F1-144

Executive Summary

a. Project Title: Lower Petaluma River Acquisition and Restoration Project - Block Grant Application

Applicant: Marin Audubon Society (MAS)

b. Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives

The project will acquire in title to, or easements on, baylands near the mouth of the Petaluma River, and will develop plans to restore tidal or enhance seasonal wetlands. Properties will be donated to state or federal wildlife agencies. For lands to remain in agriculture, easements held by appropriate organizations such as the Marin Agricultural Land Trust.

The privately held lands are in Marin and Sonoma Counties south of Gnoss Field, along the Petaluma Marsh. The project is part of a broad effort by environmental organizations and property owners to permanently protect diked historic baylands and tidal marshes along San Pablo and San Francisco Bays. Permanent protection and restoraion of these resources is essential for the preservation and enhancement of the Bay and Estuary.

Benefits will accrue to fish species of concern, including Fall, Spring, Winter and Summer runs of Chinook Salmon, Steelhead, Splittail, Green Sturgeon, and Tule Perch. The project will also enhance wetland habitats for Black Rail, Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse, and other endangered and special status species.

c. Approach/Tasks Schedule

The restoration/enhancement components will be based on sound technical and scientific approach of consultants experienced with marsh restoration/enhancement in this estuary, and the biological expertise of the California Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The project will consist of pre-acquisition work with landowners, preparing restoration/ enhancement plan, and legal support. Restoration or enhancement plans will be implemented and monitored in subsequent phases.

The schedule calls for completion of pre-acquisition and site acquisitions by June 1999; preparation of restoration and enhancement plans by June 1999; final design, environmental review, permitting and construction by November 2000; and monitoring by November 2005.

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e. Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts

The total estimated budget range $5,580,000 to $10,580,000 depending on the cost of the sites or easements. The State Coastal Conservancy has committed a grant of $4,000 for an appraisal survey of the area. MAS will contribute in-kind administrative and coordinating services, and will charge no overhead or fees.

The applicant will work with willing landowners and will seek the support and cooperation of adjacent landowners.

f. Applicant Qualifications

MAS has successfully completed for four marsh restoration and/or enhancement projects involving removal of fill and restoring tidal marshes. MAS has also received grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, Marin Community Foundation, State Coastal Conservancy, and through the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

g. Monitoring and Data Evaluation

A five-year Monitoring Program following completion of the project will measure at last the following: sediment deposition, vegetation colonization, fish and bird use.

h. Local Support/Coordination with Other Programs/Compatibility with CALFED Objections

The project complies with all applicable plans for the area. The Department of Fish and Game, which owns much of the publicly owned land in the areas, supports protection and enhancement as do other widlfie agencies. Policies of the Novato, Sonoma General Plans and other plans support protection of wetlands, the bay, biodiversity, migratory wildlife, and special status species. The project will advance the CALFED objective of expanding tidal and enhancing seasonal wetlands for the benefit of fish and other wildlife.

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II.

a. Project Title: BLOCK GRANT FOR ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION OF LANDS ALONG THE LOWER PETALUMA RIVER

b. Applicant:

Marin Audubon Society (MAS)
48 Ardmore Rd.
Larkspur, CA 94939
(415) 924-6057
Fax (415) 927-3533

c. Non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization

d. Tax ID number: 94-6076664

e. Contact Persons:

MAS - Barbara Salzman, address and phone same as above

f. Collaborators: State Coastal Conservancy, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, Sierra Club Marin Group, Environmental Forum of Marin, Marin Conservation League, Marin Baylands Advocates, CA Department of Fish and Game

g. RFP Group Type: Block Grant to Acquire and Protect Lands in the Lower Petaluma River Watershed and to plan and implement wetland enhancement and/or restoration where possible.

Attached: Letters of support from the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture

III Project Description

a. Description and Approach

The applicant will acquire fee title or easements over lands along the lower Petaluma River in Marin and Sonoma Counties, develop and implement a plan to restore and enhance wetlands to more productive habitat. Restored sites will be donated to a federal or state agency.

The applicant will develop partnerships with agencies, other environmental organizations, local governments, individuals, and groups to permanently protect, restore and or enhance lands along the lower Petaluma River as productive habitats.

Funding is needed to acquire from a willing seller and place in protective ownership, sites in the lower Petaluma watershed. The project will consist of prioritization of properties, appraisals, negotiations with landowners, and legal support.

