

**CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM
ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

I. Executive Summary

a. Project Title and Applicant Name:

Big Break Acquisition (Lauritzen)

East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD)

b. Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives

EBRPD proposes to acquire 668 acres of open water, emergent tidal wetlands and riparian habitat to increase Big Break Regional Shoreline to 1,758 acres. The proposed acquisition meets the biological and ecological objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program by reducing stressors to and protecting the shallow water and shaded riverine habitat of the Delta smelt and splittail at Big Break. Once the property is acquired, EBRPD will apply for additional Category III funding to plan, design, implement, monitor and manage future habitat enhancements at the site. Implementation of phase one as described in this application will give EBRPD the opportunity to create a large wetland corridor at Big Break where up to 50 acres of new wetlands can be established in the future to benefit species of concern in the western Delta.

The protection of this riverine habitat from development through acquisition will directly benefit the Delta smelt, longfin smelt, splittail, striped bass and migratory birds and indirectly benefit green sturgeon, San Joaquin and East-side Delta tributaries fall-run chinook salmon, winter-run, spring-run and late-fall run chinook salmon. Habitat for other species of concern including the river lamprey, Sacramento perch and California black rail also will be protected.

c. Approach/Tasks/Schedule

EBRPD will acquire two parcels (37-180-4 and 37-180-11) west of and adjacent to Big Break Regional Shoreline to increase the total acreage of publicly owned open water, emergent tidal wetlands and riparian areas to 1,758 acres. The seller is willing. EBRPD's Board of Directors has authorized staff to negotiate with the property owner. After the CALFED contract is executed, EBRPD will complete negotiations and close escrow by October 30, 1998. Once the acquisition is complete, EBRPD will respond to subsequent CALFED RFPs to fund phases two (design, environmental review, permitting, plans and specifications) and three (construction and monitoring).

d. Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED

Acquisition at Big Break meets the goals set forth in the CALFED Implementation Strategy by focusing on species and habitats whose restoration will result in the greatest progress towards achieving ecological health and improving water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system.

e. Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts

Total Cost Estimate \$8205,304

Request from CALFED \$784,000

EBRPD Match \$36,304

Acquisition would have no negative third party impacts. Beneficial third party impacts will include increased recreational and educational opportunities.

f. Applicant Qualifications

EBRPD operates as a Special District in Alameda and Contra Costa counties and is an experienced land manager. The General Fund operating budget comes from property taxes and assessments levied in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. EBRPD is experienced in wetland/marsh restoration. In conjunction with U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wildlife Conservation Board and the California Coastal Conservancy, EBRPD is restoring and operating marsh enhancement projects at Hayward Regional Shoreline and Coyote Hills Regional Park on south San Francisco Bay.

g. Monitoring and Data Evaluation

Monitoring is not applicable to acquisition. A monitoring program will be developed for future marsh restoration. EBRPD's Stewardship staff conducts annual wildlife and botanical surveys on the portions of Big Break presently owned by the District. The surveys are conducted in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Game and data is provided to the Natural Diversity Data Base. Surveys will be expanded to the acquisition at project completion.

h. Local Support/Coordination with other Programs/Compatibility with CALFED objectives.

Increased habitat protection in the western Delta is supported by local, state and federal legislators, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, and Iron Horse Sanitary District (the adjacent landowner). In addition, the State Lands Commission and Department of Water Resources have expressed interest in the project and the Wildlife Conservation Board and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will consider cost sharing if the proposal is funded under the CALFED Category III program. The Port of Stockton has expressed an interest in providing clean dredge material for creation of emergent tidal wetlands and riparian habitat. Initial telephone conversations indicate that approximately 100,000 to 180,000 cubic yards of clean dredged material would be available annually from maintenance dredging activities.

EBRPD also has entered into a MOU with Iron House Sanitary District, East County Schools, Contra Costa County, Contra Costa Community College District, California State University at Hayward, Contra Costa County Mosquito Abatement, Emerson Dairy, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, and PG&E to create a Delta Science Center adjacent to Big Break.

II. Title Page

a. Title of Project:

Big Break Acquisition (Lauritzen)

b. Name of Applicant, Address, Phone, Fax, E-mail:

Pat O'Brien, General Manager
East Bay Regional Park District
P. O. Box 5381
Oakland, CA 94605 Phone: (510) 635-0135
Fax: (510) 635-1417 E-Mail: Pobrien@ebparks.org

c. Type of Organization and Tax Status:

A California Special District. Exempt.

d. Tax Identification Number: 94-6000591

e. Technical and Financial Contact Person (s):

Technical:
Bob Doyle, Assistant General Manager
Advanced Planning, Land Acquisition and Regional Trails Division
Phone: (510) 635-0135 Fax: (510) 635-1417
E-Mail: B doyle@ebparks.org

Financial:
Susan E. Williams, Grants Specialist
Phone: (510) 635-0135 Fax: (510) 635-1417
E-Mail: Swilliam@ebparks.org

f. Participants/Collaborators in Implementation:

East Bay Regional Park District is the lead agency and will hold title to the property. The shoreline will be open to the public and accessible to the public education programs being planned by the Iron House Sanitary District and the Delta Science Center.

g. RFP Project Group Type: Real Estate Transaction

III. Project Description

a. Project description and approach

EBRPD will implement the Big Break restoration in three phases as grant funding becomes available. During phase one, as described in this application, EBRPD will acquire 668 acres of open water, emergent tidal wetland and riparian habitat. Once acquisition is complete, EBRPD will request Category III funding for phase two (design, environmental review, permitting and development of plans and specifications) and for phase three (construction and monitoring). Creation of about 50 acres of tidal emergent wetlands and riparian habitat is the long-term goal.

Phase One - Acquisition

Emergent tidal wetlands and riparian habitat in eastern Contra Costa County are increasingly under threat from residential development. To prevent further habitat fragmentation and to create a protected wildlife corridor of 1,758 acres at Big Break, EBRPD proposes to acquire and protect 668 acres of open water, emergent tidal wetland and riparian habitat.

The seller is willing. EBRPD's Board of Directors has authorized staff to negotiate with the property owner. Once the CALFED contract is signed, EBRPD will complete negotiations and close escrow by October 30, 1998. EBRPD will acquire in fee title and will maintain, operate and protect the property in perpetuity as publicly owned regional parkland.

Phase Two - Feasibility, Design, Environmental, Permitting and Plans and Specifications

Phase two, when funded, will investigate habitat restoration opportunities at Big Break. Studies of the 1,758 acre shoreline would include topographic mapping, aerial photography, natural resource inventory, and sediment and water quality survey. Information gathered on site and data from past studies will be used to design and construct additional wetlands and riparian habitat to protect and enhance the existing resource. Design will follow U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service guidelines described in *Design and Biological Monitoring of Wetland and Riparian Habitats Created With Dredged-Materials* (1990) that were implemented during the creation of riparian habitat on Donlon Island, located across the San Joaquin River from Big Break. The guidelines have a direct applicability to this restoration.

The restoration plan will be coordinated with Contra Costa County, California Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Conservation Board, Regional Water Quality Control Board, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that valuable existing natural resources would not be significantly impacted. The goal will be to enhance the productivity of these resources to benefit the CALFED species of concern. A conceptual plan for the creation of shallow water, tidal emergent wetlands and riparian habitat is attached. The exact location and extent of the new habitat will depend on the results of the feasibility and design studies. Phase two would also include NEPA/CEQA, permits, and plans and specifications.

Phase Three - Project Construction and Monitoring.

Phase three would include the placement of dredge material in Big Break to create additional tidal emergent wetland and riparian habitat. Several preliminary sources for material have been identified and may be brought in by barge from outside the area or may be pumped in from maintenance activities on the adjacent Stockton Deep Water ship channel. The material used will be free of contaminants to minimize impacts to water quality. A detailed monitoring program will measure the restoration goals of the project and meet the time line developed in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a part of the permitting process.

b. Location and/or geographic boundaries of project

Big Break is located on the San Joaquin River, north of unincorporated Oakley in north-eastern Contra Costa County. Jersey and Bethel Islands are situated to the north and east. Big Break Marina, the DuPont marsh and the Antioch Bridge are located to the west. A location map is attached.

