



Marin Audubon Society *Box 599* *Mill Valley, California 94942-0599*

January 15, 2002

Dan Ray
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: UPDATE ON THE APPLICATION FOR BAHIA ACQUISITION AND
 RESTORATION PROJECT

Dear Dan,

Since submitting our application for funding for Bahia, we have made significant progress toward acquiring Bahia. This progress is summarized below:

On November 13, 2001, Marin Audubon Society entered into a purchase agreement with the owner of the property. This agreement calls for closing on May 1, 2001, but can be extended until August 31 provided certain conditions are met.

Our funding status is as follows:

- On December 6, 2001, the Marin County Board of Supervisors approved a contribution of \$1 million toward the acquisition of Bahia.
- Our request for \$ 1 million from the City of Novato over the next 10 years is scheduled for the City Council's agenda January 22.
- A grant of \$5.75 million is scheduled for the January 24 Board meeting of the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC).
- We will be on the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) May agenda for a grant of \$4.5 million. We had hoped to go the WCB agenda in February, but the necessary review of the appraisal and other paper work is not completed in time.
- We are considering selling several small parcels (under 10 acres) - the property consists of eleven parcels) because the habitat value has been largely destroyed by grading and no agency wants to own them. Funds from the sale can be used to secure a loan (see below).
- In November and December we submitted applications to the Caltrans Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Grant Program, to the Marin Community Foundation and several other foundations. We expect to

The appraisal has been reviewed by the Coastal Conservancy and WCB, and is now being finalized. The appraised value of the property is \$18 million, \$300,000 less than the cost identified in our purchase agreement. The property owner has agreed to the reduced price.

We are working with the State Revolving Fund a loan from which will enable us to make-up any funding shortfall that we may have at closing time.



A Chapter of National Audubon Society



THE CITY OF
NOVATO
CALIFORNIA

900 Sherman Avenue
Novato, CA 94945
415/897-4311
FAX 415/897-4354
www.ci.novato.ca.us

Mayor
John Mann
Mayor Pro Tem
Michael Di Giorgio
Councilmembers
Carole Dillon-Knutson
Pat Eklund
Bernard H. Meyers

City Manager
Roderick J. Wood

May 3, 2002

Board of Directors
CalFed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 115
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Board of Directors:


I urge your support for grants totaling \$3.45 million that you are to consider allocating to the Marin Audubon Society for the Bahia acquisition.

The Marin Audubon Society's proposed acquisition of the Bahia forest and wetlands is an important conservation effort. Purchase of the site would ensure protection for a diverse array of habitat types, including salt marsh, grasslands and 214 acres of blue oak woodland. Tidal marsh restoration would expand endangered species habitat that has been greatly diminished in recent years. Only a few examples of oak woodland/salt marsh interface remain around the Bay. The Bahia site is particularly attractive because it is so accessible to the public and is a popular location for passive impact uses such as hiking and horseback riding.

This letter is submitted to encourage the CalFed Board to grant funds to acquire the Bahia property. If the acquisition of this property by the Audubon Society does not occur, the City would be legally compelled to review future development applications, as we do all development proposals, in light of being consistent with the City's General Plan, zoning and other applicable law.

We consider this acquisition extremely worthwhile and strongly urge your financial support. Anything more we can do to assist in helping you reach a positive decision, we are ready to help. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


John Mann
Mayor
Mjplm
CALFED2

Board of Directors
CalFed Bay-Delta Program
Page 2
May 3, 2002

cc: Dan Ray, Environmental Scientist, CalFed Bay-Delta Program
Jennifer Krebs, Senior Environmental Planner, ABAG
Susan Ristow, Marin Audubon Society
Barbara Salzman, Marin Audubon Society
Novato City Council
Supervisor Cynthia Murray

Van...



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Bernard H Meyers

City Manager
Roderick J. Wood

May 1, 2002

Board of Directors
CalFed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 115
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Board:

The City of Novato wholeheartedly supports the Grant requested by the Marin Audubon Society of \$3,345,000 for the purchase and ultimate restoration of the Bahia wetlands and uplands. The Bahia property is located at a critical point at the mouth of the Petaluma River and adjacent to other State and Federal lands that are or will become part of the greater North Bay Historic Baylands and Habitat Restoration Program. This is a vital program for the restoration and protection of critical endangered species habitat and restoration of the Pacific Migratory Flyway. This property will provide for a greater diversity of habitat including wetlands, uplands and oak woodlands essential to the overall health and sustainability of the habitat. It will also provide appropriate public access to help educate and inform the public in the importance of these habitat and restoration programs.

