



**Loni Hancock** SENATOR, NINTH DISTRICT

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May 28, 2015

Doria Robinson, Executive Director  
Urban Tilth  
31 Maine Ave.  
Richmond, CA 94801

**Re: Lower Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks Restoration Plan**

Dear Ms. Robinson:

I am writing in support of the Lower Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks Restoration planning project proposed by Urban Tilth.

The project is critical for the area because it entails preparation of site-specific plans for restoration of riparian and stream habitat. Additionally, the project also entails improvement of water quality in the portions of the two creeks from Interstate 80 to San Pablo Bay. Currently, as is common on urban creeks, the patchy riparian vegetation dominated by non-native species and urban runoff flowing into the creeks have resulted in degraded fish and wildlife habitat and in polluted water in both Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks and ultimately in San Pablo Bay.

These creeks have regional significance as they are two of the few creeks in the region that are natural open channels for most of their length. They serve as fish passage, wildlife corridors, flood control conveyances, and as natural amenities for residents of the largely urban areas that they flow through. Restoring native riparian growth in these creeks while preserving their flood control function is a goal of the proposed project.

As an added benefit of the project, in its subsequent construction phase the project will provide training opportunities for the Watershed Restoration Technicians that Urban Tilth is training concurrently with the restoration planning. These technicians are young people from the local disadvantaged community, who will be gaining valuable job skills while also learning to care for the environment.

Urban Tilth has partnered with the Contra Costa County Flood Control District for this project. This partnership is significant in that it brings together two very different organizations with a common goal of the betterment of the environment and the community. I believe that the restoration planning project will complete the steps necessary to improving the fish and wildlife habitat and water quality, as well as to enhancing the overall environmental quality of the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loni Hancock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

LONI HANCOCK  
Senator

LH: ic

cc: Melanie Denninger, Project Specialist  
State Coastal Conservancy  
Melanie.Denninger@scc.ca.gov

Doria Robinson, Executive Director  
Urban Tilth  
doria@urbantilth.org

Adèle Ho, Construction Project Manager  
Urban Tilth  
adele@urbantilth.org

**John Gioia** (say "Joy-a")  
 District One  
 Board of Supervisors

**Contra  
 Costa  
 County**

11780 San Pablo Avenue, Suite D  
 El Cerrito, CA 94530  
 Phone: (510) 231-8686  
 Fax: (510) 374-3429

May 28, 2015  
 Doria Robinson, Executive Director  
 Urban Tilth  
 31 Maine Ave.  
 Richmond, CA 94801



**Subject: LOWER WILDCAT AND SAN PABLO CREEKS  
 RESTORATION PLAN**

Dear Doria Robinson:

This is to express my strong support for the Lower Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks Restoration planning project proposed by Urban Tilth, a Richmond based non-profit serving predominantly lower income youth of color. The project entails preparation of site-specific plans for restoration of riparian and stream habitat and improvement of water quality in the portions of the two creeks from Interstate 80 to San Pablo Bay.

Currently, as is common on urban creeks, the patchy riparian vegetation dominated by non-native species and urban runoff flowing into the creeks have resulted in degraded fish and wildlife habitat and in polluted water in both Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks and ultimately in San Pablo Bay. I believe that this restoration planning project will complete the steps necessary to improving fish and wildlife habitat and water quality, as well as to enhancing the overall environmental quality of the community.

As an added benefit of the project, in its subsequent construction phase the project will provide training opportunities for the Watershed Restoration Technicians that Urban Tilth is training concurrently with the restoration planning. These technicians are youth from low income neighborhoods in the Richmond and West Contra Costa area, who will be gaining valuable job skills while also learning to be stewards of our environment.

Very Truly Yours,

John Gioia  
 Chair, Board of Supervisors

Email: [John\\_Gioia@bos.cccounty.us](mailto:John_Gioia@bos.cccounty.us) • Website: [www.cocobos.org/gioia](http://www.cocobos.org/gioia)



Contra Costa County  
**Flood Control**  
& Water Conservation District

Julia R. Bueren,  
ex officio Chief Engineer  
Steve Kowalewski,  
Deputy Chief Engineer

May 28, 2015

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Lower Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks Restoration Plan

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District supports the Lower Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks Restoration Planning Project proposed by Urban Tilth. The project entails preparation of site-specific plans for restoration of riparian and stream habitat and improvement of water quality in portions of the two creeks from Interstate 80 to San Pablo Bay, in impoverished North Richmond and San Pablo.

