

November 11, 2020

TO: Ocean Protection Council - Prop. 68 Coastal Resilience Grant Program  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Heron's Head Shoreline Resilience Project, Port of San Francisco

I am writing in support of the Port of San Francisco's proposal to the Coastal Resilience Grant Program for the Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience Project. The Port's proposed shoreline resilience project will protect and enhance ecosystem function, promote biodiversity, and provide a nature-based solution for sea level rise adaptation that will ensure that this valuable natural resource is available for public access, recreation, and education for decades to come.

One component of the Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience Project will be to construct innovative natural shoreline resilience features, including a coarse gravel beach along the eroding edges of Heron's Head marsh, a regionally significant marsh providing desperately needed habitat to critical species in the central Bay. SFEI enthusiastically supports such pilot nature-based adaptation projects that meet multiple resilience goals because they provide valuable data that can help improve the efficacy of future projects. Recent work released by SFEI analyzed the dynamics of reference estuarine beaches, including information about the importance of historical Bay beaches and an investigation of change over time (SFEI & Baye, 2020), as well as implications for coarse beach design and construction. This report has been valuable in the development of the coarse beach pilot project at Heron's Head and we welcome the chance to use our research to support this project. Furthermore, SFEI was pleased to co-host a recent 'Bay Beaches Forum' with the Coastal Conservancy in May 2020. The aim of the workshop was to share information and lessons learned about ongoing coarse beach projects across the San Francisco Bay, and the Heron's Head project was a key example. We look forward to continued exchange of ideas from pilot projects such as this one to benefit adaptation across the Bay.

The Heron's Head project will restore a historical shoreline habitat type, demonstrate a nature-based adaptation strategy for shoreline resilience, and maintain and enhance healthy and productive coastal ecosystems in a place where communities can participate in construction, monitoring and maintenance.

SFEI strongly endorses this application, which will implement locally appropriate nature-based shoreline adaptation strategies that are suggested in the San Francisco Bay Shoreline Adaptation Atlas (SFEI & SPUR, 2019). We share the Ocean Protection Council's goals of restoring and enhancing coastal ecosystems in the face of climate change, and are committed to seeing these innovative restoration and resilience projects successfully and efficiently implemented.

Please feel free to contact Julie Beagle ([julieb@sfei.org](mailto:julieb@sfei.org)) or Warner Chabot ([warnerc@sfei.org](mailto:warnerc@sfei.org)) if you have further questions.

Sincerely,



Warner Chabot | Executive Director | San Francisco Estuary Institute-Aquatic Science Center



4200 Park Blvd #143  
Oakland, CA 94602  
415-699-3586

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Wildlife Conservation Board

November 11, 2020

Mr. Mark Gold, Executive Director  
Ocean Protection Council, California Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth street, suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience Project, Port of San Francisco**

Dear Dr. Gold,

On behalf of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture (SFBJV), I am writing in support of the grant "*Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience Project*" submitted by the Port of San Francisco.

The SFBJV is a partnership of non-governmental organizations, utilities, landowners, and non-voting agencies with a goal to protect, restore and enhance wetlands that provide benefits to birds, fish, and other wildlife in the San Francisco Bay Area and outer coast. The SFBJV is one of the twenty two federally-sponsored habitat Joint Ventures to implement the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and federal bird conservation plans. The SFBJV Implementation Plan, *Restoring the Estuary* targets nearly 200,000 acres of wetlands, subtidal habitats, seasonal wetlands, and riparian habitats for protection, restoration, or enhancement. The SFBJV Management Board consists of 26 agencies and private organizations whose members agree to promote the goals and objectives of SFBJV and who represent the diversity of wetland interests found in the San Francisco Bay region. The Port of SF has been an active partner within the SFBJV, participating in our Conservation Delivery Committee.

The Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience Project will demonstrate use of nature-based shoreline protection and adaptation that enhances habitat value, promotes biodiversity, and protects a valuable natural resource as well as public access, recreation, and educational resources. Construction of the proposed coarse beach shoreline at Heron's Head Park will protect the adjacent tidal salt marsh and restore tidal ponds that have been severely impacted by erosion. Restoring these ponds, with persistent muddy ponded areas at all tidal stages, will provide habitat for a range of shorebirds and wading birds, including long-legged shorebirds like black-necked stilts, marbled godwits, semipalmated plovers, and great blue herons.

The coarse material beach itself will create new habitat value and diversity. A similar coarse material beach constructed to protect tidal marsh in San Francisco Bay demonstrated that the beach attracts high intensity foraging in the cobble and gravel by sandpipers and oystercatchers. Willets foraging on adjacent

mudflats were observed using the beach berm as high tide roost habitat. The complex, heterogeneous cobble and gravel berm harbors food resources and provides substrate that has been observed to be used for nesting by oystercatchers. Overall, the succession from tidal salt marsh with open tidal inlets, to tidal ponds behind the beach at this reference site was found to increase habitat diversity and use by avian wildlife. The Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience Project is expected to provide similar benefits.