If the funds are provided for the acquisition of the property, the State Department of Fish and Game and the Marin County Open Space District have agreed to pursue and provide the restoration and ongoing management of the property. This is an important commitment to the success of the program and an assurance to the Agency that its funds will produce the desired and needed results for which the funds are intended. This investment by CalFed in this critical parcel of land will provide for the long term commitment to protecting and enhancing the environment for endangered and threatened species and for humans. The City of Novato and its citizens fully support this acquisition and Grant requested by the Marin Audubon Society and urges your approval.

Councilmember Bernie Meyers will be present at the Board meeting on this grant request to represent the City of Novato.

Respectfully,

Roderick J. Wood
City Manager

RJW:plm
CAL-FED LTR

Attachment: City of Novato Resolution #5-02

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVATO

RESOLUTION NO. 5-02

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ACQUISITION OF THE UNDEVELOPED PORTION OF THE BAHIA PROPERTY BY THE MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY AND OTHERS FOR PURPOSES OF CONSERVATION APN 143-150-01

WHEREAS, the undeveloped portion of the Bahia property includes approximately 654 acres within the City of Novato otherwise known as Assessor's Parcel Number 143-150-01; and

WHEREAS, approximately 260 acres are designated for Low Density Residential Development and approximately 394 acres are designated Conservation in the City of Novato's adopted General Plan Land Use Map; and

WHEREAS, the site encompasses a wooded hillside area designated as "Scenic Hills and Ridges" and a lowland area designated as "Scenic Conservation Area" in the City of Novato's General Plan EN-Map 3; and

WHEREAS, the lowland areas of the site are also designated as Historic Baylands in the General Plan EN-Map 2; and

WHEREAS, the owner of the property had submitted an application for a Master Plan to develop 424 homes on the property which was approved by the City Council on January 9th, 2001; and

WHEREAS, a referendum challenging said approval was placed on the ballot and a special election was held on May 22, 2001 which was approved by the voters of the City of Novato; and

WHEREAS, the Marin Audubon Society and others have negotiated an agreement with the property owner to purchase the property in order to preserve the entire site as open space in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, the Marin Audubon Society is applying for grants and donations and pursuing other sources of funding for the acquisition; and

WHEREAS, the Marin Audubon Society has asked the Council to lend its support to the Audubon Society's efforts to acquire the Bahia property; and

WHEREAS, if the Audubon Society is unsuccessful in acquiring the Bahia property pursuant to its agreement with the property owner, and should the property owner apply to the City for development entitlements for said property, the City shall process said application in accordance with all applicable laws and City policies, rules, ordinances and standards, and nothing in this resolution shall constitute or be deemed to constitute an expression, indication, intimation, decision

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or statement as to the nature of the action or position the City or the City Council may take with respect to said application or the development of the Bahia property. The City reiterates its position that private property may not be taken by the government without payment of just compensation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Novato does hereby support the Audubon's Society's acquisition of the undeveloped portion of the Bahia Property.

* * * * *

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the City Council of the City of Novato, Marin County, California, at a meeting hereof, held on the 22nd day of January, 2002, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Councilmembers Di Giorgio, Dillon-Knutson, Eklund, Meyers, Mani

NOES: Councilmembers None

ABSTAIN: Councilmembers None

ABSENT: Councilmembers None



City Clerk of the City of Novato



CYNTHIA MURRAY
SUPERVISOR

5th DISTRICT
MARIN COUNTY

April 30, 2001

Dan Ray
CALFED Bay Delta Program

By fax: 916-654-9780

Re: Bahia acquisition and restoration

Dear Mr. Ray:

I am writing as Supervisor of the District in which the Bahia acquisition and restoration project is located to express my enthusiastic support for the \$3,345,000 grant request to assist in the purchase and to fund planning and restoration of tidal marsh.