Big Break's floodplain was converted to farmland during the last half of the nineteenth century. Channel dredging and levee construction pushed the marsh to the north and eastern edges of the County, but in the 1930's the levee failed and the islands were flooded. Thus, the name Big Break. The levee was never repaired. The marsh began to reemerge along the shoreline and the shallow water became habitat for the Delta smelt and other fisheries. To protect the emerging marsh from encroaching residential development in 1983, EBRPD accepted preservation and security responsibilities for the wetlands outboard of Subdivision 6333 and accepted a 94 acre dedication of open space. Twelve years later, 980 acres were added to Big Break Regional Shoreline when EBRPD acquired Porter Ranch through a cooperative funding effort with the California Resources Agency's Habitat Conservation Fund.

With CALFED assistance, EBRPD proposes to acquire two parcels (37-180-4 and 37-180-11), 668 acres, adjacent to and west of Porter Ranch to create a protected habitat corridor of 1,758 acres. The parcels are identified on the attached acquisition map.

c. Expected benefits

Acquisition will protect existing tidal emergent wetland, side channels and riparian zones from development and allow natural wetland accretion. The following stressors identified by the CALFED Delta technical team will be reduced substantially by the project:

- destruction of tidal emergent wetland and elimination of side channels and tributaries
- loss of existing riparian zone
- reduction of natural regeneration
- threats from increased and potential contaminants.

Big Break was created when levees, constructed to drain the historic marsh, failed and the farmed land flooded. The existing wetlands, as valuable as they are, represent only a fraction of the wetlands that were present before diking. Opportunities to restore historic wetlands in eastern Contra Costa County are rare. Most of the surrounding land west of Big Break in Antioch, Pittsburgh and on Jersey Island to the north is privately owned and is being farmed or developed. To the south, Ironhouse Sanitary District maintains a sewage treatment facility on 250 acres of agricultural land and owns an additional 2,900 acres on Jersey Island to the north that is scheduled for sewage treatment facility development. Residential development is proposed for the farmland located to the east of Big Break.

d. Background and biological/technical justification

Status and Trends Report on Aquatic Resources in the San Francisco Estuary (March 1992) prepared by the San Francisco Estuary Project show Big Break as one of the last strongholds for the Delta smelt in the Sacramento-San Joaquin system. The shallow water habitat is critical for the Delta smelt and for two other priority species identified by CALFED, the Sacramento splittail which spawns in shallow water and the green sturgeon. Developing stripped bass larvae and out-migrating salmon also utilize the nutrient rich mixing zone for feeding. Big Break provides a critical nutrient flow into the upper reaches of the salt/fresh water mixing zone which extends downstream to Carquinez Strait. Protection of this valuable resource is critical to the survival of these species. The wetland and riparian habitat also provides resting and nesting sites for waterfowl and neotropical birds and several special status species are found at Big Break including the California black rail, tri-colored blackbird, and saltmarsh common yellowthroat.

The *Atlas of Tidal and Formerly Tidal Wetlands in Contra Costa County* recognizes Big Break as an "Excellent Habitat Quality Site". Only eleven of the seventy eight county wide wetland sites described in the report have received this designation. EBRPD's ownership of this property will protect this valuable resource but much of the site contains large areas of water depth over 5 feet with no emergent vegetation. Future phases of the restoration would allow EBRPD to create additional shallow water habitat using dredge material for the expansion and increased production of the fish and wildlife species at Big Break.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game have identified shallow, fresh or slightly brackish backwater sloughs and edgewaters as critical habitat for spawning for the Delta smelt and the Sacramento splittail. The habitat must include suitable emergent and submerged plants to provide a substrate for egg attachment. The juveniles require a shallow, protective, food-rich environment for rearing and development. Restoration and enhancement objectives for these species are identified in the *Recovery Plan for the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta Native Fish* (USFW, 1996) including the development of shallow-water habitat, riparian vegetation zones, and tidal marshes. Specific actions include fresh and brackish water habitat for spawning delta smelt, Sacramento splittail, and longfin smelt and tidal areas for rearing. Phase three of the proposed restoration at Big Break would help meet these recovery objectives.