Currently, as is common on urban creeks, the patchy riparian vegetation dominated by nonnative species and urban runoff has resulted in degraded fish and wildlife habitat and polluted water in both Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks and, ultimately, in San Pablo Bay. This restoration planning project will take several steps toward improving the fish and wildlife habitat and water quality, as well as enhancing the overall environmental quality of the community.

As an added benefit of the project, the construction phase will provide training opportunities for the "Watershed Restoration Technicians," who Urban Tilth is training concurrently with the restoration planning phase. These technicians are young people from the local disadvantaged communities of North Richmond, Richmond, and San Pablo, who will be gaining valuable job skills while also learning to care for the environment.

We consider our agency a major partner with Urban Tilth for this project and have agreed to provide free access to our flood control channels for this project. This partnership is significant in that it brings together two very different organizations with a common goal of the betterment of the environment and the community.

Sincerely,

Mike Carlson  
Assistant Chief Engineer  
Contra Costa County Flood Control  
& Water Conservation District

MC:TJ:cw

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c: Steve Kowalewski, Deputy Chief Engineer  
Tim Jensen, Flood Control  
Melanie Denninger, Project Specialist, State Coastal Conservancy (by e-mail at [Melanie.Denninger@scc.ca.gov](mailto:Melanie.Denninger@scc.ca.gov))  
Doria Robinson, Executive Director, Urban Tilth (by e-mail at [doria@urbantilth.org](mailto:doria@urbantilth.org))  
Adèle Ho, Construction Project Manager, Urban Tilth (by e-mail at [adele@urbantilth.org](mailto:adele@urbantilth.org))

May 21, 2015

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612



**Subject: LOWER WILDCAT AND SAN PABLO CREEKS RESTORATION PLAN**

Dear Mr. Bosco:

This is to express my support the Lower Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks Restoration planning project proposed by Urban Tilth. The project entails preparation of site-specific plans for restoration of riparian and stream habitat and improvement of water quality in the portions of the two creeks from Interstate 80 to San Pablo Bay, which includes our jurisdiction of the City of San Pablo.

Currently, as is common on urban creeks, the patchy riparian vegetation dominated by non-native species and urban runoff flowing into the creeks have resulted in degraded fish and wildlife habitat and in polluted water in both Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks and ultimately in San Pablo Bay. I believe that the restoration planning project will complete the steps necessary to improving the fish and wildlife habitat and water quality, as well as to enhancing the overall environmental quality of the community. The project will help our City to retain precious natural creek habitat in the midst of an urban landscape.

As an added benefit of the project, in its subsequent construction phase the project will provide training opportunities for the Watershed Restoration Technicians that Urban Tilth is training concurrently with the restoration planning. These technicians are young people from the local community, who will be gaining valuable job skills while also learning to care for the environment.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Hawkins*  
City Engineer

- cc: Kathy Chao Rothberg, Mayor
- Rich Kinney, Vice Mayor
- Cecilia Valdez, Councilmember
- Genoveva Garcia Calloway, Councilmember
- Paul V. Morris, Councilmember
- Matt Rodriguez, City Manager
- Reina Schwartz, Assistant City Manager

**RECEIVED**

MAY 28 2015

COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

**Wildcat-San Pablo Creeks Watershed Council**  
Since 1985



May 27, 2015

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support for Urban Tilth's Lower Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks Restoration Plan

Participating Organizations

Balance Hydrologics, Inc.  
California Urban Streams  
Partnership  
CHDC of North Richmond  
City of Richmond  
City of San Pablo  
Color Spot Nurseries, Inc.  
Community Health  
Initiative,  
North Richmond  
Community Youth Council  
for Leadership  
and Education  
Contra Costa County  
Board of Supervisors  
District 1  
Contra Costa County  
Department of  
Conservation &  
Development  
Contra Costa County  
Flood Control & Water  
Conservation District  
Contra Costa County  
Public Works Department  
East Bay Regional Park  
District  
Ecovillage Farm Center  
Friends of the  
San Francisco Estuary  
Natural Heritage Institute  
North Richmond  
Shoreline Open  
Space Alliance  
Richmond Unified  
School District  
San Francisco Bay  
Joint Venture  
Save San Francisco  
Bay Association  
Sierra Club  
State Assembly  
14<sup>th</sup> District  
State of California,  
Department of Fish  
and Wildlife  
State Regional Water  
Quality Control Board  
The Watershed Project  
Trails for Richmond  
Action Committee  
UC Berkeley  
Urban Tilth  
U.S. Army Corps of  
Engineers  
Watershed Sciences  
West Contra Costa  
Transportation  
Advisory Committee