This project has broad support in Marin County. The Marin County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to contribute \$800,000 of our limited Open Space funds to assist with the acquisition. The project has also been endorsed by the City of Novato, and the voters of the city of Novato recently voted overwhelmingly to support protection of the property.

In addition to broad local political and popular support, the project is consistent with many regional plans. It is consistent with the San Francisco Estuary Project's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan because it will permanently protect and restore tidal marsh habitat and expand endangered species and fish habitat. The project also supports the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture's Strategic Plan and recommendations of the San Francisco Habitat Goals report.

In conclusion, I urge that CALFED's interim recommendation for full funding of the Bahia acquisition and restoration project, with no conditions, be finalized.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Murray, President
Marin County Board of Supervisors

ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

Representing City and County Governments of the San Francisco Bay Area



ABAG

May 9, 2002

VIA FACSIMILE & US MAIL

Dan Ray
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ray:

The ABAG-CALFED Task Force and the San Francisco Estuary Project are pleased to respond to your request for public input on reviewing the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program's Selection Panel recommendations. On May 1, 2002, we convened a joint workshop to give an opportunity for the diverse interests of the Bay Area to review the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program's Selection Panel recommendations. The goal of this workshop was to identify how those recommendations fit with the priorities identified in the San Francisco Estuary Project's Bay-Delta Environmental Report Card 1999-2001 and to identify any issues for CALFED relative to the recommendations. This letter summarizes the input received at our workshop on specific issues as well as larger CALFED implementation issues.

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) represents the nine counties and the many cities of the Bay Area. ABAG is interested in providing input as elements of the CALFED plan are implemented that affect the Bay Area. As such, ABAG established the ABAG CALFED Task Force, a consensus based forum that includes representatives of water districts, local government, and many of the stakeholder groups that have an interest in CALFED implementation.

The San Francisco Estuary Project is a cooperative federal-state partnership organized through the US Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program. The project brought together 100 private, government, and community interests to develop a consensus plan, the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), which was signed by the Governor and the US EPA Administrator in 1993. In August 2001, the S.F. Estuary Project brought together its stakeholders to revisit the top priorities for CCMP implementation and to review progress. The results of this are detailed in the Bay-Delta Environmental Report Card 1999-2001.

In recognition of the common interest between the SF Estuary Project and the ABAG CALFED Task Force in promoting environmental restoration, the Task Force Ecosystem Subcommittee and the S.F. Estuary Project Implementation Committee have been working cooperatively to address issues related to implementation of the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program in the Bay Area.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2050 Oakland, California 94604-2050 (510) 464-7900 Fax (510) 464-7970 info@abag.ca.gov
Location: Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter 101 Eighth Street Oakland, California 94607-4756



Roughly 15 people attended the May 1st Workshop. Two participants also submitted written comments. One member of the task force offered comments at the April 29, 2002 ABAG-CALFED task force meeting. General comments on CALFED implementation are as follows:

1. As the state and federal budgets become tighter, there is a need for much greater clarification about funding sources. In particular, support needs to be identified for programs at risk because of the amount of general fund dollars they receive or because of their lack of a federal authorization. There is a high level of concern about the potential lack of funds for previously approved projects. Failure to address this important issue creates the potential for the program to become "unbalanced" in its implementation.
2. The Science Program is critically important. One component of the Science Program that the workshop participants wanted to call particular attention to is the identification of indicators and performance measures. This is critically important to understanding how the projects, past and future, are performing, what progress is being made towards the goals, and where gaps exist. This issue is important in its own right but is also a key to obtaining future funding.
3. Using a list provided by CALFED of projects that listed any of the nine Bay Area counties, staff identified how those projects fit with the CCMP priorities. The results of that analysis are attached to this letter. Generally, the projects are consistent with the priorities of the CCMP.

Comments relative to specific recommendations of the Selection Panel are as follows:

Reference Number 90: Bahia Acquisition and Tidal Wetland Restoration: Local support for this project is extremely high. We appreciate the recommendation to fund this project 'as is' and urge the Selection Panel to not change this recommendation. The Bahia acquisition is consistent with multiple CCMP priorities and is consistent and complimentary to other local efforts. The City of Novato and Marin County support the project. The voters of Novato have previously voted 70% against proposals to develop the site and the City sees this as an excellent opportunity that may be lost if there is any delay. When combined with CALFED's previously funded commitment to the Hamilton project, it will provide significant public access. The project falls within the San Pablo Bay watershed and is consistent with the regional planning for that area.

Reference Numbers 17, 31, 90, 138, and 161: Support was expressed for these projects. Some are important components of regional efforts. Others, such as #161, are important because they help update local plans that are very out of date.

Reference Numbers 129, 130, 131, and 69: These projects to address methyl mercury should be funded. However, the Selection Panel should recommend inclusion of an outreach and education component so that the results of the research can be shared with the communities most at risk to exposure to methyl mercury through consumption of fish and wildlife. Research conducted by the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition has shown a very low level of awareness of this issue in the communities potentially impacted.

Reference Number 30: The Selection Panel correctly identified the need to address concerns of the City of Oakley with the Dutch Slough Project. However, the project should also address the water quality, operational, safety and security concerns of Contra Costa Water District so that it does not adversely impact the Contra Costa Canal that is immediately adjacent to the site. The project must also be designed and implemented so that it does not adversely impact water quality at Delta diversion sites that supply urban water districts.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this important decision. Environmental restoration of the Bay and Delta enjoys broad support in the Bay Area and we appreciate the commitment the CALFED program has shown to restoration projects in the nine Bay Area counties.

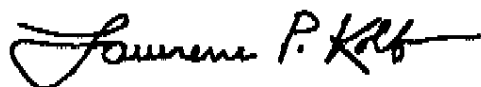
Sincerely,



Mike Rippey
Board of Supervisors, County of Napa
Chair, ABAG-CALFED Task Force



Greg Zlotnick
Board of Directors
Santa Clara Valley Water District
Vice-Chair, ABAG-CALFED Task Force



Lawrence P. Kolb
Chair Implementation Committee
San Francisco Estuary Project

/vm

Initial Panel Recommendations Compared to Bay-Delta Environmental Report Card September 2001 Revised Priorities

ERP Project Reference Number	CCMP Priorities							Promulgate baseline inflow standards for San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun Bays to protect and restore the Estuary ecosystem
	Expand, restore, and protect Bay and Delta wetlands	Reduce the impact of invasive species on the Estuary through prevention, control, eradication, and education	Protect and restore watersheds throughout the Estuary	Create incentives that encourage governments, landowners, and communities to protect and restore the Estuary	Minimize or eliminate pollution of the Estuary from all sources	Increase public awareness of the Estuary's natural resources and the impacts of human activity on them	Expand the regional monitoring program to address all key CCMP issues	
1			x					
17	x						x	
18								
22		x						
29	x							
30	x							
31	x							
53		x					x	
69								
71				x				
80	x							
90	x							
112								
113		x					x	
129							x	
130							x	
131							x	
138								x
150	x							
151								x



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Novato, CA 94949
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www.sfbjv.org

May 3, 2002

Mr. Dan Ray
Environmental Specialist
CALFED Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Bahia Acquisition and Restoration, Marin County

MANAGEMENT BOARD:

- Adopt A Watershed*
- Bay Area Audubon Council*
- Bay Area Open Space Council*
- Bay Planning Coalition*
- Citizens Committee to Complete the Knap*
- Ducks Unlimited*
- National Audubon Society*
- Point Reyes Bird Observatory*
- PG&E Corporation*
- Save San Francisco Bay Association*
- Sierra Club*
- The Bay Institute*
- The Conservation Fund*
- Urban Creeks Council*

Ex-Officio Members:

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

Dear Mr. Ray:

On behalf of the Management Board of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, I am writing to endorse the CALFED recommendation for funding of the Bahia Acquisition and Restoration in Marin County. Bahia has been unanimously endorsed by Joint Venture partners as a timely project toward achieving the Joint Venture's long term goal to preserve and restore the wetlands of the San Francisco Bay Estuary.

Bahia represents a unique mix of habitat types valuable to wildlife including wetlands as well and uplands. It is the only identified site in California where Blue Oak Forest directly adjoins wetlands; so protecting the site is valuable not only to waterfowl and shorebirds but also from an ecological perspective. The acquisition and restoration of Bahia will culminate a 20 year citizen effort to protect Bahia. After all the citizen action to protect the Bahia site from development, it is imperative that the property acquired now to meet the timeline for acquisition and not lose this valuable site.