The project is part of a broad effort by environmental organizations, to permanently protect, and enhance or restore where appropriate, lands along San Francisco, San Pablo Bays and the Petaluma River. Permanent protection and restoration of these resources is essential for the preservation and enhancement of the Bay and Estuary. Over 80% of the tidal wetlands around San Francisco/San Pablo Bays have been lost and significant seasonal wetlands have also be list to diking and/or development.

b. Location and Geographic Boundaries

The area of interest for this Block Grant application is located in Marin and Sonoma Counties and in the lower Petaluma River watershed, south of the Petaluma Marsh and Gnoss Field.

c. Expected Benefits

The project will address three of the high priority stressors and actions identified by the North Bay Technical Advisory Committee. Applicable high priority stressors include: lack of tidal wetlands, diked former wetlands. Applicable actions include: develop plans to buy specific properties that are targets for development before they become unavailable; acquire lands along the Petaluma River from willing landowners; and enhance existing seasonal wetland habitats. The project will also address the medium priority action: acquire lands so there is no more building on them, that is identified under the Urbanization Program.

The intent of the project is to protect and restore habitats identified as being in the greatest decline: saline emergent (tidal) and saltwater/brackish habitat. Wetlands and uplands

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along the Petaluma River will be acquired from willing sellers. The project will preclude direct and indirect impacts of urban development on wetlands, and on special status and migratory species that depend on the wetlands. Acquisition and placement in protective ownership will allow currently diked seasonal wetlands and perennial ponds to be restored to tidal marsh or enhanced, and managed as more productive seasonal and perennial wetlands.

Protection, enhancement and/or restoration of lands in the lower watershed of the Petaluma River will significantly contribute to the attainment of CALFED's vision of restoring large areas of wetlands supporting ecosystem processes to assist in the recovery of special status fish populations and provide high quality aquatic habitat for other fish and wildlife dependent on the Bay-Delta.

Fish Benefits: Permanent protection and restoration of historic baylands along the lower Petaluma River will benefit many species of concern to CALFED. Restoration to tidal marsh will provide additional feeding and resting habitat for all runs of Chinook Salmon. These species use the marshes along the Petaluma River and San Antonio Creek to forage, rest and hide from predators during passage out to the ocean. Having a larger area of marsh available as a nursery will enable them to increase in size and will enhance their survival. The restored marsh also will also expand nursery habitat for Steelhead both during out-migration from the Delta and from spawning grounds in tributaries upstream on the Petaluma River.

The Petaluma River is historic spawning habitat for Sacramento Splittail. Spawning has occurred in the upper part of the river in recent years. Expanding brackish tidal marshes will expand tules and rushes which are spawning habitat as well as foraging habitat for Splittail. Green Sturgeon also use the lower Petaluma River marshes for feeding. These bottom feeders will forage in the channels of restored marshes. Other resident fish species, Tule Perch and the non-native American Shad and Striped Bass will benefit from additional habitat.

Special Status Species: Special status species that will benefit from this project are the state-listed threatened and federal species of concern Black Rail, Salt Marsh Yellowthroat, San Pablo Song Sparrow, and the endangered California Clapper Rail and Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse. A population estimates of Black Rails (Evens, Page, Stenzel and Warnock 1986) is that up to 1,461 individuals inhabit marshes along Black John Slough and 64 are in the Day Island marshes. Undoubtedly Black Rails also inhabit other marshes in the lower Petaluma River watershed, and this project would expand habitat for this species.

The endangered California Clapper Rail also inhabits marshes in

this part of the watershed. Collins, Evens and Grewell estimated about 10 pair in the Black John Slough area in their 1994 surveys. The endangered Salt Marsh harvest Mouse also inhabits marshes in the Black John Slough area. This project would allow these special status species to benefit by growing and expanding into areas of historic tidal marsh that are now unsuitable because they are not the right habitat type.

There is also a population of 16 breeding pairs of the federal species of concern Salt Marsh Yellowthroat have been surveyed in the lower Petaluma River (San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, 1996) Both this yellowthroat and San Pablo Song Sparrow which inhabit the nearby Petaluma Marsh in large numbers (over 3,500 pairs) would also benefit from increased habitat.

The project will make an important contribution to species richness and diversity. Some of the sites are not easily accessible and have little human use. The expanded habitat will be even more valuable.

Benefits for Migratory Birds: The project will improve habitat for migratory birds and will increase use by migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Foraging habitat for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds will improve because there will be increased fish and invertebrate habitat. Migratory waterfowl, Northern Pintail, American Widgeon, Gadwall and Mallard populations would benefit. Resting and foraging migratory shorebirds such as Willet, Long-billed Curlew, and Whimbrel will also expand as tidal marshes increase.

Protection of diked baylands in agriculture and/or protection and enhancement of seasonal wetlands will provide high tide refugia habitat for migratory shorebirds when their preferred intertidal mudflat habitat is inundated. Migratory shorebird species that will benefit from expanded and enhanced seasonal wetlands include Least and Western Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Dowitcher.

Other Ecosystem Benefits: The project will address other stressors of concern. The project will restore hydrologic functions, tidal flows, historic floodplain, and current fragmented floodplain habitat. Expanded tidal marshes will increase water quality by trapping sediments and absorbing pollutants.

