

Exhibit 1: Letters of Support



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southwest Region
777 Sonoma Ave., Room 325
Santa Rosa, CA 95404-6528

December 8, 2005

The Honorable Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
c/o Abe Doherty, Project Manager

Re: Support for the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Goals Project

Dear Mr. Chrisman and Mr. Bosco;

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries (NMFS) would like to express our support for the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Project which is being submitted to the Council for approval and funding at the January 13, 2006 meeting. Our colleagues at NOAA Ocean Services (NOS) have also submitted a letter in support of this project. NOAA believes that the outcome of this project will provide a more comprehensive understanding of the Bay's subtidal habitats, as well as, provide a vision for the management of the bay ecosystem.

The Subtidal Goals Project is one of three studies that will collectively build a balanced management strategy that extends from the depths of San Francisco Bay to the upper extent of bay watersheds. State coastal management agencies, NMFS and NOS are working collaboratively through this project to develop a vision that will balance utilization, conservation, and restoration of the subtidal ecosystem in San Francisco Bay. Since 2000, NOAA has provided over \$1 million towards research, surveys, and staff time to characterize subtidal habitats in the Bay and has recently provided \$120,000 to support the Project. NOAA will continue to provide ongoing technical support through completion of the Project.

We request that the Ocean Protection Council find that the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Goals Project is a high priority, and to authorize the Coastal Conservancy to expend \$125,000 to contract for services to complete this project. NMFS believes that continuing to improve our knowledge of San Francisco Bay's ecosystem will result in resource management decisions that are based on the best available information.

Sincerely,

Steve Edmondson
Northern California Habitat Supervisor

Patrick J. Rutten
NOAA Restoration Center Supervisor

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Coastal Services Center
2234 South Hobson Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29405-2413

January 4, 2006

The Honorable Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy
c/o Abe Doherty, Project Manager
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support for the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Goals Project

Dear Mr. Chrisman and Mr. Bosco:

The Office of Response and Restoration and Coastal Services Center within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Ocean Service would like to express their support for the Ocean Protection Council designating the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Project as a high priority at its January 13, 2006, meeting—and for the Council to authorize the Coastal Conservancy to take steps necessary to develop and provide \$125,000 in contracts for the project. Our colleagues at the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service have also submitted a letter in support of this project. NOAA believes that this project is essential for improving the knowledge of the subtidal system and the effective management of the San Francisco Bay Area.

The contracts will fund writing, facilitation, data collection, and geographic information system (GIS) data layer development, as well as printing and distribution of materials, including the final Subtidal Habitat Goals report, which is scheduled to be released by April 2008. The objectives of the Subtidal Habitat Goals Project include 1) developing subtidal habitat goals for management, protection, and enhancement; 2) identifying and prioritizing research needs; and 3) characterizing the subtidal habitats and their functions. Government agencies with authority for managing the estuary lack sufficient information on the subtidal habitats of the bay, and a focused effort is needed to improve management of the bay's resources. Emerging restoration and enhancement efforts for the subtidal habitats need a coordinated approach to designing restoration projects in an efficient and effective manner. The Subtidal Goals Project will complement the Wetlands Goals Project, which was completed in 1999, and the Upland Goals Project, which is ongoing, to develop a comprehensive, long-term management vision for the San Francisco Bay Area.

NOAA, Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), the California Coastal Conservancy, the San Francisco Estuary Project, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are coordinating this project, which has significant support from many other federal and state



NOAA Coastal Services Center

LINKING PEOPLE, INFORMATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

www.csc.noaa.gov

National Ocean Service • National Marine Fisheries Service • National Weather Service
Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research • National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service

agencies. NOAA has contributed \$120,000, and the San Francisco Estuary Project, with EPA funding, has provided an \$18,000 grant to BCDC for work on this project. For these reasons, the NOAA Ocean Service encourages the Ocean Protection Council to categorize the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Project as a high priority and to authorize the Coastal Conservancy to use \$125,000 of funds dedicated for use by the Council to contract for services to complete this important work.

Sincerely,

Margaret Davidson
Director, CSC

David Kennedy
Director, OR&R

The Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources and Coastal Services Center (CSC) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is pleased to announce the release of the final report of the Subtidal Habitat Goals Project. The report, titled "San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Project: Final Report," was prepared by the Coastal Conservancy (CSC) and the Coastal Services Center (CSC) in cooperation with the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) and the San Francisco Estuary Project (SFE). The report provides a comprehensive overview of the project's objectives, methods, and findings. The project was authorized by the OPC in 1997 and is a key component of the San Francisco Estuary Project. The report is essential for developing the knowledge and data needed to manage the estuary's resources effectively.

The project will fund ongoing monitoring and data collection and geographic information system (GIS) data layer development, as well as pricing and distribution of materials, including the final Subtidal Habitat Goals report, which is scheduled to be released by April 2005. The objectives of the Subtidal Habitat Goals Project include: 1) develop subtidal habitat goals for management, protection, and restoration; 2) develop and publish research results; and 3) develop the subtidal habitat and their benefits. Management agencies will authority for managing the estuary lack sufficient information on the subtidal habitats of the bay, and a focused effort is needed to improve management of the bay's resources. Emerging restoration and protection efforts for the estuary's subtidal habitats need a new "holistic" approach to designing restoration projects to be an efficient and effective outcome. The Subtidal Goals Project will complement the Wetlands Goals Project, which was completed in 1999, and the Upland Coastal Project, which is ongoing, to develop a comprehensive, long-term management vision for the San Francisco Bay Area.

NOAA, Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), the California Coastal Commission, the San Francisco Estuary Project, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are cosponsoring this project, which has significant support from many other federal and state agencies.



Exhibit 1: Letters of Support



Making San Francisco Bay Better

December 6, 2005

The Honorable Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
c/o Abe Doherty, Project Manager

SUBJECT: Support for the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Goals Project

Dear Mr. Chrisman and Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my support for the Ocean Protection Council designating the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Goals Project as a high priority at its January 13, 2006 meeting and for the Council to authorize the Coastal Conservancy to take steps necessary to develop and provide \$125,000 in contracts for the Project.

The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) has partnered with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the San Francisco Estuary Project, the Coastal Conservancy, and the US Environmental Protection Agency to develop the San Francisco Estuary Subtidal Habitat Goals Project, a collaborative process that will establish a comprehensive, long-term management vision for protection, restoration, and appropriate use of the subtidal system in the San Francisco Estuary. The objectives of Subtidal Habitat Goals Project include: 1) developing subtidal habitat goals for management, protection and enhancement; 2) identifying and prioritizing research needs; and 3) characterizing the subtidal habitats and their functions. In addition, the Subtidal Goals project will complement the Baylands Habitat Goals Project, which was completed in 1999, and the Upland Goals Project, which is on-going.

BCDC fully supports the development of the Subtidal Goals Project and has dedicated available staff time and resources to the Project. If authorized by the Ocean Protection Council, the \$125,000 would fund critical components of the Project, including contracts for writing, facilitation, data collection and GIS development, and printing and distribution of materials, including the final Subtidal Habitat Goals report, which is scheduled to be released by April 2008. I encourage the Ocean Protection Council to find that the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Goals Project is a high priority and for the Coastal Conservancy to use \$125,000 of funds dedicated for use by the Council to contract for services to complete this project.

Sincerely,

WILL TRAVIS
Executive Director

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 1: Letters of Support



1515 Clay Street • Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612-1413
510 622.2465
Fax: 510 622.2501

December 8, 2005

The Honorable Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
c/o Abe Doherty, Project Manager

Re: Support for the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Goals Project

Dear Mr. Chrisman and Mr. Bosco;

