA 94612 • 510-763-9218

13 November 2008

Chairman, Coastal Conservancy Board
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
Attn: Maxene Spellman

Subject: Statement in Support of City of Oakland Grant Application re:
Lake Merritt Water Quality and Habitat Improvements Project

Dear Mr. Bosco,

On behalf of the Coalition of Advocates for Lake Merritt (CALM), an appointed organization to the City Council sanctioned Measure DD Community Coalition for Lake Merritt, Parks, and Waterways Improvements, we write in support of the City of Oakland's funding application for the "**Lake Merritt Water Quality and Habitat Improvements Project.**" The objectives of the Water Quality project are consistent with the goals of my organization and the Measure DD Community Coalition, and their implementation will provide multiple benefits for both Oakland and the greater Bay Area.

An organization of architects, planners, historians, landscape architects, civic activists, and others, CALM has been an engaged participant in Lake area advocacy for over eight years. In 2004, we mobilized 1100 residents to prevent the sale of Lake area parkland to a private entity, and in its stead submitted to the city a physical design plan to reconfigure the roadways at the south end of Lake Merritt. The CALM plan demonstrated how the confused traffic patterns at the Channel over-crossing could be redesigned to rationalize vehicular movement, while opening up new pedestrian paths from the Lake to parks on the other side; creating a new beach at the Lake's presently non-existing south shore; and providing presently non-existing pedestrian crossings from lakeside connecting to the Estuary Channel, Oakland Museum, Laney College, Civic Auditorium, and other destinations not presently safe to access from the Lake. CALM was also instrumental in halting demolition of an historic building situated near the Lake's southwest shore, as well as the possible sale for private development of a city park adjacent to the Lake's west shore. Presently, CALM has collected 1300 citizen petitions in support of re-zoning that will safeguard the Westside Drive area along the Lake from potential view-blocking highrise towers.

The Water Quality and Habitat Improvements Project will enable critical additions to the current program of general improvements presently underway for Lake Merritt, its environs, associated parklands, and the Estuary Channel that feeds the Lake. The presently unfunded elements of the Project will provide needed enhancements to improve water quality, augment tidal flow, enable healthy marine habitats and, for the first time, provide for pedestrian access from the Lake along the Channel connecting with the Bay Trail and the Estuary.

Exhibit 5: Project Letters

From: Coalition of Advocates for Lake Merritt (CALM)
To: California Coastal Conservation Board

13 November 2008
Page 2

In addition to its projected physical improvements, CALM strongly supports the Water Quality Project for its many positive environmental impacts. The present parkland experience will be extended from Lake Merritt to and along the Estuary Channel. Removal of existing culverts will permit navigation by kayaks and canoes via the Channel from Bay to Lake and back. New tidal pools will be developed that will enable ecologic plant, animal, and marine habitats viewable to hikers along the new Channel walkways. Moreover, with the proposed improvements, opportunities will be created for educational exhibits showcasing the riparian features along the Channel to the enlightenment of residents and visitors throughout the Bay Area.

For these and added benefits of the proposed Water Quality Project, CALM gives its strong endorsement and support. Further, we thank the Conservancy in advance for considering this application for funding, and urge your swift approval.

If questions or desire for further information, please contact me at 510-465-7010 x124, or by email at jamesevann@aol.com.

Sincerely,



James E Vann, AIA, Representative
Coalition of Advocates for Lake Merritt

CC: Amy Hutzal, Coastal Conservancy
Lesley Estes, City of Oakland
Markley Bavinger, City of Oakland



November 6, 2008

Chairman Douglas Bosco
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway 13th Floor
Oakland CA 94612
Attn: Ms. Maxene Spellman

Re: Statement of Support for Lake Merritt Water Quality and Habitat
Improvement Project

Dear Chairman Bosco:

The Jack London Aquatic Center ("JLAC") supports the Lake Merritt Water
Quality and Habitat Improvement Project.

JLAC is the community-based non-profit corporation that manages the Jack
London Aquatic Center, in Estuary Park, on behalf of the City of Oakland.

Because of its location at the confluence of Lake Merritt Channel and the
Oakland-Alameda Estuary, JLAC has daily interface with this important project.

Our mission is to bring the diverse communities of Oakland – and particularly the
youth of Oakland – to the Estuary waterfront, for recreation, education and competition.
Literally hundreds of JLAC adults and youth row and paddle on these waters *each day*.
Their experiences will be enhanced immeasurably by the opening of Lake Merritt
Channel and the completion of related improvements in riparian habitat.

I invite your contact at 510-287-2365 or robert.kidd@jlac.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Kidd", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Robert Kidd
Interim Executive Director

Cc: Amy Hutzell, California Coastal Conservancy
Lesley Estes, City of Oakland
Markley Bavinger, City of Oakland