

October 27, 2011

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

Dear Chair Bosco:

On behalf of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District), I am writing to convey our support for the Conservancy Board authorization of \$2.5 million for Phase II Implementation of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. This 15,100-acre project is the largest wetland restoration projects on the West coast of the United States, and has already shown multiple successes since the property acquisition in 2003. The project provides an on-going and unique opportunity to restore critical habitat on a landscape scale, contribute to the recovery of threatened and endangered species, improve water quality in the Bay, and increase the resiliency of our coastline to sea-level rise.

The project has been a model of interagency coordination. The Project Management Team includes representatives from the Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, Alameda County Flood Control District, Resources Legacy Fund, NOAA, U.S. Geological Survey, the Center for Collaborative Policy, the Corps of Engineers and Santa Clara Valley Water District.

Phase II plans have been developed by the project team with considerable input from stakeholders. The final concepts for Phase II projects have now been selected, and it is now time to begin implementation.

In order to continue the current project momentum, we enthusiastically support the Conservancy's role in leading the next phase of work. By continuing to make steady progress towards our long-term goals, the team can demonstrate further successes, maintain project support from funders and the public, and continue to attract matching funds.

We appreciate the Conservancy's leadership role on this project, and fully support the staff's recommendation to authorize an additional \$2.5 million to continue the momentum on this important project.

Sincerely,



Ann Draper
Acting Chief Operating Officer - Watersheds

cc: P. Showalter, A. Gurevich, S. Dharasker, M. Richardson

RECEIVED
OCT 31 2011
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.





United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Western Ecological Research Center
Modoc Hall, Suite 3006
3020 State University Drive East
Sacramento, CA 95819

28 October 2011

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

Dear Chair Bosco:

On behalf of the U.S. Geological Survey, I am writing to convey our support for the Conservancy Board authorization of \$2.5 million for Phase II implementation of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. This 15,100-acre project is the largest wetland restoration projects on the West coast of the United States, and has already shown multiple successes in Phase I since the property acquisition in 2003. The project provides an on-going and unique opportunity to restore critical habitat on a landscape scale, contribute to the recovery of threatened and endangered species, improve water quality in the Bay, and increase the resiliency of our coastline to sea-level rise.

The project has been a model of interagency coordination, of which we have been active participants. For example, to lay the groundwork for Phase II, the Project Management Team (made up of representatives from the Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Alameda County Flood Control District, Resources Legacy Fund, NOAA, US Geological Survey, the project's Executive Project Manager, and the Center for Collaborative Policy) held a charrette in 2010 to outline potential Phase II projects. These ideas have incorporated public input from working groups, stakeholder forums, and the project's website. The final concepts for Phase II projects have now been selected, and it is now time to begin more detailed analysis.

In order to continue the current project momentum, we enthusiastically support the Conservancy's role in leading the planning for the next phase of work. By continuing to make steady progress towards our long-term goals, the project can demonstrate further successes, maintain project support from funders and the public, and continue to attract matching funds. The U.S. Geological Survey has provided scientific support to this project since the initial acquisition, and applied science continues to be vital to the success of the adaptive management plan and the restoration project. We will continue working with the Conservancy to ensure sound science is integral to the project, provide in-kind services, and work with the Conservancy to pursue funding sources. Furthermore, it is important that tidal restoration be undertaken now while Bay sediment levels are high enough for marsh plains to accrete so that marshes may better withstand the impacts of sea-level rise in the coming decades.

We appreciate the Conservancy's leadership role on this project, and fully support the staff recommendation to authorize an additional \$2.5 million to continue the momentum on this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Valoppi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laura Valoppi
Lead Scientist

Exhibit 5: Project Letters



October 28, 2011

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

Dear Chair Bosco:

On behalf of Save The Bay, I am writing to convey our support for the Conservancy Board authorization of \$2.5 million for Phase II implementation of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. This 15,100-acre project is the largest wetland restoration projects on the West coast of the United States, and has already shown multiple successes in Phase I since the property acquisition in 2003. The project provides an on-going and unique opportunity to restore critical habitat on a landscape scale, contribute to the recovery of threatened and endangered species, improve water quality in the Bay, and increase the resiliency of our coastline to sea-level rise.

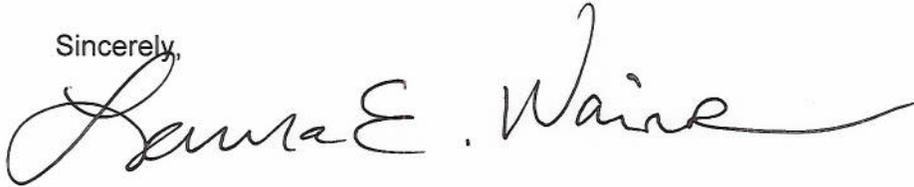
The project has been a model of interagency coordination, of which we have been active participants. For example, to lay the groundwork for Phase II, the Project Management Team (made up of representatives from the Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Alameda County Flood Control District, Resources Legacy Fund, NOAA, US Geological Survey, the project's Executive Project Manager, and the Center for Collaborative Policy) held a charrette in 2010 to outline potential Phase II projects. These ideas have incorporated public input from working groups, stakeholder forums, and the project's website. The final concepts for Phase II projects have now been selected, and it is now time to begin more detailed analysis.

In order to continue the current project momentum, we enthusiastically support the Conservancy's role in leading the planning for the next phase of work. By continuing to make steady progress towards our long-term goals, the project can demonstrate further successes, maintain project support from funders and the public, and continue to attract matching funds. Over the next two years Save The Bay will contribute 1000's of hours of in-kind volunteer work valuing \$63,116 and develop essential tools to help support cost effective restoration of the South Bay Salt Ponds. Save The Bay will also contribute \$609,000 matching the Coastal Conservancy's contribution of \$157,198. Total project costs of \$815,802 will be applied to creating and enhancing ecotone habitat through a Community-based hands on restoration project.

It is essential that tidal restoration be undertaken now while Bay sediment levels are high enough for marsh plains to accrete so that marshes may better withstand the impacts of sea-level rise in the coming decades.

We appreciate the Conservancy's leadership role on this project, and fully support the staff recommendation to authorize an additional \$2.5 million to continue the momentum on this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura E. Wainer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Laura Wainer
Senior Scientist/Restoration Projects Manager
1330 Broadway
Suite 1800
Oakland, CA 94612-2519



October 24, 2011

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

Dear Mr. ^{Doug} Bosco:

Subject: Letter of Support for the Coastal Conservancy Board Funding Authorization for Phase II Implementation of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project

I am writing to express the Department of Fish and Game's (Department) support for the California Coastal Conservancy Board (Conservancy) authorization of \$2.5 million for Phase II implementation of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. This 15,100-acre project is the largest wetland restoration project on the west coast of the United States, and has already shown multiple successes during the Phase I construction phase, which has been occurring since the property was acquired in 2003. The project provides an on-going and unique opportunity to restore critical habitat on a landscape scale, contribute to the recovery of threatened and endangered species, improve water quality in San Francisco Bay, and increase the resiliency of the Bay's coastline to the impacts of sea-level rise.

The project has been a model of interagency and non-government organizations coordination, of which we have been active participants. The South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Management Team includes the Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Alameda County Flood Control District, Resources Legacy Fund, NOAA, U.S. Geological Survey, Center for Collaborative Policy, and the Department. The Phase II project concepts have incorporated public input from working groups, stakeholder forums, and the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project's website.

The Department appreciates the Conservancy's role in leading the planning effort for the next phase of the Restoration Project. By continuing to make steady progress towards our long-term goals, the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project can continue to demonstrate successes, maintain support from our funders and the public, as well as acquire new funding sources. We appreciate the Conservancy's leadership role on this project, and fully support the staff recommendation to authorize an additional \$2.5 million to assist with the funding requirements for implementation of Phase II of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project.

Exhibit 5: Project Letters

Mr. Douglas Bosco
October 24, 2011
Page 2 of 2

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact, Mr. Eric Larson, Environmental Program Manager, at 707-944-5528; or Mr. Carl Wilcox, Regional Manager, at (707) 944-5517.

Sincerely,



Charlton Bonham
Director

ec: Department of Fish and Game – Bay Delta Region
Carl Wilcox, Regional Manger, cwilcox@dfg.ca.gov
Eric Larson, elarson@dfg.ca.gov
John Krause, jkrause@dfg.ca.gov
Debbie Hultman, dhultman@dfg.ca.gov

Exhibit 5: Project Letters



SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY INVASIVE SPARTINA PROJECT

2612-A 8th Street • Berkeley • California 94710 • (510) 548-2461

Preserving native wetlands

MARILYN LATTA
PROJECT MANAGER
510.286.4157
mlatta@scc.ca.gov

October 31, 2011

PEGGY OLOFSON
PROJECT DIRECTOR
prolofson@spartina.org

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

INGRID HOGLE
MONITORING PROGRAM
MANAGER
ibhogle@spartina.org

ERIK GRIJALVA
FIELD OPERATIONS
MANAGER
ekgrijalva@spartina.org

Dear Chair Bosco:

DREW KERR
FIELD OPERATIONS
ASSISTANT MANAGER
dwkerr@spartina.org

On behalf of the San Francisco Bay Estuary Invasive *Spartina* Project, I am writing to convey our support for the Conservancy Board authorization of \$2.5 million for Phase II implementation of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. The Salt Pond Restoration Project and the *Spartina* Project share the goals of restoring and protecting the tidal marsh system of the San Francisco Estuary, contributing to the recovery of threatened and endangered species, and fostering a robust and resilient estuarine ecosystem that will thrive with minimal continued human intervention once the foundation is soundly in place.

