



bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

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November 18, 2008

Douglas Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13thFloor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Southern California Wetland Restoration Projects

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing to express support for the proposed grant to the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) for planning and associated work to support wetland restoration and associated public access improvements at selected State Ecological Reserves in Southern California, including the Ballona Wetlands.

The Department of Fish and Game, the State Lands Commission, the Coastal Conservancy and all of the entities involved in the restoration planning have made significant progress evaluating the feasibility of various restoration approaches. Now that the project is about to start its formal environmental review, it is important the DFG have adequate resources to lead this effort as the primary landowner.

Covering 600 acres, the Ballona Wetlands State Ecological Reserve is the largest wetland on the Santa Monica Bay and its restoration is a high priority of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission. I encourage you to support this project as it is a critical piece in helping to eventually restore the Ballona Wetlands.

Very truly yours,

Shelley Luce, D.Env.
Executive Director





San Elijo Lagoon CONSERVANCY

Preserving, protecting and enhancing the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve and its watershed

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Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Southern California Wetland Restoration Projects

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing to express support for the proposed grant to the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) for planning and associated work to support wetland restoration and associated public access improvements at selected State Ecological Reserves in Southern California.

All of the proposed projects are Tier 1 (highest priority) projects on the Southern California Wetland Recovery Project's Work Plan. Between the recently passed local funding measures and state bonds, there is an opportunity to implement these restoration projects in the next few years. However, DFG clearly needs additional resources to help lead these restoration projects.

The San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy manages the San Elijo Lagoon State Ecological Reserve and, with support from the Coastal Conservancy, plans to head up the effort to develop a comprehensive restoration plan for the Lagoon. The proposed project DFG will provide critical support to ensure that the project moves through the CEQA and permitting process.

Thank you for your consideration,

Doug Gibson
Executive Director / Principal Scientist
San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy