



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

September 25, 2013

Douglas Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy Board
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94618

Re: October 3 Board Meeting, Support letter for San Francisco Bay Creosote Piling Removal and Pacific Herring Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Bosco,

This letter is in support of the multi-objective San Francisco Bay Creosote Piling Removal and Pacific Herring Restoration Project. This project directly supports the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service objectives for habitat conservation in San Francisco Bay, including protection of Essential Fish Habitat and creation of habitat for herring and other commercially and recreationally important fish species.

We support this partnership between the California State Coastal Conservancy and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to support a creosote piling removal and Pacific herring restoration pilot project in the San Francisco Bay. This collaborative, innovative project will be a five-year effort that includes creosote piling removal, native eelgrass and oyster habitat restoration, and public involvement. The project will result in critical lessons learned that can inform future projects led by a variety of San Francisco Bay area resource agencies and environmental groups.

We support this pilot projects that helps further implementation recommendations in the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Report (Subtidal Goals). Removal of creosote pilings has been proposed as restoration focus for San Francisco Bay. Creosote-treated wood and debris removal operations are underway in San Francisco Bay and in other regions of the United States. There is particular concern that chemicals leaching from creosote-treated structure could harm Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*), the last native commercial fishery within San Francisco Bay, because herring spawn on hard surfaces, including old pier pilings. Over one-third of the pilings observed by San Francisco Estuary Institute and NOAA, as part of the Subtidal Goals effort, were located within critical herring spawning areas.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at Korie.schaeffer@noaa.gov or 707-575-6087.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Korie Ann Schaeffer".

Korie Ann Schaeffer
Northern California Habitat Coordinator



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

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September 23, 2013

Douglas Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy Board
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94618

Re: October 3 Board Meeting, Support letter for San Francisco Bay Creosote Piling Removal and Pacific Herring Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Bosco,

This letter is in support of the multi-objective San Francisco Bay Creosote Piling Removal and Pacific Herring Restoration Project. Our laboratory was the first to demonstrate and publish the adverse impacts of creosote pilings to Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) reproduction in 2000, and we believe removal of this toxic spawning substrate from SF Bay will ultimately contribute to an enhanced herring population.

We support the partnership between the California State Coastal Conservancy and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to support a creosote piling removal and Pacific herring restoration pilot project in the San Francisco Bay. This collaborative, innovative project will be a five-year effort that includes creosote piling removal, native eelgrass and oyster habitat restoration, and public involvement. The project will result in critical lessons learned that can inform future projects led by a variety of Bay Area resource agencies and environmental groups.

We support pilot projects that help further implementation recommendations in the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Report. Removal of creosote pilings has been proposed as a restoration focus for San Francisco Bay and creosote-treated wood and debris removal operations are underway in San Francisco Bay and in other regions of the United States. There is particular concern that chemicals (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) leaching from creosote-treated structures could harm Pacific herring embryos that attach directly to these substrates. Herring are the last native commercial fishery within San Francisco Bay and have been shown by us as well as others to be extremely sensitive to very low levels of creosote-derived chemicals. Over one-third of the pilings observed by SFEI and NOAA have been shown to be located within critical herring spawning areas.

Exhibit 4: Project Letters

Thank you for your consideration of this important project. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at the University of California Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory (contact information below).

Sincerely,



Gary N. Cherr, PhD
Director, Bodega Marine Laboratory
Professor, Department of Environmental Toxicology
University of California Davis
Bodega Marine Laboratory
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CC: Marilyn Latta, Project Manager

Exhibit 4: Project Letters

September 23, 2013

Douglas Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy Board
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94618

Re: October 3, 2013 Board Meeting
Support letter for Creosote Piling Removal and Pacific Herring Restoration Project

Dear Chairman Bosco;

I am writing in support of the San Francisco Bay Creosote Piling Removal and Pacific Herring Restoration Project.

The San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) is a coalition of resource agencies, non-profits, citizens and scientists working to protect, restore, and enhance water quality and fish and wildlife habitat in and around the San Francisco Estuary. SFEP was a key partner in the development of the 2010 *San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Report* (Subtidal Goals Report), and implementation of the recommendations in the Subtidal Goals Report is a significant objective of SFEP. The proposed Creosote Piling Removal and Pacific Herring Restoration Project will address the concern that chemicals leaching from creosote-treated structures could adversely impact aquatic organisms (particularly Pacific herring that may spawn on creosote pilings) by implementing goals and objectives in the Subtidal Goals Report regarding removing creosote pilings at targeted sites. This collaborative, innovative project will result in critical lessons learned that can inform future projects led by a variety of Bay Area resource agencies and environmental groups.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 510-622-8137 or judy.kelly@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Judy A. Kelly
Director

CC: Marilyn Latta, Project Manager