



June 24, 2021

Wade Crowfoot, Chair  
Ocean Protection Council  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Marin Audubon Society Application for Proposition 1 Environmental Justice Solicitation Grant

Dear Mr. Crowfoot and Council Members:

This letter acknowledges that the Marin Audubon Society has obtained Marin Community Foundation and Measure AA grants and is now applying for a Prop. 1 grant from the Ocean Protection Council to fund habitat restoration and sea level rise adaptation project on the Tiscornia Marsh located in San Rafael. The 20-acre tidal marsh is located north of Canal Street and east of the city-owned Albert J. Boro Community Center on the San Rafael Canal.

In October 2018, the San Rafael City Council adopted a resolution in support of further study of the nature-based conceptual design developed by Environmental Science Associates (ESA) on the 20-acre Marin Audubon property and the 4-acre City-owned diked marsh. The current design is very similar to the 2018 design. It includes restoration of Tiscornia Marsh, raising the shoreline levee and path and is consistent with policies and programs of San Rafael General Plan 2040 and would implement sea level rise adaptation supported by the Climate Change Action Plan. A Focused EIR is being prepared on the project, after which the City will take formal action in their review of the final plan.

This letter conveys the City of San Rafael's support for further review and refinement through additional technical reports and through regulatory agency permit review that will be funded by an Ocean Protection Council's grant to the Marin Audubon Society. We feel this project would be a great benefit to the City, the Canal Community and the Bay.

Should you have any questions about this endorsement, please feel free to contact Theo Sanchez, Associate Civil Engineer for the City's Public Works Department at [Theo.Sanchez@CityofSanRafael.org](mailto:Theo.Sanchez@CityofSanRafael.org) or call at (415) 725-1003.

Sincerely

  
Kate Colin  
Mayor



## MULTICULTURAL CENTER <sub>OF</sub> MARIN

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

Re: Tiscornia Marsh Application for Prop I Grant Program Environmental Justice solicitation

Dear Ocean Protection Council,

I'm writing to convey the strong support of the Multicultural Center of Marin (MCM) for the Marin Audubon Society's application to the Ocean Protection Council Disadvantaged Communities grant for the Tiscornia Marsh project. MCM looks forward to continuing and expanding our community work through this OPC grant.

The Multicultural Center of Marin has partnered with Marin Audubon on the Tiscornia Marsh Restoration and Sea Level Rise Adaptation project since 2016 through funding from grants from the Marin Community Foundation and the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority.

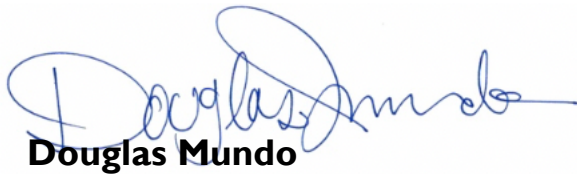
The Tiscornia project has been developing plans to restore tidal marsh, improve the adjacent levee and install a public access path that will have many benefits for the Canal Community. The benefits include improving flood protection for the community, upgrading public access, educating and involving community members about the project, about the risks of sea level rise and flooding and how the project will address these risks.

As part of the Tiscornia project, the Multicultural Center of Marin has organized and conducted public meetings, engaged youth to prepare videos and radio segments about sea level rise and the project, developed a project website, radio programs that are presented on local radio stations and social media. In addition, we have community forums, walking tours, and attending planning meetings with the City Council of San Rafael and other partners.

Future work we are planning includes engaging members of the Canal community, and the Canal Community Resilience Council in forming a “Resilience Team”.

After receiving training, this group will be employed, and offered stipends, to do outreach and education with a focus on resilience around the effects of climate change induced sea level rise and the resulting flooding in their neighborhood. Information and updates on the Tiscornia Marsh Project and natural restoration and other adaptation and mitigation strategies will be presented to other community members via community forums, door to door canvassing and tabling at frequented locations.

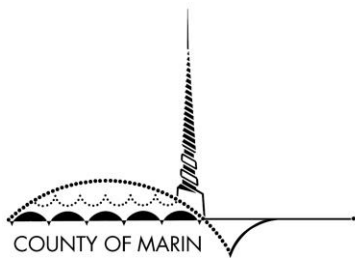
MCM will also incorporate other media outlets that are available to us, such as radio programs in English, Spanish and Vietnamese, video and audio public service announcements (PSA’s), the MCM and TMP websites and social media to further outreach and engagement efforts.