Restoration of tidal marsh will also mean additional food chain support. Nutrients from the restored marshes will contribute to productivity within the marsh and will be exported to support invertebrates in River and Bay mudflats, and fish in the open water habitats of the Bay. This will enrich foraging for shorebirds, fish and waterfowl.

d. Background and Biological/Technical Justification

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The lower Petaluma River watershed includes a number of properties still in private ownership. A residential development project is currently proposed on one site while other properties are in agriculture, primarily grazing of dairy cows.

This project is part of the broader effort by Marin County environmental organizations to protect the approximately 6,000 acres of diked historic baylands along San Pablo and San Francisco Bays. Permanently protecting, and enhancing or restoring, historic and current bayland resources is essential for the preservation and enhancement of the Bay and Estuary.

In addition to preserving the lower Petaluma River watershed, the project has the potential to retain and restore historic connections with hills and oak woodlands that is unique to Marin County. This will restore historic wildlife corridors and dynamic interactions that occur where Bay and upland habitats meet.

Property owners will be contacted to determine their interest in protecting their property in the long-term through easements or sale of fee title. The ultimate purpose is to protect the land from the rapidly encroaching urbanization which is a real and severe threat in Marin and Sonoma Counties. Final owners would be a federal or state agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the California Department of Fish and Game.

Conservation easements could be held either by the Department of Fish and Game, Marin Agricultural Land Trust, Sonoma Land Trust or another appropriate agency or organization. Participation of the Marin Agricultural Land Trust or Sonoma Land Trust will be sought to work with landowners interested in agricultural easements. Other public-private partnerships that would be helpful in achieving our goal of habitat protection would be forged.

MAS and other environmental organizations will work with property owners to develop the most appropriate, environmentally beneficial and cost effective restoration or enhancement plan for their properties. Assistance will be offered to landowners wishing to remain in agriculture for managing their lands to provide maximum benefits for wildlife and the Bay.

Restoration/enhancement designs will be based on sound technical and scientific approaches and on engineering and biological expertise of agencies, including the Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Hydrologic engineers and contractors experienced with designing and implementing tidal and seasonal marsh restoration projects will be hired.

Planning and design will be based on hydrologic modeling when appropriate. Various options for the most environmentally sensitive, cost effective means of restoring habitat identified

by the Wetland Habitat Goals process and/or CALFED will be utilized. A consultant firm with extensive experience with restoring tidal marsh and seasonal wetland habitat will be used to prepare restoration and/or enhancement goals and plans.

e. Proposed Scope of Work:

Phase 1: Pre-acquisition activities leading to acquisition of fee title or easements to protect sites within in lower Petaluma watershed. Preparation of preliminary enhancement or restoration plans.

Phase 2: Acquisition, preparation of final enhancement and restoration plans and drawings, environmental review, permitting and bidding, if necessary, and implementation of the enhancement or restoration plans.

Phase 3: Monitoring of the restoration/enhancement project.

f. Monitoring and Data Evaluation

A five year Monitoring Program will be developed and implemented after completion of the acquisition and enhancement/restoration. Monitoring objectives and indicators will be identified to measure the success of the project in restoring tidal marsh and increasing fish and bird habitat. The monitoring plan will measure at least the following: sedimentation, vegetation, fish and bird use. MAS will provide qualified volunteers to conduct bird monitoring.

If a monitoring program is developed for the North Bay by the San Francisco Estuary Institute, we are prepared to participate in that overall monitoring effort. This may necessitate a modification of costs.

g. Implementability

The restoration component will be based on hydrologic and biological study of the marshes. The restoration project will comply with all applicable plans for the area. Protection, enhancement and restoration complies with and are supported by policies in the Marin Countywide Plan, the Sonoma County General Plan and City of Novato General Plan. These plans contain policies supporting the protection, restoration and enhancement of wetlands, the Bay, ridgelines, woodlands and agriculture.

The Department of Fish and Game, which supports protection and enhancement of these lands, is the logical owner of title because they own the nearby Petaluma Marsh. For landowners wishing to remain in agriculture, we will work to obtain easements and/or

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restoration/ enhancement agreements that are consistent with ongoing agricultural operations. Participation by the Marin Agricultural Land Trust will be sought to secure and/or hold easements, where appropriate. The purpose of these activities is to protect the lands from urbanization.

An Initial Study will be prepared. The lead agency for environmental review would be the State Coastal Conservancy, California Department of Fish and Game, or the County of Marin.

Permits from the Amy Corps of Engineers, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission and the Regional Water Quality Control Board will be required for most if not all projects.

Investigations for cultural or hazardous material will be conducted where appropriate. There are no known cultural or hazardous materials on the sites.