The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture again commends the CALFED recommendation and urges you to fully fund the project as recommended.

Sincerely,

David Lewis
David Lewis *DL*
Chair



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RECEIVED

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Clean Estuary Partnership

Mr. Daniel Ray
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

May 10, 2002

Re: Comments on the 2002 CALFED ERP Proposal Package

Dear Mr. Ray,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Ecosystem Restoration Program's 2002 proposal package and review process. The Clean Estuary Partnership (CEP) is a collaborative effort between the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (SFRWQCB), the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA), and the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA). The mission of this partnership between local governments and the State's water quality control authority is to develop and implement plans to attain water quality standards. As such, we are very interested in CALFED projects that are directly or indirectly related to water quality standards.

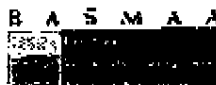
We appreciate the level of effort that went into the scientific and administrative review of the proposals. That review process has produced an outstanding package of projects that will likely lead to significant improvements in the San Francisco Bay ecosystem falling within the CALFED solution area. There are eighteen proposals in the package that have direct overlap with our plans to attain water quality standards (Table 1), and another eighteen that provide indirect benefits. We have some specific comments regarding the feasibility of proposed wetland restoration projects, the importance of results from previously funded CALFED projects, linkages between CALFED projects and water quality standards, the need to fund effective outreach for environmental justice, the need to address endocrine disrupting compounds, pesticide-related projects, the importance of exotic and invasive species proposals, and selenium-related projects.

Feasibility of Wetland Restoration Projects

The package includes four wetland restoration projects in the Bay Area, totaling approximately \$12 million (proposals #29, #17, #31, and #90). A key factor affecting the

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A collaborative effort of



90

[REDACTED]

feasibility of proposed wetland restorations is the adequacy of adaptive management plans with respect to monitoring for mercury methylation and bioaccumulation. Mercury in the aquatic ecosystem of San Francisco Bay is a limiting factor for the success of endangered wildlife, such as the California Clapper Rail. Wetlands are known to have the potential for enhanced mercury methylation due to their microbial communities, and enhanced methylmercury bioaccumulation due to their trophic complexity. Although the proposed restoration projects anticipate significant habitat benefits for the California Clapper Rail, there is no discussion within the proposals themselves as to how monitoring plans will quantify mercury risks vs. habitat restoration benefits.

The package overall very likely contains the scientific studies needed to provide such a risk assessment. For example, proposal #90 proposes to breach a levee between existing subsided Baylands and San Pablo Bay to restore tidal wetlands, but does not discuss what affect this could have on the net flux of methylmercury to San Pablo Bay. Proposal #129 contains much of the science needed to answer that question. *All San Francisco Bay-Delta mercury monitoring studies that are "considered as directed actions" (i.e., #234, #228, #196, and #129) should be implemented concurrently with wetland restoration projects.*

The proposed habitat restoration project at Big Break (proposal #29) will restore tidal marsh at the mouth of Marsh Creek. Previous studies have demonstrated that significant mercury loads are discharged from mining waste from the inoperative Mt. Diablo mercury mine into Marsh Creek. One question that could be reasonably asked in a public process is whether it makes sense to restore a tidal marsh immediately downstream of an unremediated mercury mine. The Contra Costa Water District's water supply intakes are also near this project area. Since the quality of municipal intake water affects the quality of discharged municipal wastewater, there is additional concern about a restoration project that ignores a nearby documented mercury source. *The feasibility of proposal #29, with respect to water quality standards, would be greatly enhanced by a plan to reduce mercury loads discharged into Marsh Creek from the Mt. Diablo Mercury Mine.*