Increasing wetlands in Big Break will increase nutrient cycling to the mixing zone of the western Delta. The mixing zone depends on nutrient recruitment from upstream areas and nearby marshes, such as Big Break, which become entrained where the freshwater from the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers mix with saltwater from San Francisco Bay. The mixing zone produces large populations of opossum shrimp and amphipods and is critical to the development of juvenile striped bass and green sturgeon, and to a lesser extent out-migrating salmon, that feed in this nutrient rich area. These populations have declined over the last 20 years and the creation of additional wetland and riparian habitat at Big Break would provide additional nutrients from decaying organic matter to help boost production.

e. Proposed scope of work

EBRPD staff will negotiate and acquire 668 acres of open water, emergent tidal wetlands and riparian habitat as phase one of the Big Break Restoration project to reduce identified stressors and protect habitat for the endangered Delta smelt.

f. Monitoring and data evaluation

Monitoring is not applicable to the acquisition. A full monitoring program will be developed for future marsh restoration. EBRPD's Stewardship staff conducts annual wildlife surveys on the portions of Big Break presently owned by the District. The surveys are conducted in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Game and data is provided to the Natural Diversity Data Base. Surveys will be expanded to all of Big Break when the acquisition is complete.

g. Implementability

With an award of \$784,000 from CALFED, EBRPD will acquire two parcels (37-180-4 and 37-180-11) west of and adjacent to existing parkland owned by the district known as Big Break Regional Shoreline. EBRPD will match grant funds in the amount of \$36,304 for a total project cost estimate of \$820,304. The proposed acquisition will increase the total acreage of publicly owned open water, emergent tidal wetlands and riparian habitat in eastern Contra Costa County to 1,758 acres. EBRPD's Board of directors has authorized staff to negotiate with the property owner and the seller is willing. Once funds are awarded and the CALFED contract is signed, EBRPD will open escrow, complete negotiations, and close by October 30, 1998. Once title has been acquired, EBRPD will request Category III funding to prepare a restoration plan for the 1,758 acres of shoreline at Big Break. The plan proposed as phase two will include design, environmental review, permitting and construction plans and specifications to implement the restoration. During phase three as funding allows, EBRPD will implement the restoration plan and monitor stressor reduction and ecological benefits projected as a result of marsh restoration.

IV. Costs and Schedule to Implement Proposed Project

EBRPD is requesting \$784,000 from CALFED to acquire the Lauritzen Property.

a. Budget Costs

Project Phase and Task	Direct Labor Hours	Direct Salary and Benefits	Overhead Labor	Service Contracts	Material and Acquisition Contracts	Misc. & other Direct Costs	Total Cost
Appraisal Completed 8/14/1995 EBRPD's General Fund					\$9,617		\$9,617
Environmental Assessment Mapping and Survey EBRPD's General Fund					\$6,052 \$2,760		\$8,812
Project Administration and Negotiation EBRPD's General Fund	250	\$49.00 \$12,250	10% indirect cost rate \$1,225				\$13,475
Escrow and Closing Costs EBRPD's General Fund					\$4,400		\$4,400
Purchase Price CALFED					\$784,000		\$784,000
Total		\$12,250	\$1,225		\$806,829		\$820,304

b. Schedule Milestones:

June 8, 1988	EBRPD's Board authorized negotiations
August 14, 1995	Appraisal completed
September 12, 1996	Notice of Exemption filed
June 24, 1997	Environmental assessment begun
July 28, 1997	Application submitted to CALFED
August 1997	Grant award
March 1998	Funding contract executed
June 1, 1998	Open escrow
October 30, 1998	Close escrow
November 30, 1998	Request reimbursement

c. Third Party Impacts

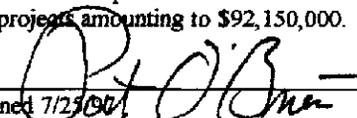
Acquisition would have no negative third party impacts. Beneficial third party impacts will include increased recreational and educational opportunities.