I am writing on behalf of the San Francisco Estuary Project's Implementation Committee to express our support for the Ocean Protection Council designating the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Goals Project as a high priority at its January 13, 2006 meeting and for the Council to authorize the Coastal Conservancy to take steps necessary to develop and provide \$125,000 in contracts for the project. The contracts will fund writing, facilitation, data collection and GIS datalayer development, and printing and distribution of materials, including the final Subtidal Habitat Goals report, which is scheduled to be released by April 2008. The objectives of Subtidal Habitat Goals project include 1) developing subtidal habitat goals for management, protection and enhancement; 2) identifying and prioritizing research needs; and 3) characterizing the subtidal habitats and their functions. Government agencies with authority over managing the Estuary lack sufficient information on the subtidal habitats of the bay and a focused effort is needed in order to improve management of the bay's resources. Emerging restoration and enhancement efforts for the subtidal habitats need a coordinated approach to designing restoration projects in an efficient and effective manner. The Subtidal Goals project will complement the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Project, completed in 1999, and the Upland Goals Project currently underway, to develop a comprehensive, long-term management vision for the San Francisco Bay Area.

NOAA, BCDC, the Conservancy, the San Francisco Estuary Project and the EPA are coordinating this project, which has significant support from many other federal and state agencies. NOAA has contributed \$120,000 and the San Francisco Estuary Project is providing \$18,000 in support of the Subtidal Goals Project. The Subtidal Goals Project will carry out actions in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the San Francisco Estuary. I strongly encourage the Ocean Protection Council to find that the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Goals Project is a high priority and for the Coastal Conservancy to use \$125,000 of funds dedicated for use by the Council to contract for services to complete this important project.

Sincerely,


Lawrence P. Kolb
Chair, Implementation Committee



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

San Francisco Bay Region



Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.
Agency Secretary

1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400, Oakland, California 94612
(510) 622-2300 • Fax (510) 622-2460
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay>

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

Date: December 28, 2005

The Honorable Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
c/o Abe Doherty, Project Manager

Dear Mr. Chrisman and Mr. Bosco:

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY SUBTIDAL GOALS PROJECT

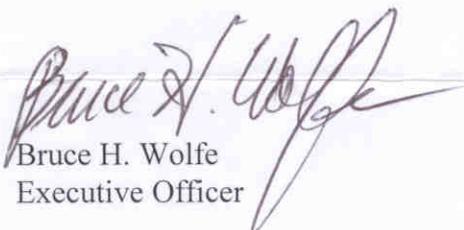
I am writing to express my support for the Ocean Protection Council designating the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Goals Project as a high priority at its January 13, 2006 meeting and for the Council to authorize the Coastal Conservancy to take steps necessary to develop and provide \$125,000 in contracts for the project. The contracts will fund writing, facilitation, data collection and GIS data layer development, and printing and distribution of materials, including the final Subtidal Habitat Goals report, which is scheduled to be released by April 2008. The objectives of the Subtidal Habitat Goals project include: 1) developing subtidal habitat goals for management, protection and enhancement; 2) identifying and prioritizing research needs; and 3) characterizing the subtidal habitats and their functions. As the lead agency for implementing the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for San Francisco Bay Estuary, we recommend this project as a high priority.

Government agencies with authority over managing the Bay lack sufficient information on the subtidal habitats of the Bay and a focused effort is needed in order to improve management of the Bay's resources. Emerging restoration and enhancement efforts for the subtidal habitats need a coordinated approach to designing restoration projects in an efficient and effective manner. The Subtidal Goals project will complement the Wetlands Goals Project, which was completed in 1999, and the Upland Goals Project, which is on-going, to develop a comprehensive, long-term management vision for the San Francisco Bay and its watershed.

NOAA, BCDC, the Conservancy, the San Francisco Estuary Project and the U.S. EPA are coordinating this project, which has significant support from many other federal and state

agencies. NOAA has contributed \$120,000 and the San Francisco Estuary Project, with EPA funding, has provided an \$18,000 grant to BCDC for work on this project. I encourage the Ocean Protection Council to find that the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Goals Project is a high priority and for the Coastal Conservancy to use \$125,000 of funds dedicated for use by the Council to contract for services to complete this project.

