



Friends of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge

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December 13, 2019

Mr. Dave Pine
Chair, San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Board
San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority
c/o State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for Ducks Unlimited and Sonoma Land Trust's Measure AA Grant Request – San Pablo Baylands Collaborative Protection and Restoration (CPR) Project

Dear Chair Pine,

I am writing to urge your support for Ducks Unlimited (DU) and Sonoma Land Trust's (SLT) Measure AA grant application for \$7,050,000 for the San Pablo Baylands Collaborative Protection and Restoration (CPR) Project. The San Pablo Bay shoreline represents one of the greatest opportunities for restoration in the San Francisco Bay Estuary. While thousands of acres have already been conserved and restored, work must be accelerated to ensure that this landscape will be resilient to sea level rise.

Implementation of the San Pablo Baylands CPR Project will acquire and protect nearly 1,500 acres of historic tidal marsh along lower Sonoma Creek. In addition, the Project will prepare Haire Ranch and the newly acquired Detjen property for future restoration work, enhance over 740 acres of seasonal wetlands and associated uplands at Haire Ranch, and restore nearly 300 acres of tidal wetland habitat on Cullinan East, all within San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Finally, the Project also includes improvements to infrastructure for public access and education programs and provides new opportunities for conservation education for underserved school children.

The San Pablo Baylands CPR Project is a critical component of the large-scale restoration vision of the *Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals* report – to create an unbroken band of restored marshes from the Petaluma River to Vallejo. It will create essential habitat for endangered species, provide foraging and resting habitat for thousands of waterfowl, and increase shoreline resilience to sea level rise.

In recognition of these valuable benefits, we strongly support this grant application. We are confident that this grant will result in measurable outcomes for the San Francisco Bay Estuary and encourage your full support for this proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

The Friends of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge is an independent, non-profit, 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to promoting the conservation of the natural resources of the refuge, fostering public understanding and appreciation of the refuge, and engaging in activities that will assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to meet its mandates. We support the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge

(Refuge) in its mission to restore, enhance, protect and preserve the wildlife and its environment while providing educational opportunities, increasing public awareness, involvement, appreciation and enjoyment of the Refuges. We look forward to collaborating with the Refuge, Ducks Unlimited and the Sonoma Land Trust in the implementation of tasks in the proposed project, specifically creation of public access infrastructure at the Refuge and engagement of Vallejo schoolchildren (Mare Island Technology Academy (MIT) students) in education and recreational opportunities at the Refuge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Bodell", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Justin Bodell

President

Friends of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge