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A California State Agency

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May 30, 2013

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
Attn: Mary Small
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Proposed Grant to Develop a Wetland Carbon Sequestration Protocol

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing this letter in support of the Coastal Conservancy's proposed grant of \$50,000 to Winrock International to develop a carbon sequestration protocol for California wetlands. The Delta Conservancy supports the Conservancy's partnership with other agencies and nonprofits in advancing this work.

We all know that wetlands provide critical habitat, improve water quality, and protect communities from flooding. However, recent science confirms that wetlands also sequester significant amounts of carbon. This project will develop a peer-reviewed protocol to quantify these carbon benefits for different types of wetlands in California. California also has significant potential for wetland restoration. Over the past five years, more than 10,000 acres of coastal wetlands have been restored. Planning and environmental review has been completed for tens of thousands of additional acres. In the next few years, final engineering will be complete for more than 40,000 acres of additional coastal wetland restoration – much of that in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Our state is leading the way in addressing climate change through the implementation of a cap and trade project for greenhouse gas emissions reduction. This project will link wetland restoration and the state's emerging carbon market, creating a potential funding mechanism for implementation and management of coastal and Delta wetland restoration projects. This is an important project in advancing the restoration of California wetlands as a strategy for addressing climate change.

It is exciting to see the state propose a project with so many potential benefits, I encourage your support.

Sincerely,

Campbell Ingram
Executive Officer





United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
1 Marshlands Road
Fremont, California 94555



May 23, 2013

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chairman
ATTN: Mary Small
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Support for proposed grant to develop a wetland carbon sequestration protocol

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to support the Coastal Conservancy's proposed grant of \$50,000 to Winrock International to develop a carbon sequestration protocol for wetlands. This project will link wetland restoration efforts in California with the carbon market, creating a critical funding mechanism for implementation and management of coastal and delta wetland restoration projects. Because wetland projects will not be eligible for funding from either the voluntary or regulatory carbon markets until a protocol is developed, it is important to begin this work as soon as possible. I applaud the Conservancy's partnership with other agencies and nonprofits in advancing this work.

We all know that wetlands provide critical habitat, improve water quality, and protect communities from flooding. Additionally, recent science confirms that wetlands also sequester significant amounts of carbon. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) promotes habitat restoration as an important mitigation strategy to sequester carbon from the atmosphere. Scientists have concluded that wetlands in particular are a more valuable carbon sink per unit area than any other ecosystem.

The Coastal Conservancy is a vital partner of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in land acquisition, project planning, science delivery, and implementation and management of wetland restoration projects on both the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and San Pablo Bay NWR, including the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, the largest wetland restoration project on the Pacific Coast. Over the past five years, more than 10,000 acres of coastal wetlands have been restored. Our challenge will be securing funds into the future for the remaining 40,000 acres of wetland restoration that are planned, much of it in the San Francisco Bay estuary. This proposed grant funds an essential step in advancing the restoration of California wetlands as an innovative strategy for addressing climate change.

It is a privilege to be working in a state that is leading the way in addressing climate change through the implementation of a cap and trade project for greenhouse gas emissions reduction. We stand ready to participate in the stakeholder focus groups that Winrock would facilitate to guide methodology development by providing both our technical expertise on wetland restoration and our agency perspective as a potential supplier of credits on National Wildlife Refuges in San Francisco Bay. It is exciting to see the state propose a project with so many potential benefits, and I encourage your support.

Sincerely,

Anne E. Morkill
Refuge Complex Manager



bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

santa monica bay restoration commission / 320 west 4th street, ste 200; los angeles, california 90013
213/576-6615 phone / 213/576-6646 fax / santamonica.org

May 21, 2013

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Attn: Mary Small

Subject: Proposed grant to develop a wetland carbon sequestration protocol

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to support the Coastal Conservancy's proposed grant of \$50,000 to Winrock International to develop a carbon sequestration protocol for coastal and Delta wetlands in California. I applaud the Conservancy's leadership in advancing this important work and urge you to approve the funding for this project.

Wetlands are known and well-documented for providing multiple benefits including critical habitat for plant and animal species, water quality improvement, and flood protection. However, what has not been widely recognized and therefore underappreciated is that wetlands also sequester significant amounts of carbon and help to alleviate global warming. The proposed project will quantify this additional benefit for different types of wetlands in California through development of a peer-reviewed protocol, which can be used to link wetland restoration and the state's emerging carbon market. Implementation of this project is truly a win-win for the environment as it will both help to mitigate the impacts of climate change and create a potential funding mechanism for restoration of the State's wetland habitats..

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission has been actively engaged in protection and restoration of remnant coastal wetlands in Southern California including the 800-acre Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. Like many other potential restoration projects in the State, funding shortage is the main obstacle to achieve full restoration of the Ballona Wetlands. We are excited about the

our mission: to restore and enhance the santa monica bay through actions and partnerships that improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources, and protect the bay's benefits and values





bay restoration commission

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potential restoration funding that the proposed project will generate and are pleased to offer our full support for its implementation.

Sincerely,

Shelley Luce, Ph.D. Env.
Executive Director
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission





California Regional Office
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June 11, 2013

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support for Coastal Conservancy Wetland Carbon Grant Proposal

Dear Chairman Bosco:

The Nature Conservancy is pleased to write in support of the State Coastal Conservancy's (SCC) proposed grant of \$50,000 to Winrock International to develop a carbon sequestration protocol for wetlands. The Nature Conservancy has collaborated with the State Coastal Conservancy on many projects and activities over many years and we value our productive partnership. We have also worked with Winrock International in a variety of settings including pioneering work on forest carbon protocols in Belize and California. Winrock is a global leader in this field and will be an excellent partner for the SCC in this project.

Recent research which the Nature Conservancy has been involved with indicates that wetlands in California have the potential to sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store significant reservoirs of carbon within their soils. Protecting them can also avoid emissions of carbon from the soil that might occur if converted to other uses. While more than 90% of California's original wetland acreage has been converted to other uses, more than 3% of California is still covered by coastal and inland wetlands. There is great potential to address climate change by wetland conservation.

Payments to land owners and managers is a powerful tool to catalyze wetland conservation and restoration at a meaningful scale and produce the extensive suite of additional public benefits that wetlands can provide. These include recreation, habitat for fish and wildlife, quality of life, reduced risk from flooding and sea level rise, and protecting drinking water and water quality. Access to the California carbon market can generate this revenue but a carbon project protocol is essential for wetlands to enter this program. Thus, we see the SCC grant proposal as a critically important next step to develop a wetland carbon protocol and capitalize on this emerging opportunity.

In conclusion, the Nature Conservancy urges your support for the SCC grant proposal to develop a wetland carbon project protocol. This grant will help conserve California's remaining wetlands, fight climate change, and provide an impressive suite of additional public benefits.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of this important proposal

Sincerely,

Louis Blumberg
Director, California Climate Change Program
The Nature Conservancy