



99-21

January 15, 1999

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Dear Mr. Snow:

We are writing to convey our support for the increased CALFED funding for habitat protection and restoration projects in San Francisco Bay from the last round of ecosystem restoration funding. As you know, we have been very concerned that past CALFED funding seemed to ignore the Bay's significance in the Bay-Delta ecosystem. We think that there are many meritorious Bay projects that meet CALFED's goals and are heartened that CALFED has recognized this by funding some important and deserving projects in the Bay such as Hamilton, Petaluma Marsh, Napa River, American Canyon and several others - including two in the South Bay. Out of the \$25.5 million allocated in the last round of ecosystem restoration funding, just over \$4 million was designated for Bay projects. While still only about 15 percent of the total, this is a significant improvement from the first round that initially only allocated \$500,000 for Bay projects out of a total sum of \$100 million.

The Strategic Plan for the Ecosystem Restoration Program is slowly beginning to acknowledge the need to carry out restoration activities throughout the San Francisco Bay region to achieve ecosystem restoration. The October 1998 Draft Strategic Plan discusses the need to initiate large-scale pilot projects using different approaches to tidal marsh restoration in the North Bay, achieve recovery of at-risk native species dependent on the Delta and the Bay and to protect and restore functional habitat types throughout the watershed. It also acknowledges the diversity of benefits derived from protecting a wide array of habitats throughout the watershed. We hope CALFED will retain these references to the entire Bay in the Strategic Plan in subsequent revisions.

The Joint Venture is a public/private partnership focusing on wetlands acquisition, restoration and enhancement to benefit fish and wildlife. Attached is a list of Bay acquisition, restoration and enhancement projects that Joint Venture partners are pursuing. Many, if not all, meet CALFED's long-term goal of ecosystem restoration.

Thank you. We greatly appreciate CALFED's willingness to listen to our concerns regarding ecosystem restoration funding and the Ecosystem Restoration Program.

Sincerely,

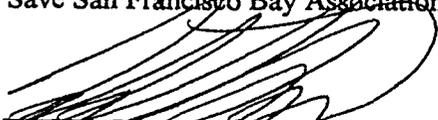
Beth Huning
National Audubon Society

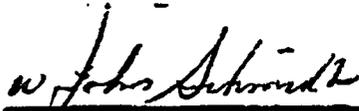
Barbara Salzman
Bay Area Audubon Council

John Woodbury
Bay Area Open Space Council

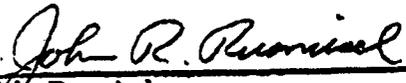
Holly Andree
Ducks Unlimited

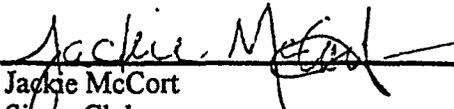

David Lewis
Save San Francisco Bay Association


Will Travis
Bay Conservation and Development
Commission

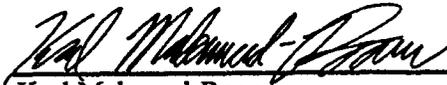

John Schmidt
Wildlife Conservation Board


Bill Ahern
California State Coastal Conservancy


John Rusmisl
Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District


Jackie McCort
Sierra Club


Maxine Durney
Bay Area Council of Resource Conservation
Districts


Karl Malamud-Roam
Contra Costa County Mosquito and Vector
Control District


Ellen Johnck
Bay Planning Coalition

Enclosures

Cc: Steve Ritchie
Wendy Halverson Martin