**Douglas Mundo**

Executive Director

Multicultural Center of Marin



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

Dear Ocean Protection Council,

I write in support of the Tiscornia Marsh Restoration and Sea Level Rise Adaptation Project proposed by the Marin Audubon Society in San Rafael's Canal neighborhood. As the Supervisor of the Canal community, I am excited that this project will bring a broad range of benefits, including flood protection, habitat restoration, public access, and engagement with our largest underserved community in Marin County.

The project addresses urgent community and regional issues. It will raise and enhance a currently low-elevation levee with ecotone slope, breach an existing levee to open diked marsh to tidal action and restore eroded tidal marsh using dredge sediments. These project components will expand protection from sea level rise, enhance tidal marsh habitat and improve public access to the bay habitats by constructing a segment of the Bay Trail that will connect to the existing Bay Trail. Additionally, this project has innovative components of regionwide significance including the use of dredge sediments for restoring marsh in tidal marsh and the use of nature-based adaptations such as coarse beach structure to stabilize the tidal marsh.

The Tiscornia Project's partnership with the Multicultural Center of Marin (MCM) will further engage the community and bring increased direct benefits. MCM will work to empower residents of the Canal Area to become involved, through knowledge and training, with the project, threats of sea level rise and climate change.

The Tiscornia Project has my enthusiastic support. I hope the Ocean Protection Council will approve this grant to fund the next required steps, of final design and permitting, to proceed for this highly beneficial project.

Sincerely,

Dennis Rodoni, District 4  
Marin County Board of Supervisors



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Quality, Excellence, Innovation

Rosemarie R. Gaglione  
DIRECTOR

June 18, 2021

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To the Ocean Protection Council,

Marin County Dept. of Public Works enthusiastically supports Marin Audubon's Tiscornia Marsh project proposal for Ocean Protection Council funds. As project manager of the Marin sea level rise planning for the bay shoreline, I feel this project exemplifies the adaptation work we need to respond to the threats of sea level rise outlined in the County's 2017 BayWAVE Vulnerability Assessment. Additionally, the commitment to our local communities through a focus on equity, access, public safety, and habitat restoration is critical to physically adapt our shorelines and engage communities with responses to risk and preparedness.

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Building on outcomes from two prior grants, the project will complete final design and permitting preparing the project for construction. The tidal marsh project will expand and restore up to six acres of wetlands with beneficially reused sediment. A new setback levee will allow a marginal diked area to be restored to tidal action. The project abuts Pickleweed Park, a well-loved community resource for the Canal neighborhood and work continues a partnership with Multicultural Center of Marin, a local community organization to complete public outreach. This project will be highly visible and demonstrate adaptation for the vulnerable shoreline of San Rafael. Two-thousand feet of existing levee will be improved, adding to the 350-mile San Francisco Bay Trail and will incorporate an ecotone slope that improves habitat for the bay. A coarse beach and living seawall will protect against active erosion from natural wind and waves and boat wakes. Opportunities to build projects like this will elevate the Canal and San Rafael as examples of adaptation that incorporates future risk and our frontline communities.

Marin County has been a partner with Marin Audubon and the City of San Rafael and will continue to support this important work. We encourage you to fund the proposal for Tiscornia.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Choo  
Principal Planner

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(707) 576-2631

June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Wade Crowfoot, Chair  
Ocean Protection Council  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Marin Audubon Society Application for Proposition 1 Environmental Justice Solicitation Grant

Dear Secretary Crowfoot and Council Members:

I am writing to convey my support for Marin Audubon Society's grant to fund final design and permitting for the Tiscornia Marsh Restoration and Sea Level Rise Project on the San Rafael Canal. This project will greatly benefit both our community and the San Francisco Bay ecosystem.

The project implements recommendations of the San Francisco Estuary Institute's *Sediment for Survival: A Strategy for the Resilience of Bay Wetlands in the Lower San Francisco Bay Estuary*. This scientific study emphasizes the critical need for sediments to restore tidal marshes to protect shorelines in the face of sea level rise. Aligning with the study, the project will use sediment dredged from the San Rafael Canal or nearby areas. The restored marsh will protect the shoreline of the Canal community and San Rafael by raising parts of the existing levee. The improved levee will also accommodate a new section to the Bay Trail Project, adding a recreational benefit for the local community. Additionally, the restored marsh will provide a habitat for endangered wildlife such as the Ridgeway's Rail, native plants, and a natural solution to improving the Bay's water quality.