Important Remaining Products from Previously Funded CALFED Projects

The integrated mass balance assessment of mercury in the Bay Delta (#18) is an extension of a previously funded (1999-2001) CALFED mercury project, which has produced science information critical to mercury strategic planning in the San Francisco Bay region. The 1999-2001 CALFED mercury project included specific mercury source identification tasks that were to provide site maps, summaries of in-place mining waste, estimates of offsite transport, and estimates of remediation costs. In a December 20, 2000 comment letter regarding the proposed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for mercury in San Francisco Bay, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) expressed concern over the lack of quantitative information regarding plans to reduce

mercury loads from inoperative mines in the Central Valley. *The deliverables from the previously funded CALFED mercury project directly address load estimates and economic analyses needed to establish a TMDL for mercury. We look forward to reviewing them at the earliest possible opportunity.*

Previously and currently funded mercury source assessment work appears to be focused on the Sacramento River Basin, although the CALFED mercury project has also identified a mercury bioaccumulation gradient within the San Joaquin River Basin near Mud Slough. The New Idria Mercury Mine, the second largest historic producer of mercury in North America, drains into the Panoche Fan, which is episodically flushed into the San Joaquin River near Mud Slough. *Mercury source assessments should include known mining legacy sources within the San Joaquin River drainage.*

In addition to loads assessments, contract funds provided by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board have extended the CALFED Mercury Project into the entire San Francisco Bay estuary. The resulting analyses of methylmercury concentrations in sediments and in avian eggs are vital pieces of information for risk assessment and development of numeric targets. *The funding partnerships between the SFRWQCB and the CALFED Mercury Project team, as well as the team's accessibility and enthusiasm, have improved the quality of science used to support policy decisions in the San Francisco Bay Region; we thank all team members for their thoughtful comments and diligent efforts.*

Linkage to Water Quality Standards

The CEP's interest in attainment of water quality standards is shared by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the USEPA, which are both CALFED agencies. Our comments regarding mercury loads and methylation highlight the need to explain connections between CALFED-funded projects and water quality standards. *The mercury strategic planning workshop proposed by the CALFED Science program is an important forum for linking the mercury science funded by CALFED to impending regulatory actions, such as development of tissue-based water quality objectives for methylmercury and implementation of mercury TMDLs.*

The CALFED ERP has brought together some of the best scientific minds in the world to work on complex problems of mercury loading, cycling, and accumulation in the food web. Although the proposal package can't be expected to provide final answers to all adaptive management questions, it does represent a significant and well-planned investment of public resources in solutions to public problems. *It would be helpful to make sure that the USEPA and the SWRCB are fully briefed as to how the science produced relates to attainment of water quality standards and implementation of TMDLs. This includes discussion of how proposed wetland restorations will affect mercury*

bioaccumulation in the San Francisco Bay ecosystem, how CALFED projects have contributed to identification of controllable mercury loads, and how scientific information developed will affect adaptive management decisions regarding mercury.

Effective Outreach and Environmental Justice

Outreach to the public is an important part of the linkage between science and policy. Effective outreach is especially important to attain the environmental justice goal of providing people with equal opportunity for significant, meaningful engagement in public decisions affecting public health. Subsistence fishers are concerned about factors that affect concentrations of bioaccumulative pollutants and endocrine disrupting compounds (EDCs) in fish. But the CALFED ERP proposal package did not contain sufficient funding to help underserved communities understand the links between CALFED-funded projects and the beneficial use of fishing. *An additional directed action should be included in the annual work plan to fund a proposal connecting local stakeholder groups with scientists and policy makers who can help people consider the available science information and meaningfully participate in policy discussions related to CALFED-funded projects.*

Need to Address Endocrine Disrupting Compounds (EDCs)

Preliminary information from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service indicates that EDCs, such as certain chlorinated hydrocarbons, may also be limiting factors for the success of endangered wildlife. The 2002 proposal package does not contain any assessment of EDCs or their effects in the Bay-Delta. *Some assessment of EDC occurrence and effects should be considered as a directed action in your annual work plan in order to ensure that the beneficial uses of wildlife habitat and protection of rare and endangered species are restored and protected.*

Pesticide application and monitoring

The proposal to monitor pyrethroid pesticides (#242) will directly help in the characterization and assessment of water quality within the bay, delta, and tributaries. This is particularly important as the pesticide market is shifting toward these newer pesticides. Development of analytical test methods capable of detecting these pesticides at ecologically relevant levels will be essential for tracking their fate and effects in the ecosystem. *We fully support the goals and approach of proposal #242.*

