



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex
1080 Gunpowder Point Drive
Chula Vista, California 91910



November 6, 2020

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Bayshore Bikeway Resiliency Project – Creation of a Coastal Resilience Corridor, City of Imperial Beach, California

Dear Mr. Crowfoot:

On behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, I am writing to express my support for grant applications that intend to focus on developing resilient strategies that restore and enhance coastal habitats, provide educational opportunities, and improve flood protection to disadvantaged communities, such as the proposed Bayshore Bikeway Resiliency Project – Creation of a Coastal Resilience Corridor in the City of Imperial Beach. The proposed Bayshore Bikeway Resiliency Project will allow the City of Imperial Beach to initiate the planning and design of a multi-benefit coastal resilience corridor along the north end of Imperial Beach that will protect low-lying neighborhoods from sea level rise impacts from San Diego Bay. The proposed coastal resilience corridor incorporates the Bayshore Bikeway, a highly popular Class 1 bikeway that lies adjacent to the shoreline of San Diego Bay.

The grant request under the Ocean Protection Council's Proposition 68 Grant Funding for the proposed Bayshore Bikeway Resiliency Project will provide funding to the City of Imperial Beach to evaluate existing public infrastructure and land uses along the Imperial Beach bay front and develop preliminary engineering plans for new infrastructure that will protect the area from current and future coastal flooding. The proposed project will retrofit a 1.2-mile segment of the Bayshore Bikeway to provide coastal flood resilience to an adjacent community in Imperial Beach. While in the conceptual stage, we appreciate the opportunity to work with the City of Imperial Beach on this project given its location adjacent to the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

The City of Imperial Beach is bordered to the north by the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge and partially to the south by the Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge. We have a strong and vibrant partnership with the City of Imperial Beach and we work together toward the common goals of wildlife protection, habitat restoration, environmental education, and connecting urban neighborhoods to nature. The proposed project will complement our other

efforts such as the restoration of the former western salt ponds in south San Diego Bay into salt marshes and the Bayside Birding and Walking Trail and the Sellers-Keever Outdoor Educational Activity Center, all located along the Bayshore Bikeway in the City of Imperial Beach.

I support the City of Imperial Beach's efforts to identify, plan and design a multi-benefit approach for the south end of San Diego Bay that will protect recreational uses, transportation corridors, environmental habitat, and low-lying urban areas from current and future sea level rise impacts.

Sincerely,

Andrew Yuen
Project Leader

cc:

Mark Gold, California Ocean Protection Council



October 26, 2020

Ocean Protection Council (OPC)
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support for the Bayshore Bikeway Resiliency Project – Creation of a Coastal Resilience Corridor in Imperial Beach

Dear OPC:

This letter is to provide support from the San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative for the City of Imperial Beach's grant application to the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for the ***Bayshore Bikeway Resiliency Project – Creation of a Coastal Resilience Corridor in Imperial Beach*** (project). The project will initiate the planning and design of a multi-benefit coastal resilience corridor along the north end of Imperial Beach that protects low-lying neighborhoods from sea level rise impacts from San Diego Bay.

The Bayshore Bikeway (Bikeway) is a heavily used recreational corridor that lies adjacent to the shoreline of the San Diego Bay. The Class 1 Bikeway is the first piece of improved infrastructure along Imperial Beach. The proposed project will evaluate existing public infrastructure and land uses along the Imperial Beach bay front and develop preliminary engineering plans for new infrastructure that will protect the area from current and future coastal flooding.

The Bikeway and existing public lands presents a unique opportunity to design a multi-benefit coastal resilience corridor that protects the vulnerable neighborhoods and existing transportation infrastructure from current and future coastal flooding while improving the mobility for additional user groups and adding transitional habitat areas. The Project will focus on developing resilient strategies that restore and enhance coastal habitats, provide educational opportunities, and improve flood protection to the disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities of northern Imperial Beach.

We look forward to supporting the City of Imperial Beach on the proposed project to identify a multi-benefit approach for the south end of San Diego Bay that will protect recreational uses, transportation corridors, environmental habitat, and low-lying urban areas from current and future sea level rise impacts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christina DeBenedict".

Christiana DeBenedict
Director, San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative
cdebenedict@sandiego.edu



CITY OF CORONADO

1825 STRAND WAY
CORONADO, CA 92118
WWW.CORONADO.CA.US

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
(619) 522-7335
FAX (619) 522-7846

November 6, 2020

Ocean Protection Council (OPC)
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support for the Bayshore Bikeway Resiliency Project – Creation of a Coastal Resilience Corridor in Imperial Beach

Dear OPC:

The City of Coronado is pleased to support the City of Imperial Beach's grant application to the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for the ***Bayshore Bikeway Resiliency Project – Creation of a Coastal Resilience Corridor in Imperial Beach*** (project). The project will initiate the planning and design of a multi-benefit coastal resilience corridor along the north end of Imperial Beach that protects low-lying neighborhoods from sea level rise impacts from San Diego Bay. The project will retrofit a 1.2-mile segment of the Bayshore Bikeway to provide coastal flood resilience to the community of Imperial Beach and also the City of Coronado. A portion of the project is within the City of Coronado where flooding occurs over the Bikeway into Pond 10A.

The Bayshore Bikeway (Bikeway) is a regional bicycle facility and heavily used recreational corridor that provides a vital and scenic connection to tourist destinations as well as major bayfront employers. The Bikeway and existing public lands present a unique opportunity to design a multi-benefit coastal resilience corridor that protects the vulnerable neighborhoods and existing transportation infrastructure from current and future coastal flooding while improving the mobility for additional user groups and adding transitional habitat areas. The Bikeway alignment presents a unique opportunity to repurpose the existing path into a multi-benefit coastal resilience corridor that protects multiple vulnerable communities, a state highway and the bikeway from current and future coastal flooding while improving the mobility for additional user groups and adding transitional habitat areas.

The project will evaluate existing public infrastructure and land uses along the Imperial Beach bay front and develop preliminary engineering plans for new infrastructure that will protect the area from current and future coastal flooding. The project will focus on developing resilient strategies that restore and enhance coastal habitats, provide educational opportunities and improve flood protection to the disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities of northern Imperial Beach as a proof-of-concept that could be applied along other segments of the corridor to protect other communities with similar needs.

Although the City of Coronado is not a partner in this grant application, the project will benefit the City of Coronado as it seeks to prevent the overtopping of a portion of the Bayshore Bikeway in Coronado.

We look forward to supporting the City of Imperial Beach on the Project to identify a multi-benefit approach for the south end of San Diego Bay that will protect recreational uses, transportation corridors, environmental habitat, and low-lying urban areas from current and future sea level rise impacts.

Sincerely,

Blair King, City Manager
City of Coronado



October 29, 2020

Ocean Protection Council (OPC)
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support for the Bayshore Bikeway Resiliency Project – Creation of a Coastal Resilience Corridor in Imperial Beach

To Whom it May Concern:

The Port of San Diego (Port) is in support of the City of Imperial Beach's grant application to the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for the ***Bayshore Bikeway Resiliency Project – Creation of a Coastal Resilience Corridor in Imperial Beach*** (Project). The Project will initiate the planning and design of a multi-benefit coastal resilience corridor along the north end of Imperial Beach that protects low-lying neighborhoods from sea level rise impacts from San Diego Bay.

The Bayshore Bikeway (Bikeway) is a heavily used recreational corridor that lies adjacent to the shoreline of the San Diego Bay. The Class 1 Bikeway is the first piece of improved infrastructure along Imperial Beach. The proposed project will evaluate existing public infrastructure and land uses along the Imperial Beach bay front and develop preliminary engineering plans for new infrastructure that will protect the area from current and future coastal flooding.

The Bikeway and existing public lands present a unique opportunity to design a multi-benefit coastal resilience corridor that protects the venerable neighborhoods and existing transportation infrastructure from current and future coastal flooding while improving the mobility for additional user groups and adding transitional habitat areas. The Project will focus on developing resilient strategies that restore and enhance coastal habitats, provide educational opportunities, and improve flood protection to the disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities of northern Imperial Beach.

The Port looks forward to supporting the City of Imperial Beach on the proposed project to identify a multi-benefit approach for the south end of San Diego Bay that will protect recreational uses, transportation corridors, environmental habitat, and low-lying urban areas from current and future sea level rise impacts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason H. Giffen".

