



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex
6010 Hidden Valley Road, Suite 101
Carlsbad, California 92011



March 27, 2009

Ms. Mary Small, Regional Manager
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Public Land Manager Support for the South San Diego Bay Coastal Wetland Restoration and Enhancement Project – NOAA Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Project Grant

Dear Ms. Small:

As the public land manager for the western salt ponds, which represent one of the restoration components of the South San Diego Bay Coastal Wetland Restoration and Enhancement Project, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex (Complex) supports the efforts of the California Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) to implement this regionally important wetland restoration project. The Conservancy's commitment and financial support for the initiation of restoration and enhancement in south San Diego Bay will result in long-term benefits to the San Diego Bay ecosystem and will provide a range of job opportunities to improve the local, state, and national economy.

The project, which will restore and enhance more than 200 acres of coastal wetlands, is the first phase of an overarching restoration effort that will encompass 1,625 acres in south San Diego Bay. This initial effort will restore intertidal salt marsh habitat to support an abundant and diverse array of migratory birds, as well as fish and other marine organisms. Additionally, new foraging habitat will be provided for the endangered California least tern (*Sternula antillarum browni*) and salt marsh habitat will be available to support the endangered light-footed clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris levipes*). In support of this effort, the Complex will provide Refuge staff time to assist in project implementation.

The Complex supports the Conservancy's request for funding from the NOAA Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Project Grant Program and appreciates the efforts of all of the partners that the Conservancy has assembled to ensure successful implement of tidal restoration in San Diego Bay.

Please contact me at (760) 930-0168 if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Andrew Yuen
Project Leader



Land Manager Support
Andrew Yuen, San Diego
NWR Complex



GREG COX

CHAIRMAN

San Diego County Board of Supervisors



May 22, 2008

Ms. Mary Small, Regional Manager
California Coastal Conservancy
C/O Eileen Maher
Port of San Diego
Environmental Services
3165 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: *Support for the South San Diego Bay: Coastal Wetland Restoration and Enhancement Partnership*

Dear Ms. *Mary* Small:

As Chairman of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, I strongly support the partnership between the California Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy), the Port of San Diego (Port), San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex (Refuge), and non-profit organizations, efforts to restore approximately 125 acres of intertidal habitat and enhance an additional 12 acres of high marsh, wetland/upland transition, coastal dune, and maritime succulent scrub habitat in South San Diego Bay. We support the partnership's request for funding from the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program.

This restoration project will benefit both fisheries and enhance the wetlands South San Diego Bay and the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The partnership's efforts to remove invasive species in the wetlands and plant saltmarsh vegetation will assist in enhancing the productivity of the area and increase habitat for those fishery species that utilize saltmarsh habitat.

I urge the California Coastal Conservancy to fund this important grant program. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Greg Cox in cursive.

GREG COX
Chairman

Environmental Health Coalition

COALICION de SALUD AMBIENTAL

401 Mile of Cars Way, Suite 310 ♦ National City, CA 91950 ♦ (619) 474-0220 ♦ FAX: (619) 474-1210
ehc@environmentalhealth.org ♦ www.environmentalhealth.org

June 3, 2008

Ms. Mary Small
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

**RE: EHC Support for National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant Application -
South San Diego Bay: Coastal Wetland Restoration and Enhancement, San
Diego County, California**

Dear Ms. Small:

Environmental Health Coalition is pleased to support of the South San Diego Bay Coastal Wetland Restoration and Enhancement Project and we encourage the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to approve the California Coastal Conservancy's request for one million dollars to assist in the implementation of this project.

Environmental Health Coalition's Clean Bay Campaign has a 21-year history of work to restore, protect, and enhance San Diego Bay's natural resources. EHC was instrumental in the development and designation of wetlands in South San Diego Bay as a National Wildlife Refuge.

With funding from the National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant and matching funds from the Conservancy and other partners, we will finally have the opportunity to begin the work necessary to achieve the vision of a restored network of coastal wetland and upland habitats within the south end of San Diego Bay. The implementation of this effort is long over due and essential to the health not only of San Diego Bay, but to the health of the fish and bird populations that are dependent upon this and other coastal habitats along the California coast.

As an environmental justice organization, we represent low-income, communities of color who often are denied the enjoyment of healthy natural resources. Unlike many others, our members cannot vacation to exotic locations for a natural experience. Restoration of local resources is very important to our membership and local communities and was reflected in the mass support creation of the refuge received by South Bay community residents.

We strongly endorse this project.

Sincerely,



Laura Hunter
Campaign Director



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-SDG-09B0015-09TA0023

Ms. Eileen Maher, Assistant Director
Environmental Services Department
Port of San Diego
P.O. Box 120488
San Diego, California 92112-0488

Subject: Support of the Port of San Diego's Efforts to Remove Remaining Marine Debris
from the A-8 Anchorage in South San Diego Bay

Dear Ms. Maher:

The U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) would like to express our support for the Port of San Diego's (Port) efforts to remove the remaining marine debris from the A-8 Anchorage in South San Diego Bay. In the last year, the Port has successfully removed 22 tons of debris from this site after receiving \$42,000 of funding from NOAA's Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Project Grants Program. The Service supports the Port's efforts to secure further funding for the removal of the remaining debris.

The Port's actions will provide important benefits for the bay environment, as well as the sensitive coastal habitats protected within the South San Diego Bay Unit and Sweetwater Marsh Unit of the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge (refuge). These refuge lands, being on the leeward side of the bay, tend to be collection points for a considerable amount of debris, including abandoned boats and miscellaneous boat materials. Wind, wave, and tidal action often push debris onto tidal mudflat and cordgrass areas, where existing vegetation can be damaged not only by the debris itself, but also by the subsequent efforts required to remove the materials from these areas. The Port's efforts to remove debris within the bay will also benefit listed species supported on the refuge including the endangered California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*) and light-footed clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris levipes*) and the threatened western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*) and Pacific green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*).

Please contact Lauren White, of my staff, at 760-931-9440 extension 371, if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Karen A. Goebel
Assistant Field Supervisor



10/24/08 14:51 FAX 7604315901

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