



## **San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**

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February 12, 2016

State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

**Subject: Support for Solano Land Trust Upper Spring Branch Creek East Project**

To Whom It May Concern:

The Solano Land Trust (SLT) has planned and is ready to implement the “*Upper Spring Branch Creek East Restoration Project*” at Rush Ranch in Solano County, CA. Rush Ranch has been the subject of ecological studies for decades by numerous private and governmental agencies. It is part of the San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (SF Bay NERR), which recognizes its importance and capacity for informing key aspects of Suisun tidal marsh restoration in a regional adaptive management framework.

This project provides a great opportunity for furthering scientific understanding of how upland grassland stewardship can benefit adjacent tidal marsh through seasonal riparian connectivity. The SF Bay NERR is excited about the possibilities for coordinating our research with this site, cultivating citizen science opportunities, and helping to inform decision-makers in the region.

The project will:

- Improve connections between terrestrial and aquatic conservation areas.
- Protect climate refugia
- Enhance moist grassland and seasonal riparian habitat
- Provide an opportunity to engage in monitoring and coordinating research at Rush Ranch.

Sincerely

*Michael Vasey*

Michael Vasey, PhD  
Director



*San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is a partnership among National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, San Francisco State University, California State Parks, Solano Land Trust and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.*