Jason H. Giffen

Vice President, Planning, Environment & Government Relations

November 4, 2020

401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101-4231
(619) 699-1900
Fax (619) 699-1905
sandag.org

Ocean Protection Council (OPC)
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear OPC:

Subject: Support for the Bayshore Bikeway Resiliency Project – Creation of a Coastal Resilience Corridor in Imperial Beach

MEMBER AGENCIES

Cities of
Carlsbad
Chula Vista
Coronado
Del Mar
El Cajon
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Department of Defense
Port of San Diego
San Diego County
Water Authority
Southern California
Tribal Chairmen's Association
Mexico

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) supports the City of Imperial Beach's grant application to the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for the Bayshore Bikeway Resiliency Project – Creation of a Coastal Resilience Corridor in Imperial Beach (project). The project will initiate the planning and design of a 1.2-mile, multi-benefit coastal resilience corridor along the north end of Imperial Beach that protects low-lying neighborhoods from sea level rise impacts from the San Diego Bay. The Bayshore Bikeway was identified as a vulnerable facility in SANDAG's *Regional Transportation Infrastructure Sea Level Rise Assessment and Adaptation Guidance*, completed earlier this year.

The 24-mile (at completion) Bayshore Bikeway (Bikeway) is a heavily used recreational corridor that lies adjacent to the shoreline of the San Diego Bay. The Class 1 Bikeway is the first piece of improved infrastructure within Imperial Beach and has been identified as a key facility in SANDAG's initial work on the South Bay to Sorrento Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan. The proposed project will evaluate existing public infrastructure and land uses along the Imperial Beach bayfront and develop preliminary engineering plans for new infrastructure that will protect the area from current and future coastal flooding.

The Bikeway and existing public lands present a unique opportunity to design a multi-benefit coastal resilience corridor that protects the vulnerable neighborhoods and existing transportation infrastructure from current and future coastal flooding while improving the mobility for additional user groups and adding transitional habitat areas. The Project will focus on developing resilient strategies that restore and enhance coastal habitats, provide educational opportunities, and improve flood protection to the disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities of northern Imperial Beach.

We look forward to supporting the City of Imperial Beach on the proposed project to identify a multi-benefit approach for the south end of San Diego Bay that will protect recreational uses, transportation corridors, environmental habitat, and low-lying urban areas from current and future sea level rise impacts.

Sincerely,



HASAN IKHRATA
Executive Director

HIK/SPI



November 3, 2020

Subject: Letter of Support for the City of Imperial Beach's Ocean Protection Council's Proposition 68 Grant Solicitation

To Whom It May Concern:

The Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR) conducts and facilitates science-to-management in partnership with state and federal agencies, local governments, and non-profit organizations. Of primary interest is exploring opportunities for advancing nature-based solutions to sea level rise and other climate impacts on critical remaining wetland and coastal habitats in the region. Advancing our understanding of climate change impacts, identifying adaptation pathways in this region, and ensuring public access to trust resources is paramount to our mission.

The City of Imperial Beach's proposal to plan and design a multi-benefit coastal resilience corridor that protects multiple vulnerable communities, a state highway, and regional bikeway supports various aspects of our work, including the Climate Understanding and Resilience in the River Valley (CURRV) project, which examined future climate scenarios, and the Flood Resilient Infrastructure and Sustainable Environments (FloodRISE) project, which depicted flood hazards. Specifically, focusing on the Bayshore Bikeway presents a unique opportunity to repurpose the existing path into a multi-benefit coastal resilience corridor that addresses current and future coastal flooding while improving mobility for various user groups and adding transitional habitat areas.

We are eager to support this project through our Coastal Training and Research programs as it focuses on developing resilient strategies that restore and enhance coastal habitats, provides educational opportunities, and improves flood protection to the disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities of northern Imperial Beach. Additionally, we believe it can serve as a proof-of-concept that could be applied along other segments of the corridor, as well as to other regions in the State, to protect areas with similar resource protection, infrastructure, and community needs.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristen Goodrich".

Dr. Kristen Goodrich
Coastal Training Program Coordinator
email: kgoodrich@trnerr.org

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Crooks".

Dr. Jeff Crooks
Research Coordinator
email: jcrooks@trnerr.org