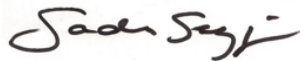
The oyster reef elements of the Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience Project will improve subtidal habitat by providing shelter for juvenile fish and other aquatic organisms and substrate for native Olympia oysters, Pacific Herring spawn, and other epifauna that serve as a food sources for aquatic wildlife.

The Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience Project will also achieve one of the Joint Venture's priorities by beneficially reusing coarse beach material mined from the bay, which would otherwise be managed as waste, to enhance habitat and enable the tidal marsh to migrate upland with rising sea level

Restoration work at Heron's Head Park has been a priority for the SFBJV for many years and this new phase promises to continue a tradition of successful restoration at the site, providing critical wildlife habitat and helping the SFBJV meet its habitat and wildlife goals. This phase offers innovative and ecologically-based solutions that will improve the health of these shoreline habitats and increase resiliency to climate impacts.

In recognition of the ecological benefits and the track record this partner in contributing to the goals of the SFBJV partnership, we encourage your strong consideration of this proposal. If you have any questions about the project or SFBJV support, please contact me at [sscoggin@sfbayjv.org](mailto:sscoggin@sfbayjv.org) or 415-699-3586.

Sincerely,



Sandra Scoggin  
SFBJV Coordinator  
415-699-3586  
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November 12, 2021

To: Ocean Protection Council - Prop. 68 Coastal Resilience Grant Program

**Re: Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience Project, Port of San Francisco**

Literacy for Environmental (LEJ) supports the Port of San Francisco on its proposal to the Coastal Resilience Grant Program for its Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience Project. This project offers the Port and its partners an uncommon opportunity to engage the surrounding disadvantaged community in project implementation, including training and employing minority youth.

(LEJ) has a long-standing relationship with the park and the Port of San Francisco. LEJ in partnership with the Port, participated in the original habitat restoration at Heron's Head; we also completed San Francisco's first LEED Platinum off-grid building in the form of the EcoCenter at Heron's Head Park.

Our organization is thrilled to support this resilience project at the park and will play an active role in connecting the Bayview Hunters Point community to the project. LEJ will support our youth team to provide multiple community-relevant presentations about the value of living shorelines and nature-based solutions at mitigating localized impacts of impeding sea level rise. Through hands-on training and field work, our workforce team of young adult interns will also support the native plant propagation, installation, and plant monitoring of the newly created living shoreline. This project aligns perfectly with LEJ's mission and our focused efforts to recruit, train, mentor and support career pathways in the green collar field for local youth of color. Project's like this create a tangible way for local youth to be exposed to emerging and relevant "green" career pathways, increasing representation by People of Color as future leaders in the fields of conservation management, outdoor recreation and environmental advocacy.

LEJ expects that the Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience Project will not only safely guard the incredible wetlands and park infrastructure at Heron's Head Park, but will also help to solidify the next generation of urban park stewards and environmental leaders that our community and field desperately need. With this we strongly support the Port of SF's **Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience** project.

Yours in environmental justice and sustainability,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrick Rump".

Patrick Rump  
Executive Director

/ebf



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November 12, 2020

Ocean Protection Council  
Prop. 68 Coastal Resilience Grant Program

**Re: Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience Project, Port of San Francisco**

I am very pleased to write in support of the Port of San Francisco on its proposal to the Coastal Resilience Grant Program for the **Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience** project. Heron's Head Park is a shoreline gem, home to one of the few tidal marshes along San Francisco's edge and myriad dependent plants and animals. I have had academic interest in the site for years as it is host to a diverse plant community including a very small reintroduced population of the very rare California sea-blite. Heron's Head Park shoreline has also interested me due to its challenges, including invasion by the non-native Algerian sea lavender and its rapidly eroding shoreline. The Port's proposed shoreline resilience project will help to protect the shoreline where, otherwise, erosion will continue to cause habitat loss and eventually impact the Bay Trail and other public access. This project offers an opportunity to create a living shoreline that will improve ecological function, promote biodiversity, and provide a nature-based solution to shoreline protection and adaptation to sea level rise, notably in an area where this work could benefit a disadvantaged community.

With the Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience Project, the Port and its partners will also have the opportunity to enhance tidal marsh plant communities, including the endangered CA sea-blite. I and my lab members have successfully propagated sea-blite at the Estuary & Ocean Science (EOS) Center and have planted it at several San Francisco Bay sites; I would be pleased to continue this work with the Port and Literacy for Environmental Justice at Heron's Head. As the lead scientist on several living shorelines projects involving oyster reef restoration and coarse sediment placement around San Francisco Bay, I will also be happy to advise on the other shoreline enhancement portions of the project.

The Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience Project offers an opportunity to protect a valuable eroding tidal marsh in the face of sea level rise while providing a very visible example of innovative nature-based techniques that can serve as alternatives to typical grey infrastructure. Increased access for the local community is a huge plus of the project's location and proposed plans. The EOS Center strongly supports the proposed project and urges your consideration in funding it.