The evaluation of alternative agricultural practices (#213) is an important piece of the economic analysis needed for implementation planning of an agricultural pesticide TMDL. It has the potential to provide useful information as to how conservation tillage and cover cropping can reduce sediment, nutrient, and pesticide loads. However, the

proposal does not indicate what pesticides will be evaluated, and none of the proposed sustainability indicators directly addresses water quality. *Task 1 of proposal #213 should strategically determine which pesticides would be of greatest concern for water quality and ensure that the study evaluates runoff of these pesticides. Task 2 should include attainment of water quality standards as an indicator.*

The proposal to control purple loosestrife (#22) has made a substantive case for the need to prevent the spread of this noxious weed. We support the use of integrated pest management, and would like to see that concept reinforced. Application of the herbicide Rodeo cannot be considered benign just because it's application will comply with the label. Compliance with pesticide-related laws and regulations does not, by itself, ensure that applications will not cause a violation of water quality standards. This is a concern to us because, with a 35 day half-life due to hydrolysis, glyphosate (the active ingredient of Rodeo) released into the aquatic ecosystem upstream can reach San Francisco Bay. The proposal mentions that an NPDES permit for application will be applied for "if necessary." Our understanding is that applications of aquatic herbicides require NPDES permits. The project could choose to operate pursuant to the Statewide NPDES general permit. That general permit contains specific monitoring requirements and requires Best Management Practices consistent with integrated pest management principles. *While proposal #22 contains reasonable funds for water quality monitoring, the feasibility of successfully implementing NPDES monitoring requirements for herbicide application would be enhanced by a clear statement as to beneficial uses potentially affected, levels of concern for glyphosate, and the analytical detection limits proposed.*

Exotic and Invasive Species

Introduction of exotic and invasive species is a critical problem threatening the beneficial uses of San Francisco Bay. Invasive species not only directly degrade habitat but also, as observed with the invasive Asian clam, *Corbicula fluminea*, can exacerbate bioaccumulation of toxic pollutants such as selenium. Given the current legislative restrictions on the direct regulation of ballast water discharge, the proposed outreach projects (#185, #215) are critical to effectively reduce introduction of invasive species. In conjunction with the anticipated SWRCB report to the legislature on best attainable technology, these projects constitute important steps towards eliminating vectors of invasive species. *We fully support the goals and approaches of proposal #185 and #215, and would like to see more projects of this kind funded.*

Management of Suisun Marsh

Suisun Marsh is on the California list of impaired waterbodies (the "303-d list") due to low dissolved oxygen concentrations. Low dissolved oxygen is also a concern for mercury methylation, which is mediated by anaerobic bacteria. Receiving water

monitoring in the Suisun Marsh region demonstrates a strong correlation between low dissolved oxygen and methylmercury concentrations. Because of the low dissolved oxygen conditions in Suisun marsh, and because the CALFED mercury project has identified enhanced bioaccumulation of mercury in avian eggs in the Suisun Bay region, we are very interested in projects related to Suisun Marsh.

The proposal to update individual ownership adaptive management habitat plans (proposal #161) is a golden opportunity to communicate with landowners in Suisun marsh regarding the connection between pond management and dissolved oxygen in adjacent receiving waters. The proposal is not, however, funded at a level sufficient to make any quantitative links between adaptive management plans and receiving water quality. *We fully support the goals and approach of proposal #161, and ask the CALFED ERP to consider an additional directed action in its annual workplan to develop links between the Suisun Marsh adaptive management plans and water quality, and to provide a stakeholder forum to discuss the importance of attaining the dissolved oxygen water quality standard.*

Selenium

The proposal to assess selenium hazards to birds (#234) is an important contribution to selenium target setting. *We fully support the goals and approach of proposal #234.*