V. Applicant Qualifications:

EBRPD is a land and water management system of 88,000 acres of land in 50 regional parks covering 1,745 square miles operating under Sections 5500-5599 of the State Public Resources Code. Seven directors are elected to the Governing Board. The General Manager reports to the Board and supervises 775 permanent and seasonal employees. The Board authorized application to the 1997 CALFED Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration Program on June 18, 1997.

Over 84% of EBRPD's funding comes from property tax and assessments. The 1997 General Fund Operating Budget is \$48.5 million, the Capital Budget is \$17.8 million, and Debt Service is \$12.1 million, for total expenditures of \$78.4 million. EBRPD is experienced in federal and state grant administration, successfully completing some 400 projects amounting to \$92,150,000.

Principal Investigator: Pat O'Brien, General Manager

Signed 7/25/97 

Project Director: Bob Doyle, Assistant General Manager, Advanced Planning, Land Acquisition and Regional Trails Division

Bob Doyle has twenty two years experience with EBRPD and for the past eleven years has supervised and managed the land acquisition department. As Assistant General Manager for Advanced Planning, Land Acquisition and Regional Trails, Bob manages one of the largest land and trail dedication programs in California and coordinates land use development decisions with 37 cities and two counties. He supervises a 16 member team of right-of-way professionals and advance planning staff, and directs real estate and environmental consultants, engineers, appraisers and attorneys.

A technical support team has been formed from Advanced Planning, Land Acquisition, Stewardship, Management Services and Operations to implement the Big Break acquisition. The team brings experience in contract administration and resource management to the project and is committed to enhancing the natural resources of the western Delta.

Staff is experienced in wetland restoration and enhancement. The team formed for Big Break is consistent with the successful past performance at Hayward Regional Shoreline where staff from the Acquisition, Stewardship and Design departments has worked diligently to form financial and operational partnerships with U. S. Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Conservation Board, California Department of Fish and Game, California Coastal Conservancy, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture and North American Wetlands Conservation Council to enhance habitat for the salt marsh harvest mouse and California clapper rail. EBRPD has also successfully concluded marsh enhancement projects at Coyote Hills Regional Shoreline and in conjunction with the Port of Oakland at Arrow Head-Marsh at Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline on San Francisco Bay.

Proposed partnerships

EBRPD has entered into a MOU to assist in the creation of a Delta Science Center on Ironhouse Sanitary District property adjacent to Big Break Regional Shoreline. Acquisition is supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, State Assemblyman, Tom Torlakson District 11; State Senator Richard Rainey, District 7, Ironhouse Sanitary District, Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, and the City of Brentwood.

VI. Compliance with standard terms and conditions

Item 1 Standard Clauses-Contracts with Public Entities

EBRPD complies with state and federal law as set forth in Item 1 Standard Clauses-Contracts with Public Entities and that Item 1 will be included as part to of a final contract executed between the Executive Director, CALFED Bay Delta Program or its designee, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and EBRPD.

Non-Discrimination Compliance

EBRPD established an Affirmative Action Program in 1973 and actively pursues non-discrimination goals as set forth in the Annual Workforce Diversity Report.

**CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM
ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BIG BREAK ACQUISITION**

ADDENDA

- A Board Resolution Authorizing Application**
- B CEQA Documentation**
- C Location Map**
- D Parcel Map**
- E Restoration Concept Plan**
- F Photographs**
- G Support Letters**

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

RESOLUTION No. 1997-06- 155

June 18, 1997

**AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO THE
1997 CALFED BAY-DELTA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM
TO INCREASE AND IMPROVE AQUATIC AND TERRESTRIAL HABITAT
ALONG THE SACRAMENTO/SAN JOAQUIN, SUISUN AND CARQUINEZ STRAIT
SHORELINE AT MARTINEZ, BAY POINT, BIG BREAK AND OLD RIVER**