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IV. Costs

The budget costs identified below are estimates due to the preliminary (Block Grant) natural of the proposal. It is likely that funds for acquisiton of fee title or easements and preparation of management plans may not be needed for one or more years. However, until we have more communication with property owners, the extent of options available is not entirely clear. Funds to assist with pre-acquisition work, including surveys, legal and other professional support would be most helpful. If CALFED can offer such assistance.

a. Estimated Budget

Phase 1: Pre-acquisition work, preliminary restoration/enhancement plans	
Phase 2:	$ 5,000,000 - 10,000,000*
Final design/Construction	
Permitting/environmental Review	50,000
Construction	500,000
Phase 3:	
Monitoring	30,000
TOTAL BLOCK GRANT REQUEST	$ 5,580,000 - 10,580,000*

* The range reflects the uncertainty about the costs acquiring the properties or easements.

Also, the above costs are preliminary because of the block grant nature of this application. One grant in the amount of $4,000 has been committed by the State Coastal Conservancy for an appraisal survey of the area. Funds from other sources, both public and private, will be sought. There are also opportunities for funds to be secured from the newly established Baylands Fund at the Marin Community Foundation. This Fund is established to attract contributions from private donors to protect baylands.

Funds will be sought from other governmental and private sources would be sought for this project. However, it is likely that additional CALFED funds would be needed.

MAS does not charge overhead or for managing restoration projects. MAS will contribute a range of in-kind services that will considerably reduce the costs of the project:

Coordination of project preparation and construction:
- Participation in project design and development,
- Preparation of environmental review documents,

- Completion of permit applications,
- Developing contracts with contractors,
- Supervising construction, and
- Coordination of monitoring.

b. Schedule Milestones

Phase 1: Pre-acquisition, acquisition and habitat restoration planning will be completed by June 1999.

Phase 2: Finalizing designs, permitting and environmental review, and construction to implement restoration/enhancement projects completed by November 1999

Phase 3: Monitoring to November 2004.

c. Third Party Impacts

The project will benefit third parties in a number of ways. Open space lands would be increased which would allow in most cases increased public access and recreational enjoyment by birders, fisherpeople, hikers, joggers and horsepersons. Wildlife habitat and diversity will be enhanced, thereby increasing enjoyment of users.

The Department of Fish and Game supports projection of these lands. They are the largest land owner in the area. The Marin County Open Space District, which also owns properties in the area, supports protection and expansion of wetlands in this area. Other property owners will be contacted as the project progresses.

The project will benefit the larger community by reducing increased traffic and ensuring the protection of agricultural lands from willing land owners.

The applicant will work with willing landowners only.

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V. Applicant Qualifications

MAS will manage the project and will provide in-kind services identified in "IV. a." above. MAS will seek the assistance of experienced consultants to negotiate acquisitions and easements, and hire qualified scientific, engineering or legal advice and to prepare enhancement and restoration plans. Other environmental organizations will provide qualified volunteer assistance with the overall effort.

MAS is experienced with implementing marsh restoration and enhancement projects. MAS has completed a wide range of habitat enhancement and restoration, including four major marsh restoration projects within the last ten years. These projects involved removal of fill and restoring tidal marshes and are described on the list below (see items 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9).

Barbara Salzman, who has managed the restoration has won many awards including San Francisco Bay's Founders Award, the Marin Conservation League "Marin Green Award," and the Environmentalists of the Year Award from Marin Environmental Alliance. Ms. Salzman has been an invited participant in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Audubon Society and other workshops. MAS restoration projects have been recognized in the National Audubon Society's AUDUBON magazine and the Coastal Conservancy's CALIFORNIA COAST AND OCEAN magazine.

MAS also has worked in partnership on many projects with state and federal agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and others. MAS has also received grants for various restoration projects from the State Coastal Conservancy, Marin Community Foundation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, it has received Administrative Civil Liability funds for numerous projects. MAS fulfilled all conditions and expectations for the grants and many successful projects have resulted.

HABITAT ENHANCEMENT/RESTORATION PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY
(MAS)

1. SMITH RANCH ROAD POND - MAS volunteers manually removed a highly invasive, exotic plant, water hyacinth which were almost completely covering this fresh water pond in San Rafael over a period of about 9 months. Joint funding from the City of San Rafael, which owns the pond, MAS and the Marin County Wildlife and Fisheries Commission funded hiring a harvester to remove the remaining plants in the spring of 1987. The project was successful in permanently removing hyacinth.

2. REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL MARSH ENHANCEMENT PROJECT - In 1986, grants from the State Coastal Conservancy and the Marin Community Foundation enabled MAS to develop and implement a plan to enhance this 12 acre diked salt marsh which is located at Redwood High School and is owned by the School District. The project deepened and widened channels in the marsh to improve water circulation and fish habitat, constructed a tide gate to allow improved water management in the marsh, removed invasive non-native vegetation, planted native plants on the upland adjacent to the marsh, constructed a low fence around the upland to discourage people and dogs from entering the habitat, and removed invasive plants. The fifth and final year of the monitoring is 1997.