Sincerely,



Bruce H. Wolfe
Executive Officer

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DEC 29 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



January 3, 2005

The Honorable Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council

530 C Alameda del Prado #139
Novato, CA 94949
(415) 883-3854
Fax: (415) 883-3850
www.sfbayjv.org

The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

MANAGEMENT BOARD:

Bay Area Audubon Council
Bay Area Open Space Council
Bay Planning Coalition
Citizens Committee to
Complete the Refuge
Ducks Unlimited
National Audubon Society
Point Reyes Bird Observatory
PG&E Corporation
Save San Francisco Bay
Association
Sierra Club
The Bay Institute
Urban Creeks Council

Ex-Officio Members:

Bay Conservation &
Development Commission
California Department
of Fish and Game
California Resources Agency
Coastal Conservancy
Coastal Region, Mosquito &
Vector Control District
National Fish and Wildlife
Foundation
National Marine Fisheries
Service
Natural Resources
Conservation Service
Regional Water Quality Control
Board, SF Bay Region
San Francisco Estuary Project
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Wildlife Conservation Board

SUBJECT: Support for the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Goals Project

Dear Mr. Chrisman and Mr. Bosco;

I am writing on behalf of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture to encourage the Ocean Protection Council to designate the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Goals Project as a high priority. We also urge the Council to authorize the Coastal Conservancy to commit staff to help develop the program and to provide \$125,000 in contracts for the project.

The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture (SFBJV) is a partnership of non-governmental organizations, utilities, landowners, and non-voting agencies working to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands in San Francisco Bay and along the Coast. The SFBJV is one of twelve habitat Joint Ventures operating under the certification of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, a Congressional agreement between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. SFBJV implements the goals of the federal bird conservation plans including the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the Waterbird Plan, the Shorebird Plan, and the Partners in Flight Migratory Bird Plan. Both the Coastal Conservancy and the Resources Agency have been active partners in the SFBJV and have made significant contributions toward helping to achieve our collective goals.

The Management Board of SFBJV enthusiastically endorses the development of the Sub-Tidal Habitat Goals Project to identify specific habitats and target goals for subtidal habitat restoration and enhancement in San Francisco Bay. Subtidal and open water habitats are important not only to fish and invertebrate populations, but to birds as well. San Francisco Bay supports wintering populations of diving ducks and grebes and breeding populations of cormorants and murres, all of which require subtidal habitats for feeding. The Bay is home to the largest population of wintering diving waterfowl in the Pacific Flyway, harboring nearly 50% of all Greater and Lesser Scaup and Surf, White-wing and Black Scoters in the Flyway. This was also historically the case for Canvasbacks.

SFBJV recently assessed our contributions toward the continental goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and progress toward our goals that were established and adopted by the SFBJV Management Board in our Implementation Strategy, *Restoring the Estuary*. This assessment indicated that the SFBJV has made



great strides toward reaching our tidal wetlands acquisition goals, an initial priority for SFBJV, given the urgent need to protect wetland habitats for restoration. The recent assessment also noted that progress toward maintaining and enhancing open water and sub-tidal habitats needed by diving ducks has had significantly less focus by SFBJV. In light of this assessment, the SFBJV Management Board has identified open water and subtidal habitats to be an additional focus for conservation and restoration planning.

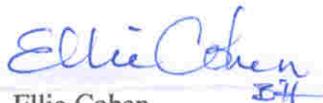
Recently, disturbing trends have been noted on a continental scale for each of the above mentioned bird populations. It is imperative that we take appropriate measures to rectify problems in San Francisco Bay that may be contributing to continental population declines and reduction in feeding habitat in the Bay. The Subtidal Goals project has the potential to help identify factors contributing to waterfowl population declines and shifts and provide information for habitat planning. It will complement *Restoring the Estuary* and the 1999 Wetlands Habitat Goals Project, the scientific basis by which SFBJV adopted our tidal wetlands goals. It will also compliment the Upland Goals Project, which is in the process of development, thereby providing scientifically-based goals that can improve conditions for bird populations addressed in each of the federal bird conservation plans.