JEN MCBROOM
CLAPPER RAIL
MONITORING MANAGER
jtmcbroom@spartina.org

Major Project Funders:
State Coastal
Conservancy

American Recovery &
Reinvestment Act

National Oceanic &
Atmospheric
Administration

U.S. Minerals
Management Service,
Coastal Impact
Assistance Program

U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency,
San Francisco Bay Water
Quality Improvement
Fund

Association of Bay Area
Governments

State Wildlife
Conservation Board

CALFED Bay Delta
Program

U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service

National Fish and
Wildlife Foundation

The Salt Pond Project has made remarkable progress over the last several years, restoring tidal flows to hundreds of acres of former salt ponds, while working with the Invasive *Spartina* Project to minimize exposure to the substantial risks posed by invasive *Spartina*. These newly opened marshes are rapidly showing real signs of progression towards hydrologic, vegetation, and wildlife support goals. But these successes are small compared to the broad scale physical and ecological benefits still to be realized by the Salt Pond Project.

We appreciate the Conservancy's leadership role in preserving and restoring the San Francisco Estuary, and fully support the staff recommendation to authorize an additional \$2.5 million to continue the momentum on this important project.

Sincerely,

Peggy Olofson
Director

Website:
www.spartina.org



Exhibit 5: Project Letters

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1455 MARKET STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103



Executive Office

OCT 31 2011

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

Dear Chair Bosco:

On behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, I am writing to convey our support for the Conservancy Board Phase II implementation of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. This 15,100-acre project is the largest wetland restoration projects on the West coast of the United States, and has already shown multiple successes in Phase I since the property acquisition in 2003. The project provides an on-going and unique opportunity to restore critical habitat on a landscape scale, contribute to the recovery of threatened and endangered species, improve water quality in the Bay, and increase the resiliency of our coastline to sea-level rise.

The project has been a model of interagency coordination, of which we have been active participants. For example, to lay the groundwork for Phase II, the Project Management Team (made up of representatives from the Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Game, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Alameda County Flood Control District, Resources Legacy Fund, NOAA, US Geological Survey, the project's Executive Project Manager, and the Center for Collaborative Policy) held a Charrette in 2010 to outline potential Phase II projects. These ideas have incorporated public input from working groups, stakeholder forums, and the project's website. The final concepts for Phase II projects have now been selected, and it is now time to begin more detailed analysis.

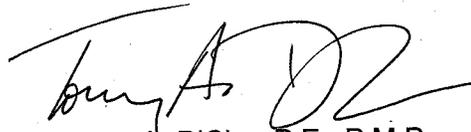
In order to continue the current project momentum, we enthusiastically support the Conservancy's role in leading the planning for the next phase of work. By continuing to make steady progress towards our long-term goals, the project can demonstrate further successes, maintain project support from funders and the public, and continue to attract matching funds. In addition, as noted in USFWS' Final Environmental Impact Report of 2007, the restoration of these salt ponds will ultimately affect their utility as flood control structures, and in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, Congress authorized the Corps, in cooperation with non-Federal interests, to conduct a study of the feasibility of carrying out a project for flood damage reduction along the South San Francisco Bay shoreline as well as restoration of the South San Francisco Bay salt ponds. Furthermore, it is important that tidal restoration be undertaken now while Bay sediment levels are high enough for marsh plains to accrete so that marshes may better withstand the impacts of sea-level rise in the coming decades.

Exhibit 5: Project Letters

-2-

We appreciate the Conservancy's leadership role on this project, and fully support the staff recommendation to continue the momentum on this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Torrey A. DiCiro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "D" at the end.

Torrey A. DiCiro, P.E., P.M.P.
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding



SAN FRANCISCO BAY
BIRD OBSERVATORY

31 October 2011

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

Dear Chair Bosco:

On behalf of the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, I am writing to convey our support for the Conservancy Board authorization of \$2.5 million for Phase II implementation of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. This 15,100-acre project is the largest wetland restoration project on the West coast of the United States, and has already shown multiple successes in Phase I since the property acquisition in 2003. The project provides an on-going and unique opportunity to restore critical habitat on a landscape scale, contribute to the recovery of threatened and endangered species, improve water quality in the Bay, and increase the resiliency of our coastline to sea-level rise.

The project has been a model of interagency coordination, of which we have been active participants. For example, to lay the groundwork for Phase II, the Project Management Team held a charrette in 2010 to outline potential Phase II projects. These ideas have incorporated public input from working groups, stakeholder forums, and the project's website. The final concepts for Phase II projects have now been selected, and it is now time to begin more detailed analysis.

In order to continue the current project momentum, we enthusiastically support the Conservancy's role in leading the planning for the next phase of work. By continuing to make steady progress towards long-term goals, the project can maintain project support from funders and the public and continue to attract matching funds. The momentum generated by the progress to date has allowed the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory to raise \$350,000 in matching funds from our donors, the government agencies, and small foundations for our work supporting the project; we look forward to working with the Conservancy to find additional matching funds.

We appreciate the Conservancy's leadership role on this project, and fully support the staff recommendation to authorize an additional \$2.5 million to continue the momentum on this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill Demers". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jill Demers
Executive Director