3. CORTE MADERA ECOLOGICAL RESERVE ENHANCEMENT/RESTORATION PROJECT - This project involved restoring tidal action to one acre of filled land and creating a refuge habitat island for endangered Clapper Rails and for Black Rails, a candidate species for endangered listing. The Reserve is owned by the California Department of Fish and Game. Administrative Civil Liability fines levied against two local jurisdictions by the RWQCB for sewage spills funded implementation of this project. Construction was completed in 1990. A five year monitoring requirement has been completed which found the site to be progressing satisfactorily. Marsh vegetation recolonized within 6 months, with cordgrass colonizing in the fifth year after construction.

4. GALLINAS CREEK RESTORATION PHASE 1 - This project also was implemented with ACL fines for sewage spills in the San Rafael. Because the site was large enough to allow restoration of more land than the available money would pay for, MAS obtained a grant of $9,000 from the State Coastal Conservancy to develop a restoration/enhancement plan for the entire site. The site is owned by the State Lands Commission and was leased by the Department of Fish and Game for the purpose of allowing this project to be implemented. The plan includes restoration of two and one-half acres to tidal action, enhancement of about one-quarter acre of seasonal wetlands and uplands. During this first phase fill was removed, channels excavated and tidal action restored to over one-half acre of filled land. Phase 1 was completed in 1992.

5. GALLINAS CREEK RESTORATION PHASE 2 - A second phase of this project was implemented in 1993 with ACL funding from a sewage spill. Approximately 500 cubic yards of sediment were excavated and a quarter acre restored to tidal action.

6. MILL VALLEY MITIGATION PROJECT - ACL fines for sewage spills in Mill Valley also funded this project on a site owned by the Marin County Open Space District in Richardson Bay. Part of an old levee and a collapsed culvert were removed to restore an area of tidal marsh, isolate a section of levee for a high tide refuge for shorebirds, and to improve circulation to the adjacent tidal

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marsh. The project was completed in August 1992.

7. DAVIDSON MIDDLE SCHOOL CREEK RESTORATION - ACL funds from another spill in a San Rafael provided funds to: (a) develop and distribute to local businesses a brochure on proper handling of industrial toxics, and (2) implement an enhancement project for a creek that runs through the Davidson Middle School grounds. The enhancement involved purchasing and planting the native plants along the creek banks. Planting was conducted by MAS and Marin Conservation League volunteers and the school's environmental club.

8. REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL MARSH MOSQUITO ABATEMENT CHANNELS: This project was on the same marsh as the Redwood Marsh project (#2 above). It was implemented in response to vegetation damage that was resulting from the Mosquito Abatement District driving equipment over the marsh to apply bacillus therengensus to several low areas that were ponding and growing mosquito larvae. In 1995, MAS widened and deepened several existing channels and the Mosquito Abatement District used its equipment to create several small channels to drain ponds. MAS used its own funds for this project.

