



November 5, 2020

California Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for UC Santa Cruz proposal to quantify the social and economic benefits of nature-based adaptation solutions to protect San Mateo County from storms and sea level rise

On behalf of the San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District, I am writing to support a proposal by the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) for a grant from the Ocean Protection Council's Coastal Resilience program funded by Proposition 68. UCSC's proposed project would be part of an ongoing collaboration of non-profit organizations, insurers, and federal, state and local agencies, including this District, aimed at developing insurance and other creative financing tools to protect communities and San Francisco Bay's coastal wetlands.

The shoreline of San Mateo County, which is the subject of UCSC's proposed research, has more assets at risk from sea level rise than any other county in California. That is why our government agency was formed as of January 1st of this year to work across jurisdictional boundaries to secure and leverage public and private resources for long-term resilience. Our focus is to plan and build solutions to the climate change impacts of sea level rise, flooding, and coastal erosion, and to enhance the environment and recreational opportunities.

In order for the District to accomplish our objectives, we must better understand the role local marshes play in reducing flooding behind them. This project of UCSC and others will fill this critical knowledge gap, and then the District will use this information as it plans, finances, and implements shoreline projects.

Thank you for supporting the development of resilient coastal communities, and for considering the proposal by UC Santa Cruz. Please let me know if you have any questions about the proposed project or how its products would be used by the District to protect our region.

Sincerely,

Len Materman
Chief Executive Officer



October 28, 2020

Board of Directors

Gary Kremen

*Board Chair
Santa Clara Valley Water
District Board of Directors*

Ruben Abrica

*Board Vice-Chair
City of East Palo Alto
City Council Member*

Alison Cormack

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City of Palo Alto
City Council Member*

Drew Combs

*Board Member
City of Menlo Park
City Council Member*

Dave Pine

*Board Member
County of San Mateo
Flood Protection and Sea
Level Rise Resiliency
Agency*

Margaret Bruce

Executive Director

Ocean Protection Council

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311

Sacramento, CA 95814 Email: prop68@resources.ca.gov

Re: Proposition 68 Coastal Resilience Proposal from the University of California-Santa Cruz

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA), I am writing in support of the University of California-Santa Cruz (UCSC's) proposal for the Ocean Protection Councils (OPC's) Proposition 68's Coastal Resilience Solicitation. As a founding member of the Protecting the Bay working group, we have worked alongside The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the California Department of Insurance and other state and local leaders to explore opportunities for insurance and other creative financing to protect communities while driving greater investment in the San Francisco Bay's coastal wetlands in the face of climate change. We were inspired by the creation of a new insurance product for the Yucatan's coral reef and would like to see a similar creative approach taken for salt marsh protection and restoration in the Bay.

The SFCJPA was formed in 1999 to coordinate across multiple jurisdictions to address the risk of flooding along San Francisquito Creek. The work of the SFCJPA has expanded to include flood risk mitigation work supporting the communities of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park, who are vulnerable to both fluvial flooding and sea level rise and storm flooding from the Bay. Restoration of salt marshes can provide critical protection against storm surge and king tides for these vulnerable communities and is an important element of the SFCJPA's flood risk mitigation strategy.

Critical data gaps exist regarding the extent to which the San Francisco Bay's salt marshes reduce flooding and associated damages along San Mateo County's shoreline, the location the Protecting the Bay working group chose as a test bed. UCSC and The US Geological Survey (USGS) have been essential research partners to fill these data gaps and further the working group's efforts. Having rigorously quantified the flood risk reduction value of salt marshes, the working group can then evaluate the options for funding these benefits, including prioritizing public investments



SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

in areas that reduce flood risk and designing an insurance product or other innovative mechanism.

If awarded, the Proposition 68 Coastal Resilience grant would enable UCSC, USGS, TNC and its partners to carry forward this promising work, in collaboration with local agencies and the insurance industry. This research would lay the foundation for funding nature-based solutions to climate-exacerbated flooding in the San Francisco Bay and beyond.

We appreciate your interest in UCSC's proposal and ask that OPC strongly consider funding this proposal.

Margaret Bruce
Executive Director
San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

Board of Directors

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*Board Chair
Santa Clara Valley Water
District Board of Directors*

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Dave Pine

*Board Member
County of San Mateo
Flood Protection and Sea
Level Rise Resiliency
Agency*

Margaret Bruce

Executive Director



October 28, 2020

California Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
Email: prop68@resources.ca.gov

Re: Proposition 68 Coastal Resilience Grants – Support for UC, Santa Cruz proposal

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the State Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Area Program, I am writing in support of the University of California, Santa Cruz's (UCSC's) proposal to the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) in response to its Proposition 68 Coastal Resilience Solicitation.

As we know, there is maximum urgency to address the threat that climate change poses to communities. State policy prioritizes natural and green infrastructure solutions (*Executive Order B-30-15*), and the *Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Science Update 2015* recommends accelerating restoration of complete baylands ecosystems by 2030 in order for them to become established in time to keep pace with sea-level rise.