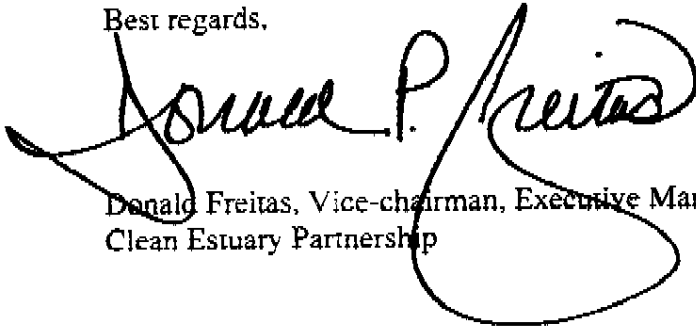
The Big Break restoration proposal (#29) proposes to monitor for selenium, stating that there are refineries nearby. While we support selenium monitoring, the discussion is perplexing with respect to selenium sources, given that the nearest refinery is twenty miles downstream. *Project proponents should include an objective discussion of all selenium sources, including agricultural drainage, when revising proposal #29 for consideration as a directed action.*

The water recycling via membrane technology proposal (#249) could produce useful selenium load reduction options. We understand that if the first phase, testing the nanofiltration technology is successful, the project will proceed to test the full reverse osmosis system. *We fully support the goals and approach of proposal #249, and agree with the reviewer comment that the project should be coordinated with a regional plan to reduce selenium loads.*

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposal package, and look forward to working with you in the future on collaborative efforts to restore and protect the aquatic ecosystem of San Francisco Bay through implementation of Water Quality Standards.

If you have any questions, please contact our Program Coordinator, Dr. Andrew Gunther, at 510-420-1570 (gunther@amarine.com).

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald P. Freitas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Donald Freitas, Vice-chairman, Executive Management Board
Clean Estuary Partnership

Proposal#	Title	Overlap with CEP Goals	Amount
#254	Assessing the Hazards of mercury and selenium to the reproductive success of birds	Mercury and Selenium	\$364,922
#22	Expanded Prevention, Detection, and Control of Pesticide Toxicity in the CALFED Bay Delta Watershed	Pesticide Toxicity	\$457,162
#185	West Coast Ballast Outreach Project	Invasive Species	\$525,259
#195	Development and Implementation of State-Initiated, Basin-Based Mercury Monitoring in Support of Restoration, Remediation, and the Regulatory Process for Carls Creek, Russian Island and adjacent tracts, the Yolo Bypass, and Colusa Wetland	Mercury	\$895,571
#228	Mercury in birds of the Bay Delta Watershed - adverse effects to reproduction and patterns of bioaccumulation	Mercury	\$1,680,855
#128	Mercury and Methylmercury Processes in Non-San Francisco Bay Inland Wetland Ecosystems	Mercury	\$1,108,380
#26	Big Branch and Marsh Creek Water Quality and Habitat Restoration Program	Wetland Restoration and Management	\$2,990,049
#31	Sage-Sonoma Marsh Restoration Project	Wetland Restoration and Management	\$4,511,400
#215	Reducing the Introduction and Damage of Aquatic Nonindigenous Species through Outreach and Education, Phase 2	Invasive Species	\$179,783
#237	Evaluation Of Mercury Transformations And Trophic Transfer In The San Francisco Bay/Delta Identifying Critical Processes For The Ecosystem Restoration Program	Mercury	\$2,262,567
#18	Transport, Cycling, and Fate of Mercury and Monomethyl Mercury in the San Francisco Delta and Tributaries—An Integrated Mass Balance Assessment Approach	Mercury	\$3,881,215
#69	Estuary Action Challenge Environmental Education Program	Outreach and Environmental Justice	\$120,000
#242	Pyrethroid Insecticides: Analysis, Occurrence, and Fate in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and Delta	Pesticide Toxicity	\$800,000
#213	The ecological and economic costs and benefits of alternative agricultural practices: Sediment, nutrient, and pesticides in runoff from conservation tillage and cover cropped systems	Pesticide Toxicity	\$1,892,916
#249	Full-Scale Demonstration of Agricultural Drainage-Water Recycling Process Using Membrane Technology	Selenium	\$316,090
#161	Update Individual Ownership Adaptive Management Habitat Plans	Wetland Restoration and Management	\$136,244
#90	Bahia Acquisition and Tidal Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration and Management	\$3,345,000
#17	Suisun Marsh Land Acquisition and Tidal Marsh Restoration	Wetland Restoration and Management	\$1,046,400

Table 1: CALFED ERP Proposals recommended by Review Panel that overlap with CEP goals. Shaded background indicates proposals considered as directed actions, light background indicates proposals funded in part or as-is.