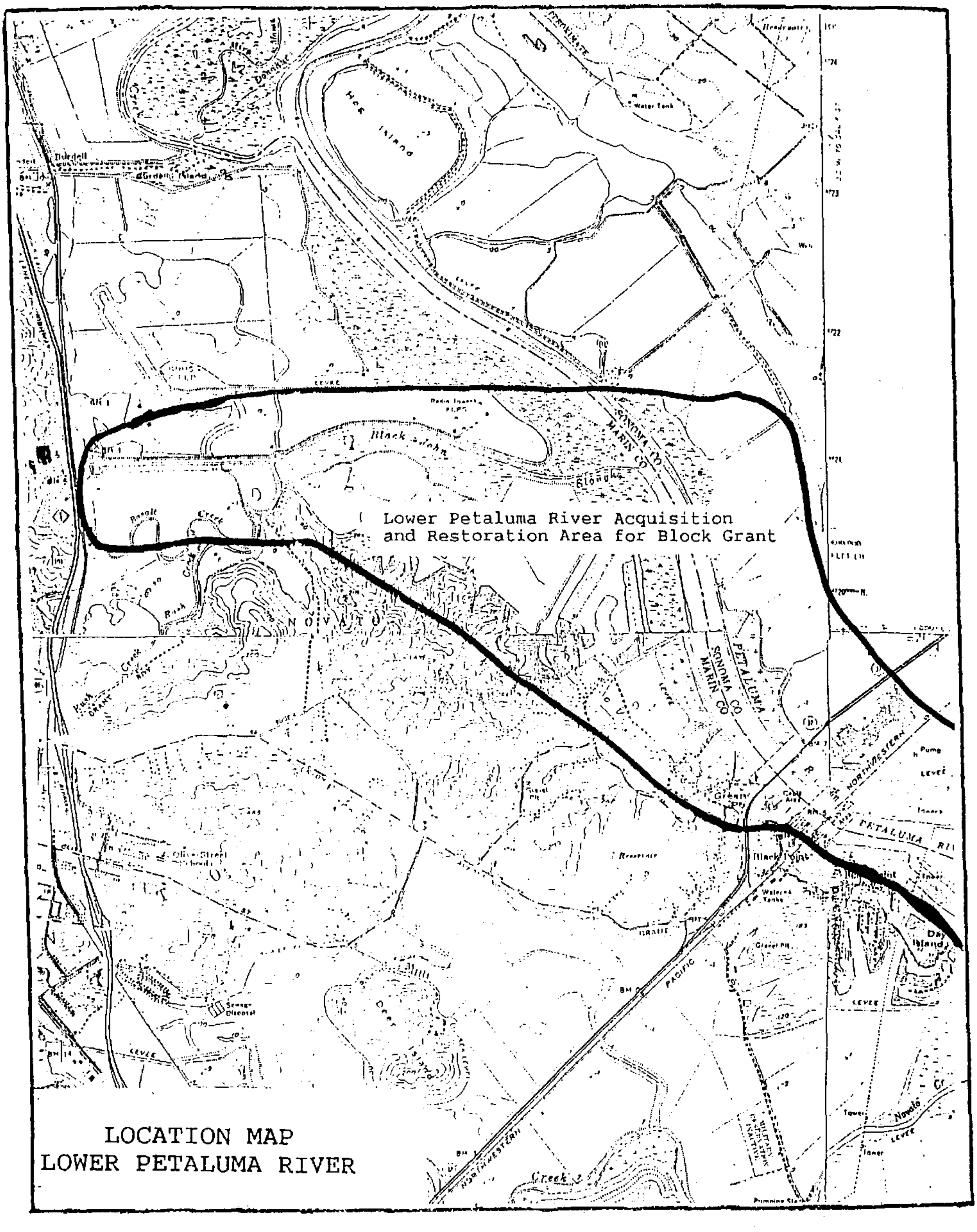
9. GALLINAS CREEK PHASE 3: The third and final phase of this project was completed in January 1997. With no ACL funds on the horizon, MAS applied for and obtained funding from the Marin Community Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Environmental Protection Agency, completed the project which restored seasonal wetland and three acres to tidal action.

10. BOTHIN MARSH FENCING Using ACL funds, MAS hired a contractor to install fencing to prevent renters of adjacent property from moving debris onto the adjacent wetland.

IV. Compliance with standard terms and conditions

The terms and conditions as identified in the Request for Proposals 1997 Category III Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Programs are acceptable to MAS.

Signed forms # 8 and # 12 are attached. We note that MAS is a fully volunteer organization with no paid staff. Therefore, it is unclear how or whether these apply.



Lower Petaluma River Acquisition
and Restoration Area for Block Grant
LOCATION MAP
LOWER PETALUMA RIVER

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Item [redacted]

NDISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

MPANY NAME Marin Audubon Society

The company named above (hereinafter referred to as "prospective contractor") hereby certifies, unless specifically exempted, compliance with Government Code Section 12990 (a-f) and California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 4, Chapter 5 in matters relating to reporting requirements and the development, implementation and maintenance of a Nondiscrimination Program. Prospective contractor agrees not to unlawfully discriminate, harass or allow harassment against any employee or applicant for employment because of sex, race, color, ancestry, religious creed, national origin, disability (including HIV and AIDS), medical condition (cancer), age, marital status, denial of family and medical care leave and denial of pregnancy disability leave.

CERTIFICATION

I, the official named below, hereby swear that I am duly authorized to legally bind the prospective contractor to the above described certification. I am fully aware that this certification, executed on the date and in the county below, is made under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California

OFFICIAL'S NAME
Barbara Salzman

DATE EXECUTED
7/26/97

EXECUTED IN THE COUNTY OF
Marin

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S SIGNATURE
Barbara Salzman

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S TITLE
President

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S LEGAL BUSINESS NAME
Marin Audubon Society