WHEREAS, the East Bay Regional Park District actively seeks cooperative opportunities to work with other agencies on projects that benefit resources, parks and wildlife in the East Bay; and

WHEREAS, the State/Federal program known as CALFED is expected to request proposals for projects supporting water quality and habitat enhancements in the Delta area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District hereby declares the intent of submitting proposals to the CALFED grant program consistent with the program priorities of water quality enhancement and habitat protection and restoration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes and directs the General Manager to prepare and submit such proposals as are appropriate to address projects in the Martinez, Pittsburg, Big Break and Old River areas, and to return to the Board with specific project descriptions and recommendations for the appropriation of matching funds, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Manager is hereby authorized and directed, on behalf of the District and in its name, to execute and deliver such documents and to do such acts as may be deemed necessary or appropriate to accomplish the intentions of this resolution.

Moved by Director Siri , seconded by Director Radke , and adopted this 18th day of June 1997 by the following vote:

FOR: Directors Jocelyn Combs, Beverly Lane, Ted Radke, Carol Severin,
Douglas Siden, Jean Siri, John Sutter

AGAINST: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

CERTIFICATION

I, Debra L. Fassler, Clerk of the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of Resolution 1997-06-155 and adopted by the Board of Directors at a regular meeting held on June 18, 1997

Debra L. Fassler

REGIONAL PARKS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE: Acquisition of Old Lauritzen Property

PROJECT LOCATION: Southern shore and open water of Big Break,
northwest of Oakley, Contra Costa County

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: EBRPD proposes to acquire 668 acres of wetland and upland known as the Old Lauritzen Property. The property will be preserved for open space and wildlife habitat. No development of the property is planned at this time. The property consists of approximately 53 acres of filled marshland on the southern shore of Big Break, with the balance located offshore in open water, including reclaimed portions of Dutch Slough and San Joaquin River areas. The shallow open water supports spawning habitat for the federally endangered Delta smelt. The acquisition of this property will preserve one of the few shallow open water areas remaining in the western San Joaquin/Sacramento River delta.

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) has reviewed this project and found it to be exempt from CEQA for the reasons indicated below:

Reasons why project is exempt:

Sec. 15313 - Acquisition of lands for wildlife conservation purposes.

Sec. 15325(a) - Transfer of ownership of interest in land to preserve open space, in order to preserve existing natural conditions.

Please indicate date Notice was posted on the enclosed copy and return for our records.

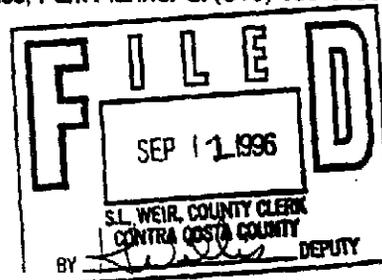
If you have any questions please contact Dan Sykes, Park Planner at (510) 635-0138, ext. 2351.

Date: August 22, 1996

Maxine Termer

Maxine Termer
Chief, Planning/Stewardship Dept.