The Coastal Conservancy is heavily invested in leading and supporting collaborative regional restoration efforts that seek to integrate subtidal to upland solutions, and completing and sustaining these projects will require expanded social and/or financial investment from all sectors. We therefore encourage exploration of opportunities for creative financing to protect assets and enhance natural infrastructure in the region.

UCSC, the US Geological Survey, and The Nature Conservancy (in coordination with a larger working group) are pioneering assessment of the extent to which the region's salt marshes reduce flooding and associated damages along San Mateo County's shoreline (a test site at which critical data gaps remain). Upon rigorously quantifying the flood risk reduction value of salt marshes, the partners can then move forward with design of an insurance product or other innovative mechanism to fund these benefits.

The OPC's Proposition 68 Coastal Resilience grant would enable carrying forward this promising and timely work, and we strongly support funding their application. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Moira McEnespy".

Moira McEnespy
Regional Manager

1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, California 94612-1401
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DAVE PINE
Supervisor, First District
San Mateo County

November 6, 2020

California Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
Email: prop68@resources.ca.gov

Re: Proposition 68 Coastal Resilience Proposal from the University of California-Santa Cruz

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of the University of California-Santa Cruz's (UCSC) application for the Ocean Protection Councils' (OPC) Proposition 68 Coastal Resilience grant program. Communities and natural assets along San Francisco Bay are increasingly threatened by rising seas and storm events, but there are also many opportunities to reestablish new, and expand existing, tidal wetlands to defend against these threats while improving the health of the Bay and Bay access for the public.

This year the 20 cities and the County of San Mateo launched a new Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District (District) to address flooding, sea level rise and coastal erosion across the County as a whole. As a founding member of the Protecting the Bay working group, the District has worked alongside The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the California Department of Insurance and other state and local stakeholders to explore opportunities for insurance and other creative financing to protect communities while driving greater investment in the San Francisco Bay's coastal wetlands in the face of climate change.

Critical data gaps exist regarding the extent to which the San Francisco Bay's salt marshes reduce flooding and associated damage along San Mateo County's shoreline. In order to better understand the benefits of salt marshes, the Protecting the Bay working group selected the San Mateo County Bay shoreline as a test bed. UCSC and The US Geological Survey (USGS) have been essential research partners in furthering the working group's efforts.

If awarded, the Proposition 68 Coastal Resilience grant would enable UCSC, USGS, TNC and its partners to carry forward this promising work, in collaboration with the District and other local agencies and the insurance industry. This research would lay the foundation for funding nature-based solutions to climate-exacerbated flooding in the San Francisco Bay and beyond.

This critical work is of great importance to the District and I hope that you will look favorably on UCSC's application for Proposition 68 funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Pine", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dave Pine
San Mateo County Supervisor, District 1



November 1, 2020

California Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
Email: prop68@resources.ca.gov

Re: Proposition 68 Coastal Resilience Proposal from the University of California-Santa Cruz

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the University of California-Santa Cruz (UCSC's) proposal for the Ocean Protection Councils (OPC's) Proposition 68's Coastal Resilience Solicitation. This project has significant applications for understanding risk management and mitigation. Projects that lower overall risk and exposure to the perils of high rainfall, sea-level rise, and flood are important for promoting the availability and affordability of insurance. The Department of Insurance recognizes the benefits of understanding the value of risk reduction for low-lying communities in the face of climate risk. Identifying knowledge gaps and pursuing research projects are important components to encourage risk reduction and innovative approaches to reducing climate impacts. Therefore, I ask that you strongly consider selecting this proposal for funding.

As a founding member of the Protecting the Bay working group, we have worked alongside The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and other state and local leaders to explore opportunities for insurance and other creative financing to protect communities while driving greater investment in the San Francisco Bay's coastal wetlands in the face of climate change. We were inspired by the creation of [a new insurance product for the Yucatan's coral reef](#) and research linking wetlands with risk reduction. We would like to see similar creative approaches taken for salt marsh protection and restoration in the bays and along shorelines in California. San Francisco Bay provides an important opportunity, given its long shoreline and dense population.

Understanding the capacity of salt marshes for flood risk reduction is important for long-term risk mitigation to climate impacts. Specifically, critical data gaps exist regarding the extent to which the San Francisco Bay's salt marshes reduce flooding and associated damages along San Mateo County's shoreline, the location the Protecting the Bay working group chose as a test bed. UCSC and The US Geological Survey (USGS) have been essential research partners to fill these data gaps and further the working group's efforts. Having rigorously quantified the flood risk reduction value of salt marshes, the working group can then evaluate the options for funding these benefits, including

Recipient Name or Short Subject

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Date

prioritizing public investments in areas that reduce flood risk and designing an insurance product or other innovative mechanism.

If awarded, the Proposition 68 Coastal Resilience grant would enable UCSC, USGS, TNC and its partners to carry forward this promising work, in collaboration with local agencies and the insurance industry. This research would and lay the foundation for funding nature-based solutions to climate-exacerbated flooding in the San Francisco Bay and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration and I am happy to receive any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Peterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Peterson" clearly distinguishable.

Michael Peterson
Deputy Commissioner on Climate and Sustainability
California Department of Insurance