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Item 12

Agreement No. _____

Exhibit _____

NDARD CLAUSES --
LL BUSINESS PREFERENCE AND CONTRACTOR IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

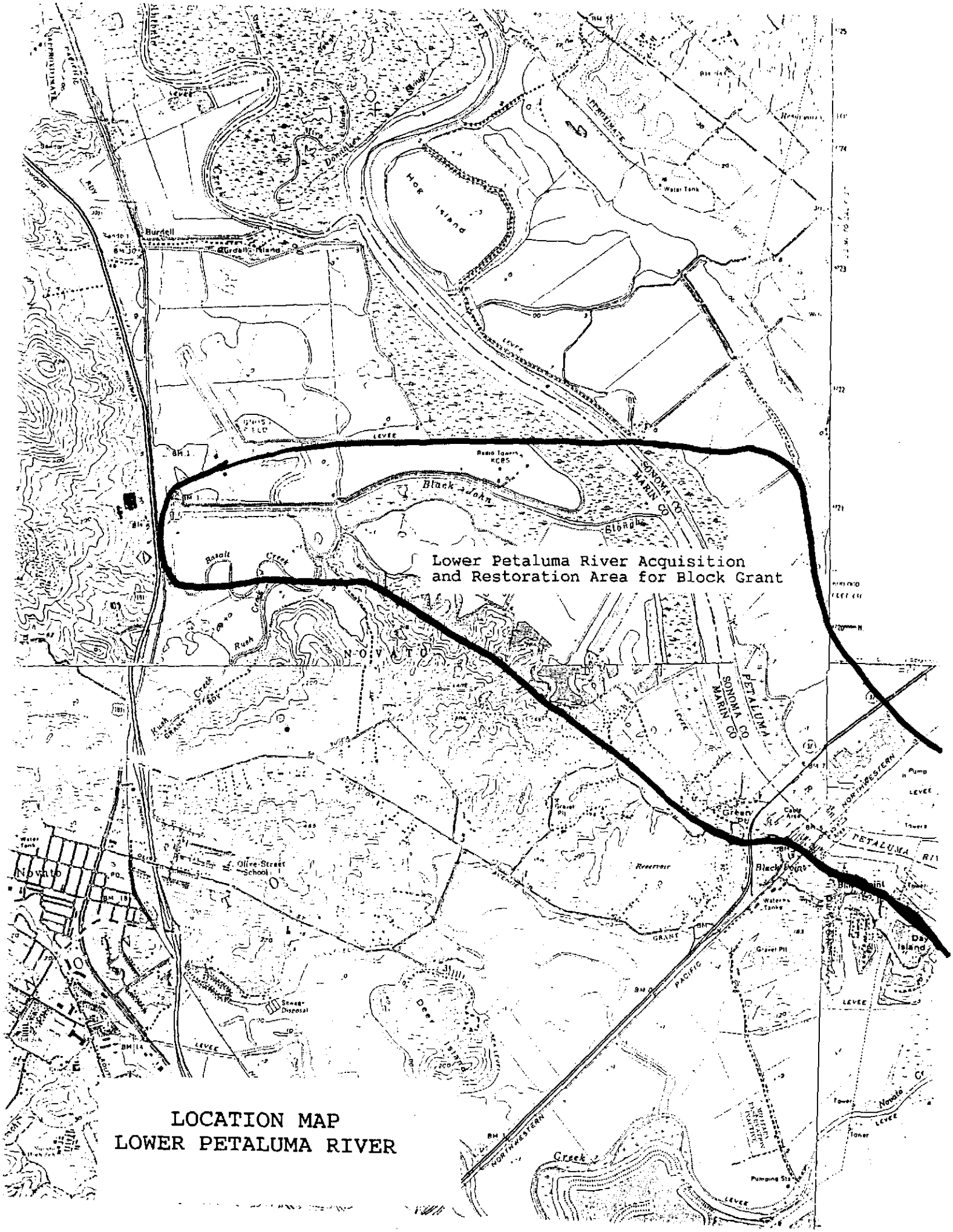
NOTICE TO ALL BIDDERS:

Section 14835, et. seq. of the California Government Code requires that a five percent preference be given to bidders who qualify as a small business. The rules and regulations of this law, including the definition of a small business for the delivery of service, are contained in Title 2, California Code of Regulations, Section 1896, et. seq. A copy of the regulations is available upon request. Questions regarding the preference approval process should be directed to the Office of Small and Minority Business at (916) 322-5060. To claim the small business preference, you must submit a copy of your certification approval letter with your bid.

Are you claiming preference as a small business?

_____ Yes* ___✓___ No

*Attach a copy of your certification approval letter.