The voting members of the Management Board of SFBJV specifically request that:

- 1) the Ocean Protection Council identify the San Francisco Bay Sub-tidal Goals Project as a high priority,
- 2) the Coastal Conservancy be authorized to use \$125,000 of funds dedicated for use by the Ocean Protection Council to contract for services to complete this project, and
- 3) given the importance of San Francisco Bay to waterfowl and other bird species, the Sub-tidal Goals Project include the participation of water bird expertise and a sub-tidal/open water bird component.

SFBJV wants to applaud our partners, NOAA, EPA, the Estuary Project, and BCDC for their commitment to the project. We hope that the Ocean Protection Council will support the Coastal Conservancy efforts in this endeavor. Thank you for considering this request. If you have any questions about the SFBJV or the assessment that has been the basis for requests specified in this letter, please feel free to contact the SFBJV Coordinator, Beth Huning.

Sincerely,



Ellie Cohen
Chair

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Cc: Abe Doherty, Project Manager, Coastal Conservancy ✓
SFBJV Management Board
SFBJV Restoration Strategy/Technical Committee

Exhibit 1: Letters of Support



State of California - The Resources Agency

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

Marine Region

20 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940



November 16, 2005



The Honorable Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
c/o Abe Doherty, Project Manager

Re: Support for the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Goals Project

Dear Mr. Chrisman and Mr. Bosco;

I am writing to express support for the Ocean Protection Council designating the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Goals Project as a high priority and for the Council to authorize the Coastal Conservancy to provide \$125,000 in contracts for the project. The contracts will fund writing; facilitation; data collection and GIS data development; and printing and distribution of materials, including the final Subtidal Habitat Goals report, which is scheduled to be released by April 2008.

The objectives of Subtidal Habitat Goals project include 1) developing subtidal habitat goals for management, protection and enhancement; 2) identifying and prioritizing research needs; and 3) characterizing the subtidal habitats and their functions. Information on the subtidal habitats of the bay is generally lacking and a focused effort is needed in order to improve management of the bay's resources. The project will also compliment the Department of Fish and Game's efforts to implement the Marine Life Protection Act in the San Francisco Bay region by providing needed habitat information and management priorities.

The successful completion of this project will provide significant benefits to the management of the State's marine resources. I look forward to seeing its results.

Sincerely,

John Ugoretz
Nearshore Ecosystem Coordinator /
Central Marine Region Manager

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Romberg Tiburon Center, 3152 Paradise Drive, Tiburon, CA 94920-1205
Tel (415) 338-3703 Fax (415) 435-7120

The Honorable Mike Chrisman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
c/o Abe Doherty, Project Manager

Re: The San Francisco Bay Subtidal Goals Project

Dear Mr. Chrisman and Mr. Bosco;

I am writing to express my support for the Ocean Protection Council designating the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Goals Project as a high priority at its next meeting, and for the Council to authorize the Coastal Conservancy to take whatever steps are required to develop and provide the necessary monies for the project. These monies would fund all aspects of the development of the Subtidal Goals Project, including the final Subtidal Habitat Goals report, for release by April 2008.

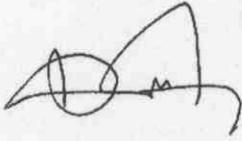
The San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (SF Bay NERR) is a federally-designated Marine Protected Area, and our core mission is advancing science, management, and education related to our regional estuaries. We believe the proposed Subtidal Goals Project will fundamentally contribute to the understanding, protection, and restoration of the region's threatened estuaries and coastal habitats.

One of the principal goals of NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve System is to facilitate research that will increase our ability to achieve better science-based stewardship of coastal ecosystems. Here at the San Francisco Bay NERR, we are just beginning to establish baseline and reference data with which to both detect habitat changes and assess restoration success. We need the best possible research to help us steer these efforts. Subtidal habitats are a critical yet understudied and rarely-targeted component of the estuary ecosystem. These subtidal habitats are increasingly being shown to be intimately connected to the health of the more often protected and restored intertidal habitats. I believe that this work will contribute to helping us manage, protect, and restore coastal habitats specifically here in San Francisco Bay, but also more broadly throughout California.