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The Wildcat-San Pablo Creeks Watershed Council supports the Lower Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks Restoration Planning Project proposed by Urban Tilth. The project entails preparation of site-specific plans for restoration of riparian and stream habitat and improvement of water quality in portions of the two creeks from Interstate 80 to San Pablo Bay, in impoverished North Richmond and San Pablo. The goals of this project are consistent with the goals of the Watershed Council.

The Watershed Council represents 30 years of collaborative, consensus-based planning with participation of citizens, local nonprofits, various resource and regulatory agency personnel, and municipal public agency and special district management staffs. The Watershed Council is recognized by the County Board of Supervisors as the coordinating body for watershed issues, such as flood control, stormwater management, land development and transportation issues, endangered species protection, fisheries restoration, youth education and training, and riparian restoration.

Currently, as is common on urban creeks, the patchy riparian vegetation dominated by nonnative species and urban runoff has resulted in degraded fish and wildlife habitat and polluted water in both Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks and, ultimately, in San Pablo Bay. This restoration planning project will take several steps toward improving the fish and wildlife habitat and water quality, as well as enhancing the overall environmental quality of the community.

As an added benefit of the project, the construction phase will provide training opportunities for the "Watershed Restoration Technicians," who Urban Tilth is training concurrently with the restoration planning phase. These technicians are young people from the local disadvantaged communities of North Richmond, Richmond, and San Pablo, who will be gaining valuable job skills while also learning to care for the environment.

We consider our Council a major partner with Urban Tilth for this project and have agreed to provide resources and coordination. If you have any questions, please contact me at (925) 313-2390 or by e-mail at [tjens@pw.cccounty.us](mailto:tjens@pw.cccounty.us).

Sincerely,

Tim Jensen  
Wildcat-San Pablo Creeks Watershed  
Council Coordinator

TJ:cw  
G:\fldct\WC\_SP WC\Letters\2015-5-27 Urban Tilth Grant LOS.docx

c: Members, Wildcat-San Pablo Creeks Watershed Council



May 21, 2015

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

**Citizens for a Greener El Sobrante**

**Subject: LOWER WILDCAT AND SAN PABLO CREEKS RESTORATION PLAN**

Dear Mr. Bosco:

This is to express our support for the Lower Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks Restoration planning project proposed by Urban Tilth. The project entails preparation of site-specific plans for restoration of riparian and stream habitat and improvement of water quality in the portions of the two creeks from Interstate 80 to San Pablo Bay.

Currently, as is common on urban creeks, the patchy riparian vegetation dominated by non-native species and urban runoff flowing into the creeks have resulted in degraded fish and wildlife habitat and in polluted water in both Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks and ultimately in San Pablo Bay. We believe that the restoration planning project will complete the steps necessary to improving the fish and wildlife habitat and water quality, as well as to enhancing the overall environmental quality of the community.

As an added benefit of the project, in its subsequent construction phase the project will provide training opportunities for the Watershed Restoration Technicians that Urban Tilth is training concurrently with the restoration planning. These technicians are young people from the local disadvantaged community, who will be gaining valuable job skills while also learning to care for the environment.

A major partner to Urban Tilth for this project is the Contra Costa County Flood Control District. This partnership is significant in that it brings together two very different organizations with a common goal of the betterment of the environment and the community,

Sincerely,

Sharon Korotkin  
Coordinator

cc: Melanie Denninger, Project Specialist  
State Coastal Conservancy  
Melanie.Denninger@scc.ca.gov

Doria Robinson, Executive Director  
Urban Tilth  
doria@urbantilth.org

Adèle Ho, Construction Project Manager  
Urban Tilth  
adele@urbantilth.org

GreenElSobrante.org | PO Box 21003, El Sobrante, CA 94820 | (510) 280-1990