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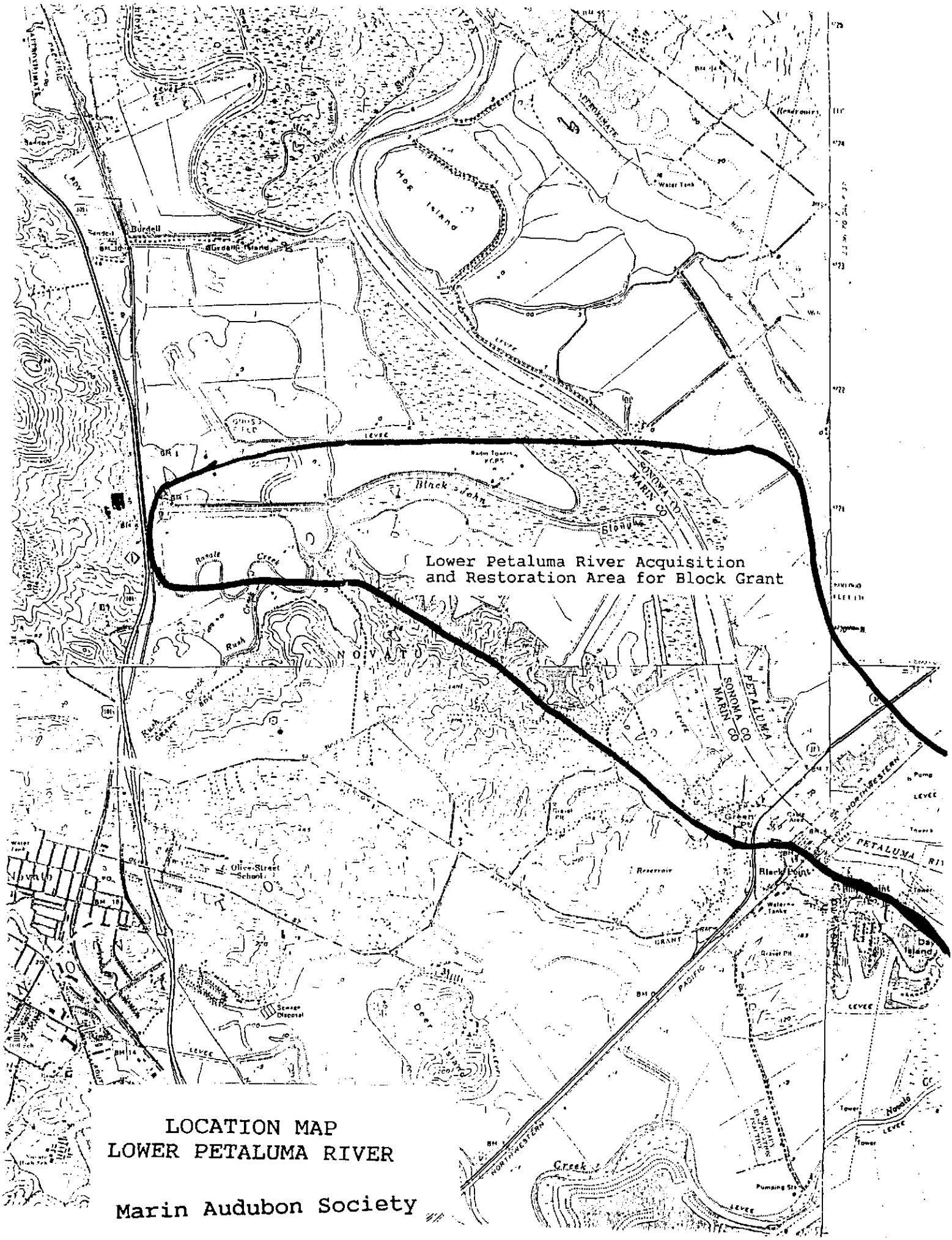

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SAN FRANCISCO BAY JOINT VENTURE
mailing address: Coastal Conservancy, 1330 Broadway, Suite 1100, Oakland, CA 94612
phone: 510-286-6767 fax: 510-286-0470

July 24, 1997

MANAGEMENT BOARD:

Bay Area Audubon Council

Bay Area Open Space Council

Bay Conservation & Development Commission

Bay Planning Coalition

Bay Area Regional Watershed Network

California Department of Fish and Game

Citizen's Committee to Complete the Refuge

Coastal Conservancy

Ducks Unlimited

National Audubon Society

P G & E

Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region

Save San Francisco Bay Association

Sierra Club

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Wildlife Conservation Board

Kate Hansel
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Category III Proposals from Marin Audubon Society: Burdell Island, Rush Creek/Cemetery Marsh, Redwood Landfill Marsh, Bahia

Dear Kate:

I am writing on behalf of the member organizations of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture in support of the Marin Audubon Society's Category III proposals. Endorsement of these wetlands restoration projects was voted unanimously at the Joint Venture's Management Board meeting on July 10.

All of these projects are located in the Petaluma River watershed and their completion will greatly benefit fish and wildlife in the region by restoring both tidal and seasonal wetlands. The Petaluma River is an important watershed to several CALFED priority species including the delta smelt, Sacramento splittail and chinook salmon.

The Marin Audubon Society has a strong track record for completing good wetlands restoration projects and is a solid partner in the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture.

We urge you to consider these proposals favorably.

Sincerely,

Nancy Schaefer

Nancy Schaefer
Coordinator

Cc: SFBJV Management Board