I should add that another important mission of the SF Bay NERR is dissemination of information regarding regional research, and results of the proposed work could be made available to the bay science community and others, leveraging the staff and infrastructure of the reserve. We will be happy to highlight the results of this project in workshops and discussions with a range of audiences.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or if there is any way I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Drew M. Talley, Research Coordinator
San Francisco Bay NERR/SFSU - Romberg Tiburon Center
3152 Paradise Drive
Tiburon, CA 94920-1205
Tel (415) 338-3724; Fax (415) 435-7120

San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Romberg Tiburon Center, 3152 Paradise Drive, Tiburon, CA 94920-1205
Tel (415) 338-3724 Fax (415) 435-7120

The Honorable Mike Christman
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chair, State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
c/o Ales Doherty, Project Manager

Re: The San Francisco Bay Subtidal Goals Project

Dear Mr. Christman and Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my support for the Ocean Protection Council designating the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Goals Project as a high priority at its next meeting, and for the Council to authorize the Coastal Conservancy to take whatever steps are required to develop and provide the necessary monies for the project. These monies would fund all aspects of the development of the Subtidal Goals Project, including the final Subtidal Habitat Goals report, for release by April 2008.

The San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (SF Bay NERR) is a federally-designated Marine Protected Area, and our core mission is advancing science, management, and education related to our regional estuaries. We believe the proposed Subtidal Goals Project will fundamentally contribute to the understanding, protection, and restoration of the region's threatened estuaries and coastal habitats.

One of the principal goals of NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve System is to facilitate research that will increase our ability to achieve better science-based stewardship of coastal ecosystems. Here at the San Francisco Bay NERR, we are just beginning to establish baseline and reference data with which to both detect habitat changes and assess restoration success. We need the best possible research to help us meet these efforts. Subtidal habitats are critical yet understudied and rarely-targeted component of the estuary ecosystem. These subtidal habitats are increasingly being shown to be intimately connected to the health of the near-shore protected and restored intertidal habitats. I believe that this work will contribute to helping us manage, protect, and restore coastal habitats specifically here in San Francisco Bay, but also more broadly throughout California.

I should add that another important mission of the SF Bay NERR is dissemination of information regarding regional research, and results of the proposed work could be made available to the bay science community and others, leveraging the staff and infrastructure of the reserve. We will be happy to highlight the results of this project in workshops and discussions with a range of audiences.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or if there is any way I can be of further assistance.

Exhibit 1: Letters of Support

350 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 900
Oakland, CA 94612-2016

t. 510.452.9261
f. 510.452.9266

www.saveSFbay.org

December 8, 2005

The Honorable Mike Chrisman, Chair
California Ocean Protection Council
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support for the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Goals Project

Dear Mr. Chrisman;

Save The Bay encourages the Ocean Protection Council to designate the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Goals Project as a high priority and to authorize the State Coastal Conservancy to provide \$125,000 to support the project. Save The Bay is the largest and oldest organization working exclusively to protect, restore and celebrate San Francisco Bay, with more than 10,000 members. The Bay Area's economy and quality of life depend on a healthy and vibrant Bay, and our work to make the Bay cleaner and healthier has yielded important success. The Bay now provides millions of dollars in economic benefits annually from tourism and commerce, and preserved recreation and beauty for the region.

While scientists have produced a regional blueprint for shoreline habitat restoration around San Francisco Bay, the *Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals* (1999), we desperately need better information on the subtidal habitats of the bay to ensure coordinated ecosystem restoration, and to prevent additional degradation of sensitive resources. The Subtidal Goals Project will help address that need, and allow Bay resource agencies to develop a comprehensive, long-term plan to restore the precious natural treasure in our midst.

The Subtidal Habitat Goals Project will characterize the Bay's subtidal habitats and their functions, identify management, protection and enhancement goals, and prioritize future research needs. Save The Bay has been a forceful advocate for this project, and for funding to support it, with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission and others. The Ocean Protection Council can and should give this project a significant boost by encouraging the Coastal Conservancy to provide funds for its advancement.

Thank you for your consideration of these views.

Sincerely;



David Lewis
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Doug Bosco, State Coastal Conservancy



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DEC 13 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

