

PERMIT NO. M08-5

California Department of Transportation, District 4

May 14, 2008

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objectives. To insure that vegetation of disturbed areas and plant establishment in the identified enhancement areas are successful, the plan shall include the following:

- (1) **Monitoring.** Monitoring shall consist of establishing monitoring stations at randomly selected sites, and qualitative survey of the overall project corridor. Monitoring sites shall include an array of three photo points established at each station, and a 10-meter transect will be installed through the planted area. Each transect will be measured with a series of five quadrats. The corridor survey shall evaluate the success of the invasive weed control program and re-establishment of plant cover.
 - (2) **Reporting.** In years 1, 3, and 5, starting July 1 of the year following project completion, or by June 1, 2010, whichever is earlier, the permittee shall submit a report on the success of restoration efforts in creating natural, native grasslands in the highway corridor disturbed by construction. The report shall evaluate and describe the efforts to control non-native and weedy vegetation, the success and percent cover of restored vegetation along the project right-of-way, and the success of reintroduced native grasses and general enhancement of the grassland. Should adverse conditions be identified in the report, or by BCDC staff during a site inspection, the permittee shall take corrective action as specified by or on behalf of the Commission.
2. **Funds for Off-site Mitigation.** Within 210 days of executing this permit, Caltrans shall transfer \$200,000 to the California Coastal Conservancy to plan and restore approximately 1.9 acres of grassland and 0.2 acres of seasonal pools off-site within the primary or secondary management area of the Suisun Marsh. Suitable mitigation sites include Solano Land Trust's Rush Ranch or the California Department of Fish and Game's Hill Slough Wildlife Area, although other suitable sites may be approved by or on behalf of the Commission. Plans for restoring the 2.1 acres shall first be submitted for written approval by or on behalf of the Commission and shall include a topographic map at one-foot contour intervals depicting any proposed modifications, soil information, a planting and seeding plan, project schedule, a three-year maintenance program and a five-year monitoring program. If no suitable habitat enhancement opportunities become available at Rush Ranch or Hill Slough within one year from the substantial completion of the roadway project authorized herein, or by October 1, 2010, whichever is earlier, the funding may be applied to an alternative mitigation project within the Suisun Marsh or its vicinity, as approved by or on behalf of the Commission.

If, prior to the transfer of funds to the California Coastal Conservancy, the permittee provides evidence that less funds are necessary to enhance the equivalent of 2.1 acres of grassland and seasonal wetland habitat, then the permittee may request that the Executive Director reduce the mitigation funding amount, based on bona fide cost estimates provided by Caltrans and/or the Solano Land Trust. Any estimate must include the costs of any necessary grading, planting, seeding, fencing, habitat monitoring, maintenance and cost contingency.

D. **Notice to Contractor.** The permittee shall provide a copy of this permit to any contractor or person working in concert with the permittee to carry out the activities authorized herein and shall point out the special conditions contained herein.



Making San Francisco Bay Better

June 2, 2014

Amy Hutzel, Program Manager
San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

SUBJECT: Support for the Disbursement of Caltrans Mitigation Funds for the
Upper Spring Branch Creek Mitigation Project

Dear Ms. Hutzel:

This letter is to communicate the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's (BCDC) support for the State Coastal Conservancy's (Conservancy) disbursement of up to \$180,000 to the Solano Land Trust for habitat improvements on the Rush Ranch property in Suisun Marsh.

We are pleased to support the Solano Land Trust's application for the Upper Spring Branch Creek Mitigation Project, which satisfies offsite mitigation obligations that are required in BCDC Permit Number M2008.005 (formerly Permit No. M08-5). The mitigation was required to offset temporary and permanent impacts to grasslands and seasonal pools within the Suisun Marsh that were caused by needed improvements to State Route 12 east of Walters Road in Solano County, California. These improvements were done by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Requirements of the BCDC permit include submittal of a plan for BCDC approval to restore a minimum of 1.9 acres of grassland and 0.2 acres of seasonal pools within the secondary management area of the Suisun Marsh.

The disbursement of funds as proposed would fulfill the intention of the mitigation funds that were set aside for these purposes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad McCREA", is written over the word "Sincerely,". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

BRAD McCREA
Regulatory Program Director

BM/gg