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May 11, 2015

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

**MANAGEMENT BOARD:**

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Wildlife Conservation Board*

**Subject: Support for Consultant Services for Federal Funding**

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing on behalf of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture (SFBJV) to express support for continued Coastal Conservancy funding for consulting services to help obtain federal funding for wetland restoration efforts in San Francisco Bay, the largest estuary on the West Coast.

The SFBJV is a partnership of non-governmental organizations, utilities, landowners, and non-voting agencies others collaborating to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands and wildlife habitat within its geographic region, San Francisco Bay and the outer California coast. The SFBJV is one of 18 habitat joint ventures in the United States, operating under the certification of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, a Congressional agreement between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The SFBJV seeks to protect, restore, and enhance 200,000 acres of wetland habitats for migratory birds, endangered species, and other wildlife habitat.

The success of several restoration projects in the San Francisco Bay, such as the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project, Napa-Sonoma Marsh Restoration Project, and Hamilton/Bel Marin Keys Wetlands Restoration Project, is dependent on continued receipt of federal funding. Without a physical presence in Washington, these projects would not likely receive sufficient attention to keep them moving forward. Your use of consultant services has been instrumental in obtaining support for restoration projects in San Francisco Bay, has shown on-the-ground results through thousands of acres of restoration, and we encourage the continued funding of those services. These consultant services support and augment the work of multiple organizations in San Francisco Bay who are advocating for federal support of Bay restoration and have provided information, insight, and advice to SFBJV partners who also advocate for these and other wetland projects and programs seeking federal support.

The attention and action of our federal representatives is necessary for the authorization of financial support for restoration projects in San Francisco Bay. In addition, prioritization of projects within appropriate federal agencies, such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA, and U.S. EPA, is essential to project success. We have found that the Conservancy's consultant services based in Washington D.C. are critical to the success of funding decisions and ultimately to the delivery of restoration projects. If you have questions about the SFBJV or our support for continued Conservancy support for consultant services in Washington DC, please contact our Coordinator, Beth Huning.

Sincerely,

Jordan Wellwood  
San Francisco Bay Program Director, Audubon California  
SFBJV Vice Chair-Elect



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

Subject: Support for Consultant Services for Federal Funding

Dear Mr. Bosco:

Save The Bay strongly supports continued Coastal Conservancy funding for consulting services to help obtain federal funding for wetland restoration efforts in San Francisco Bay, the largest estuary on the West Coast. Save The Bay is the largest organization working to protect and restore San Francisco Bay, with more than 60,000 supporters.

Accelerating restoration of tidal marsh in San Francisco Bay is our organization's top priority, because of the many benefits that activity provides for people and wildlife. The Conservancy's consulting services based in Washington, DC, have provided invaluable assistance to the Bay Area's federal representatives in securing federal financial support for habitat restoration projects in San Francisco Bay. They have also helped ensure that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA, and U.S. EPA, prioritize these projects for success. These services augment the work of Save The Bay and other organizations advocating for federal support.

The assistance of the Conservancy's consultant services has been instrumental in obtaining on-the-ground results to advance your agency's mission, and we encourage the continued funding of those services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Lewis  
Executive Director