The Marin Audubon Society and the Multicultural Center of Marin have also collaborated to educate Canal residents with information about the project and sea level rise. This endeavor will also provide residents with opportunities for on-the-ground training when the construction phase begins.

The North Bay is already seeing the effects of sea level rise, and it is important we do what we can to protect homes, residents, and natural wildlife. This project will serve as a benchmark for future marsh restoration efforts in other Bay Area communities facing similar challenges.

I urge the Council to approve funding for this important project in my district. Should you have any questions, please contact my office at (415) 479-4920. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Levine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marc" and last name "Levine" clearly distinguishable.

MARC LEVINE  
ML:st



June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

Wade Crowfoot, Chairman  
Ocean Protection Council  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Marin Audubon Society's Application for Proposition 1 Environmental Justice Grant for the Tiscornia Project

Dear Chairman Crowfoot and Councilmembers:

I would like to convey my support for Marin Audubon Society's application for the Tiscornia Marsh Tidal Marsh Restoration and Sea Level Rise Adaptation Project. The grant will advance the project to construction by funding completion of the final project design and permitting by the many state and federal agencies that regulate activities in San Francisco Bay.

It is rare that a project will provide both environmental enhancements and increase public safety. The restoration of both tidal and diked marsh, combined with levee improvements and incorporating an ecotone slope, will not only significantly improve the habitat and water quality of the San Rafael Canal and Bay, it will improve protection of the Canal community from tidal flooding, a threat that is increasing with sea level rise. The project will also empower residents through learning experiences and community outreach, enhance public access by extending the Bay Trail, and reuse material dredged from nearby to restore marsh, a practice that has gathered local support.

This project will create lasting benefits for both the community and the wildlife that occupy the San Rafael Canal area and beyond. I urge you to give this grant application your full consideration. If our office can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call us at 916-651-4002.

Warmest regards,

MIKE MCGUIRE  
Senator



JARED HUFFMAN

2ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0502**

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June 28, 2021

Wade Crowfoot, Chair  
Ocean Protection Council  
1419 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95816

Dear Chairman Crowfoot:

I write to support the application by the Marin Audubon Society for a Proposition 1 Environmental Justice grant for the Tiscornia Marsh Restoration and Sea Level Rise Adaptation project. This timely project will have many benefits for the Canal Community, Marin County's largest underserved community, and for the ecosystem of San Francisco Bay.

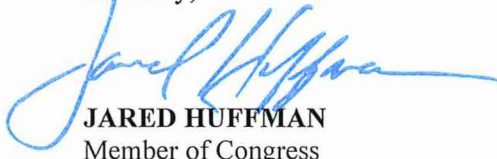
If funded, residents of the Canal Community will directly benefit from increased flood protection provided by an improved levee, restored tidal and diked marsh, and public access. Residents would also benefit from the extensive public engagement that will be conducted by the Multicultural Center of Marin, a local nonprofit which "works with diverse immigrant and underserved communities of Marin County in advancing their social, cultural, and economic well-being through self-empowerment programs that encourage participation in the broader civic life of U.S. society." Selected community members will be trained to canvas the neighborhood to engage the residents in understanding the risks of sea level rise and the need to adapt the shoreline to protect the community.

One of my primary interests in this project is the manner the project proposes to achieve environmental justice objectives. I have been working to secure funding for the U.S. Corp of Engineers to dredge the San Rafael Canal where this project is located. This plan utilizes beneficial reuse of dredged sediments from a source adjacent to the Tiscornia site to restore tidal marsh which will avoid transporting materials from distant restoration sites.

Another innovative feature of the proposed project is the technique that will be used to restore tidal marsh in the Bay. Most marsh restorations use dredge materials behind dikes. This project will demonstrate the effectiveness of nature-based structures, coarse beach structures and sea walls, to contain sediments inside the diked area.

This is an essential project that will benefit the underserved community in San Rafael's Canal neighborhood as well as neighboring San Francisco habitats while informing the overall efforts to protect San Francisco Bay resources. I hope you will give Marin Audubon Society's timely application your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



**JARED HUFFMAN**  
Member of Congress

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