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Sincerely,

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*inspiring people to protect  
Bay Area birds since 1917*

To: Ocean Protection Council - Prop. 68 Coastal Resilience Grant Program  
[Prop68@resources.ca.gov](mailto:Prop68@resources.ca.gov)

12Nov2020

**Re: Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience Project, Port of San Francisco**

Golden Gate Audubon Society (GGAS) is pleased to write in support of the Port of San Francisco's proposal to the Coastal Resilience Grant Program for the **Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience** project. Heron's Head Park is home to valuable habitat and unusual access to San Francisco Bay in an increasingly dense urban environment. The Port's proposed shoreline resilience project will stabilize the shoreline, where erosion has severely impacted the wetlands, caused more habitat loss, and may eventually impact to the Bay Trail and public access areas. This project is an opportunity to create a living shoreline that will improve ecological function, promote biodiversity, and provide a nature-based solution that protects the shoreline and facilitates natural adaptation to sea level rise.

With the Shoreline Resilience Project, the Port and its partners have an uncommon opportunity to directly involve local youth and community members in restoration and stewardship at Heron's Head Park. Among GGAS's historic involvements since first approaching the Port of San Francisco about creating this park, we supported the field guide titled 100 Bird of Heron's Head, and the construction of the Eco-Center. GGAS volunteers lead free field trips to see birds at Heron's Head Park and partner on habitat restoration events. We recruit and co-lead groups in removing weeds, planting native plants, and removing trash from this site. GGAS has also participated in Science Saturday and Bay Splash events at Heron's Head Park providing educational outreach about the birds that depend on this park.

Because of its small size and urban location, Heron's Head Park offers a unique opportunity for environmental study and public engagement. GGAS volunteers participate in community science with the annual Christmas Bird Count and a spring breeding bird or waterfront bird census. These documented the presence of breeding endangered California Clapper Rails (now Ridgway's Rails) at Heron's Head Park! Another state endemic and species of special concern, the Bryant's Savannah Sparrow, also breeds at this site. Our volunteers monitor breeding, feeding, and roosting Black Oystercatchers – species that depends on this rocky shoreline. Each year, people connect with nature through observing the seasonal movements of birds: birds migrating north in the spring, breeding birds in the late spring and summer, birds migrating south in the fall, and abundant shorebirds and ducks that over winter at Heron's Head Park.

The Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience Project will serve as a publicly accessible example of how natural systems best protect our shorelines and increase resilience from sea level rise while creating an opportunity to study how this approach can also promote biodiversity. This Project will support habitat for birds and enable people to connect with birds and our environment. As we face the challenges of storm surge and sea level rise from climate change, we strongly support your proposal.

Sincerely,

Pam Young, Executive Director

**GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY**

2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702

phone 510.843.2222 web [www.goldengateaudubon.org](http://www.goldengateaudubon.org) email [ggas@goldengateaudubon.org](mailto:ggas@goldengateaudubon.org)





November 11, 2020

To: Ocean Protection Council - Proposition 68 Coastal Resilience Grant Program  
Re: Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience Project, Port of San Francisco

The India Basin Neighborhood Association is pleased to provide this letter in support of the Port of San Francisco's proposal to the Proposition 68 Coastal Resilience Grant Program for the Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience project.

Advocating for our community since 1994, the India Basin Neighborhood Association (IBNA) is a membership organization of residents, local business owners and workers, and friends of the community. The IBNA mission is to "preserve the maritime history, natural beauty, diverse character and unique ambiance of the vibrant mixed-use neighborhood of India Basin through community organizing."

IBNA is managed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors elected by members. Among our advocacy victories are helping close the PG&E Hunters Point Power Plant, gaining landmark status for the Shipwright's Cottage, and the acquisition of the historic boat yard at 900 Innes as public open space. We supported the original development of Heron's Head Park as well as the building of the Eco Center at Heron's Head Park.

We appreciate the Port's proposal to improve ecological function and promote biodiversity, and especially how it provides a nature-based solution to shoreline protection that will ensure that this valuable natural resource is available for public access, recreation, and education for decades to come.

Today our community is undergoing rapid change. At one side of India Basin, people have moved into 300 new homes on the Shipyard development in the last five years, with hundreds more to come. At the other side of our neighborhood, the Hunters View development has been remodeled and will expand from 250 units to over 500 units in the next few years. In the middle, the recently approved India Basin project at 700 Innes calls for nearly 1,500 new homes and business spaces opening in the next decade. All of these developments include a range of housing sizes and affordability levels. Opportunities such as the Port's Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience Project, where people in our community can come together, learn together, and experience the Bay in all of its glory is most welcome.

We look forward to working with the Port of San Francisco in its efforts to protect our India Basin shoreline at Heron's Head Park.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jill Fox, Chair