c:\ceqa\bigbreak.noe



RECEIVED

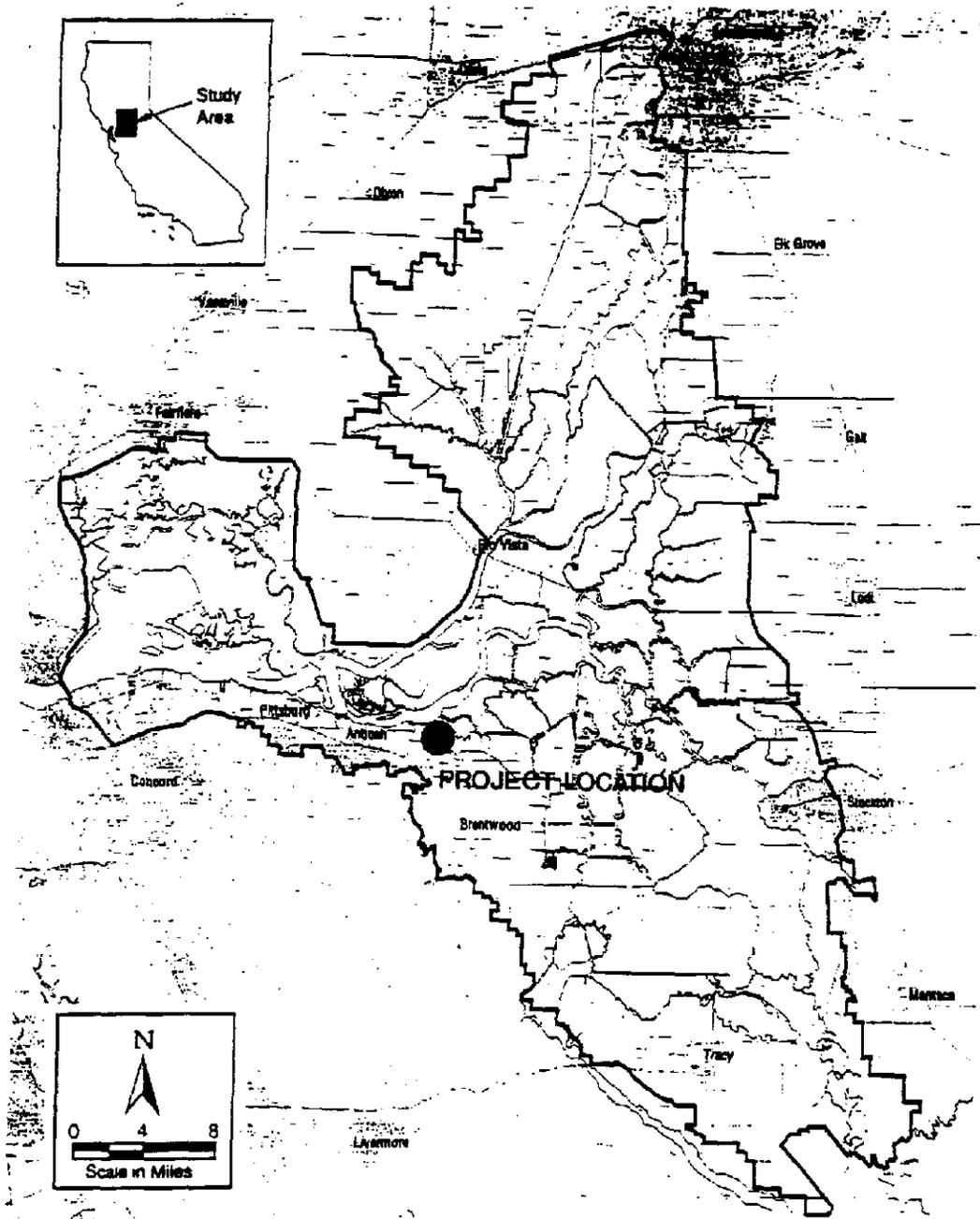
SEP 11 1996



1996-08-22 09:00 AM FAX TO: 510-635-0138 FAX FROM: 510-635-0138 FAX TO: 510-635-0138 FAX FROM: 510-635-0138

I - 0 0 1 1 6 7

I-001167



CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

BIG BREAK REGIONAL SHORELINE ACQUISITION

I - 0 0 1 1 6 8

I-001168

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF CALIFORNIA, PARK DISTRICT

PHOTOGRAPHS



Big Break Regional Shoreline Open Water

Joseph Canciamilla

Supervisor, District Five
Contra Costa County
Board of Supervisors

315 East Leiland Road
Pittsburg, CA 94565
(510) 427-8138
(510) 427-8142 Fax



420 West 3rd Street
Antioch, CA 94509
(510) 756-7114

2535 Main Street
Oakley, CA 94561
(510) 625-0965

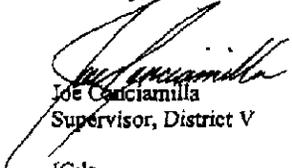
July 25, 1997

Mr. Pat O'Brien
General Manager
East Bay Regional Park District
2950 Peralta Oaks Court
Post Office Box 5381
Oakland, California 94605-0381

