



# United States Department of the Interior



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

February 29, 2016

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

**Re: San Francisco Estuary Invasive *Spartina* Project: 3/24/16 Board Authorization for 2016-17 Funding**

Dear Chairman Bosco,

On behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex, I am writing this letter in support of the **San Francisco Estuary Invasive *Spartina* Project: 3/24/16 Request for Board Authorization for 2016-17 Funding**. The Invasive *Spartina* Project (ISP) Control Program, the purpose of which is to eradicate invasive *Spartina* in order to protect the long-term health of the native tidal marsh ecosystem and restore the affected habitats of the San Francisco Estuary, is a successful project to date and continued funding is critical to completing eradication of invasive *Spartina* from the San Francisco Estuary.

The Board Authorization would enable the Conservancy to continue essential ongoing planning, management, re-vegetation, monitoring, and permit compliance activities needed to support treatment activities through March 31, 2017 and to carry out treatment and eradication work by grantees through the 2016 treatment season. This work protects habitat function, habitat diversity, and native ecological structure over more than 35,000 acres of tidal marsh and 25,000 acres of mudflats bay-wide.

We support the ISP because it addresses important habitat restoration and species recovery goals identified in our Comprehensive Conservation Plans for the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay and San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, as well as the Service's Tidal Marsh Ecosystem Recovery Plan for Northern and Central California. We have been an active partner in the ISP since its inception and we highly value the key leadership role that the Conservancy has played in coordinating dozens of landowners, resource managers, stakeholders, scientists, non-profits, and citizens in this unprecedented regional collaborative effort. The project is a recognized success, and continued funding is absolutely essential at this stage with only 28 net acres left of the original 800 acres of infestation to reach the project goal of eradication throughout the estuary. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anne Morkill  
Refuge Complex Manager

Cc: Marilyn Latta, ISP Project Manager



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MANAGEMENT BOARD:

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Wildlife Conservation Board

March 3, 2016

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

**SUBJECT: Support for the San Francisco Estuary Invasive Spartina Project: 3/24/16  
Board Authorization for 2016-17 funding**

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing on behalf of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture (SFBJV) to encourage the Coastal Conservancy to provide funding for 2016-17 for the San Francisco Estuary Invasive Spartina Project (ISP), under consideration at the March 24 board meeting.

The SFBJV is a partnership of non-governmental organizations, utilities, landowners, and non-voting agencies with a goal to acquire, restore and enhance wetlands and riparian habitats and associated uplands to benefit birds, fish, and other wildlife in the San Francisco Bay Area. The SFBJV is one of the fourteen federally-sponsored habitat Joint Ventures to implement the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and federal bird conservation plans. The SFBJV Implementation Plan, *Restoring the Estuary*, targets nearly 200,000 acres of wetlands and riparian habitats for protection, restoration, or enhancement through our partners' funding and expertise.

The SFBJV supports the ISP because it helps to reach our regional goals of restoring native, diverse wetland habitats bay-wide for a variety of species in San Francisco Bay. We have been an ongoing partner and stakeholder in this effort, including helping the Conservancy secure several large federal grants. We highly value the key leadership coordination role that the Conservancy has played: organizing dozens of landowners, resource managers, stakeholders, scientists, non-profits, and citizens in this effort. The Conservancy has demonstrated through the ISP the ability to eradicate invasive *Spartina* to protect the long-term health of the native marsh ecosystem and restore the affected habitats of the San Francisco Estuary. To complete the eradication of this invasive species continued funding is critical.

This authorization would enable the Conservancy to continue critical ongoing planning, management, revegetation, monitoring, and permit compliance activities needed to support treatment activities through March 31, 2017 and to carry out treatment and eradication work by grantees through the 2016 treatment season. This work protects habitat function, habitat diversity, and native ecological structure over more than 35,000 acres of tidal marsh and 25,000 acres of mudflats bay-wide. It's a critical step in ensuring the future success of multiple large-scale tidal wetland restoration projects, including Hamilton Restoration Project, South Bay Salt Ponds, Bair Island, and many others.

We hope that the requested funds will be authorized for the ISP. If you have any questions about the SFBJV or our support for this important program, please contact our Coordinator, Beth Huning.

Sincerely,

Diane Ross-Leech  
Past Chair