County of San Diego

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

RENÉE E. BAHL
DIRECTOR

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November 13, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) appreciates the continued efforts of the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy's (SELC) to preserve, protect, and enhance San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve and its watershed. We are committed to our continuing partnership and working with the SELC and other agencies to enhance and restore the biological functions and values of the San Elijo Lagoon Reserve.

We support the SELC in moving forward in the development of conceptual designs, technical studies, environmental review, and permitting for the San Elijo Lagoon Restoration Project. These studies and analyses are needed to identify a preferred design alternative for the Restoration Project.

In 2011, the County DPR will begin the preparation of a Resource Management Plan with the SELC and other stakeholders for its ownership within the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve and finalize it in June 2012. We look forward to our continued partnership with the SELC to protect the sensitive habitat and flora and fauna of the Reserve.

Sincerely,

Renée E. Bahl

RENÉE E. BAHL
Director

PARKS AND RECREATION
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
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State of California - The Resources Agency ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

http://www.dfg.ca.gov
South Coast Region 5
4949 Viewridge Avenue
San Diego, California 92123

November 12, 2008

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

Support for the San Elijo Lagoon Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) supports the continuing efforts to restore San Elijo Lagoon, and encourages the funding for the designs, studies, environmental review and permit applications requested by the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Conservancy).

The Department, County of San Diego, San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy and many other Federal, State and Local agencies have worked together for several years in the discussions and planning towards the goal of restoring San Elijo Lagoon. Through these efforts, the planning group has reached a general consensus on the how to restore the lagoon. This funding will enable the Conservancy to move forward to complete the planning phase so we may begin the restoration of the lagoon. Thank you for considering the request and we hope you will join us in the completion of this restoration effort.

Tim Dillingham is our contact for San Elijo Lagoon and can be reached at the letterhead address, email at TDilling@dfg.ca.gov, by telephone at (858) 467-4204 or by fax at (858) 467-4299.

Sincerely,

Karen Miner
Senior Environmental Scientist
Lands Program Supervisor
South Coast Region

Cc: Tim Dillingham, San Diego

Chron

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ecological Services
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
6010 Hidden Valley Road, Suite 101
Carlsbad, California 92011

In Reply Refer To:
FWS-CP-09B0046-09TA0079

NOV 0 7 2008

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

Subject: Letter of Support for Funding Planning Documents to Restore San Elijo Lagoon in San Diego County, California.

Dear Chair Bosco:

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) would like to express our appreciation for the California Coastal Conservancy's (Conservancy) efforts to protect and restore San Elijo Lagoon (lagoon) in San Diego County, California. More specifically, the Service supports the Conservancy's authorization of $680,000 to the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy to fund conceptual designs, technical studies, environmental review, and permit applications for the San Elijo Lagoon Restoration Project, San Diego County.

Land development has significantly altered the ecology of the lagoon. Over the past several decades San Elijo Lagoon has gradually deteriorated due to the cumulative effects of hydrological and land use changes within the watershed, increased sedimentation, sewage spills, poor water quality, growth of invasive species, severely limited tidal flushing, and frequent closures of the ocean inlet. The lagoon offers an opportunity to restore marine, intertidal coastal salt marsh, and transitional wetland-upland fringe habitats. Restoration would provide a regional benefit to coastal resources, particularly many birds, fishes, and invertebrates that utilize these scarce habitats for nesting, rearing, and foraging. The Service is dedicated to this restoration effort, which is demonstrated by our participation in the San Elijo Lagoon Working Group, and partnership with the County of San Diego and California Department of Fish and Game to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the project.

Please contact Susan Wynn of my staff at 760-931-9440, extension 216, if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Sobiech
Deputy Field Supervisor

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Secretary for Environmental Protection

California Regional Water Quality Control Board

San Diego Region

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November 13, 2008

In reply refer to: **WMC:17-0005.02:bpost**

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

Dear Mr. Bosco:

SUBJECT: SAN ELIJO LAGOON RESTORATION

I understand that, at its December 4, 2008 meeting, the California Coastal Conservancy board will consider approval of a grant in the amount of $680,000 to partially fund environmental and technical studies needed to complete environmental documents for restoration of San Elijo Lagoon. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (SDRWQCB) strongly supports restoration of San Elijo Lagoon and the proposed authorization of funding in support of restoration.

San Elijo Lagoon is one of several ecologically important coastal lagoons in the San Diego region. Restoration of the lagoon is a priority project of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, in which the SDRWQCB participates. SDRWQCB also participates in the San Elijo Lagoon Restoration Committee. The SDRWQCB is working to ensure that water quality standards for San Elijo Lagoon are met.

The heading portion of this letter includes a SDRWQCB code number noted after "In reply refer to:" In order to assist us in the processing of your correspondence please include this code number in the heading or subject line portion of all correspondence and reports to the SDRWQCB pertaining to this matter.

If you have any questions about SDRWQCB support for restoration of San Elijo Lagoon, please contact Mr. Bruce Posthumus at 858-467-2964 or bposthumus@waterboards.ca.gov.

Respectfully,

JOHN H. ROBERTUS
Executive Officer

JHR:bwp

cc: Doug Gibson, SELC
David Gibson, SDRWQCB
Mike Porter, SDRWQCB
Mike McCann, SDRWQCB
Chiara Clemente, SDRWQCB