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

The purpose of this letter is conveying my support for your ecosystem restoration proposals to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. The Big Break area is the future site of the Delta Science Center, a cooperative, community-based effort which I Chair, and further public acquisition and restoration of the wetlands and water courses in that area will carry not only significant benefits to biological resources, but will also enhance opportunities for interpretation and research once the Delta Science Center is completed. Likewise, enhancement of the Farrell Property in West Pittsburg would bring much needed restoration to a degraded wetland area. My constituents have a strong interest in restoring the health of the Delta ecosystem to the benefit of both wildlife and human activities, and I support your efforts to help accomplish this goal in eastern Contra Costa County.

Sincerely,


Joe Canciamilla
Supervisor, District V

JC:lr

Antioch • Bay Point • Bethel Island • Brantwood • Byron



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 130
Sacramento, California 95821-6340

July 25, 1997

Mr. Brad Olson, Environmental Specialist
East Bay Regional Park District
P.O. Box 5381
Oakland, California 94605-0381

Subject: East Bay Regional Park District's Category III Wetland Restoration Proposals

Dear Mr. Olson:

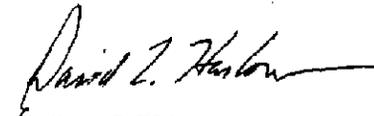
On July 16, 1997, Richard Morat of my staff was visited by George Redpath of Tetra Tech, Inc. who apprised us of three proposed wetland acquisition/restoration/enhancement projects in the San Francisco Bay estuary. We understand that the East Bay Regional Park District (District) is planning to submit these as CALFED Category III applications. These proposals are for Shell Marsh near Alhambra Creek, the Farrell Property near McAvoy, and Big Break near Antioch. We commend the District for their interest in pursuing these projects.

The Shell and Farrell Property marsh projects appear to be projects that deserve our support; you are seeking to restore these two sites to a natural and high value condition by reversing physical conditions created in the past when society understood far less the values and need to protect tidal marshes. The Big Break project is slightly less certain in the nature of enhancement activities to be pursued; acquisition is an early and important phase of this project. We have supported projects of the same concept in the past and if future habitat management activities proposed for Big Break are consistent with our Delta Native Fish Recovery Plan, we will be able to endorse this project.

Your proposals appear consistent with our mission and we support your request for Category III funds. Please, submit a proposal to us for assistance under our San Francisco Bay Program if cost sharing is needed. We can consider your proposal(s) in Fiscal Year 1998.

Again, thanks for having your consultant share these proposed projects and the potential for future partnerships with us. As our experience on Oro Loma has shown, together we all can accomplish more than we can individually.

Sincerely,



Wayne S. White
Field Supervisor

cc: Tetra Tech, Inc. (George Redpath) by FAX 415-974-5914

July 25, 1997

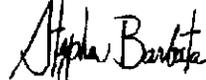
Pat O'Brien
General Manager
East Bay Regional Park District
2960 Peralta Oaks Court
Oakland, CA 94605

Dear Mr. O'Brien.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of The Delta Science Center, I strongly support your CALFED proposal to acquire the Lauritzen property on Big Break. The opportunity to work together with the East Bay Regional Park District has strengthened our common Delta goals to pursue habitat acquisitions, restorations and enhancements, and produce innovative education programs and facilities. Thanks in no small measure to your leadership, our collaboration, representing a wide diversity of Delta stakeholders, has grown to include Contra Costa County, Contra Costa Water District, the Contra Costa County Community College District and California State University at Hayward, Emerson Dairy, the Sierra Club and Audubon Society, Ironhouse Sanitary District and PG&E.

Industry, agriculture, environmental and educational interests are taking shared responsibility to promote the public good and demonstrate stewardship of the Delta. The acquisition of the Lauritzen property is one more important step towards building a regional presence on behalf of the long-term restoration and management of Delta resources.

Sincerely,



Stephen Barbata
Executive Director

THE DELTA
SCIENCE CENTER
At Big Break

