

Appendix J

Letters of Support

September 2015

(revised December 2015)

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 10600, San Francisco, California 94102 tel 415 352 3600 fax 415 352 3606

July 10, 2015

Mr. Thomas Kendall
Chief of Planning
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1455 Market Street, 16th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

SUBJECT: Request for Determination of Consistency with the Coastal Zone Management
Plan: South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study, Phase 1

Dear Mr. Kendall:

Thank you for your request that BCDC support the flood risk management and ecosystem restoration work proposed by the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study, Phase 1. The project is described in the draft Integrated Report released on December 19, 2014, and with additional detail provided in subsequent meetings with the project proponent.

As the proposed project would be constructed entirely by the federal government, albeit with some local and state funding, BCDC will require that the Corps apply for a Consistency Certification under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act. BCDC permits may be required for subsequent management activities by non-federal entities on non-federal lands during operation and maintenance of the project.

BCDC treats consistency matters as much as possible like permits, and permits require that substantial design detail be available for BCDC to determine whether a project is consistent with the Commission's laws and policies. Normally, BCDC permits are granted after environmental documents such as a final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) are completed. Therefore, the Consistency Certification submitted to the Commission will require more detail than is available at the current EIS/EIR level of design. For instance, while information on practical public access options can be provided at present, the consistency certification should propose public access as an integral part of the project and include confirmation of valid title by the applicant for all properties in question. Such information may not be available until after Congressional authorization.

Nevertheless, BCDC staff can provide an initial indication of whether the proposed project appears to generally be consistent with the Bay Plan, or can be made so with additional documentation and minor changes. Therefore, we can comply with your request with the following caveats:

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Mr. Kendall
July 10, 2015
Page 2

1. As your request comes at the environmental document stage, and because the staff (rather than the Commission) normally comments on projects at this stage, I believe I can make this determination at this time. However, while my determination is based on the McAteer-Petris Act as amended (California Government Code, Title 7.2), the Bay Plan (BCDC, 2008), and the Commission's Management Program, it is, like staff comments on environmental documents generally, a **staff position only**. A further and final decision on the project and its consistency with the BCDC Management Program will be made by the Commission when adequate design detail is provided to BCDC. Based on discussions with you, this would appear to be during the detailed design phase of your project.
2. Our comments are based upon, and go no further than, the information contained in the draft Integrated Report. While the information in the referenced document permits me to conclude that a project like that proposed can be constructed in a manner consistent with the BCDC Management Program, this does not necessarily mean that the proposed design, as detailed in these documents, is already consistent with the Program.
3. Finally, while the Commission has unanimously approved at least two horizontal levees to create transition zones, upland habitat, and areas where marsh can move inland with rising sea level rise (Sonoma Creek (Consistency Determination No. C2014.004.00) and Max Keech Properties (BCDC Permit No. 2007,005)), the proposed south bay shoreline levee would require significantly larger amounts of fill than either of the two earlier approved projects. The Commission may express concerns about the amount of proposed fill. This concern may be lessened because: (a) the fill is proposed in salt ponds as opposed to the Bay, and the criteria for evaluating fill in salt ponds is somewhat more permissive than fills proposed in the Bay; and, (b) the Commission has expressed great concern about preparing the Bay and its shoreline to be resilient to expected sea level rise and has consistently supported efforts to protect the Bay's existing natural resources.

With these caveats, and based on staff-level coordination and responses to BCDC's comment letter of February 23, 2015, the staff believes that the proposed project is generally consistent with the Bay Plan and the Commission's Management Program. The Bay Plan encourages converting salt ponds to tidal and subtidal habitats, and designing ecosystem restoration and flood risk management features that provide for, and are adaptable to, projected sea level rise. The proposed project incorporates these attributes and its proposed ecotone would provide important habitat and ecosystem resilience. The Bay Plan requires public access to the Bay shoreline, and the project would promote such access by filling a gap in the Bay Trail.

Mr. Kendall
July 10, 2015
Page 3

Discussions among U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and BCDC staff indicate that the federal agencies are willing to work with Commission staff to ensure that the project design will be fully consistent with the Commission's laws and policies as designs are brought to a detailed level. I hope this letter clarifies our position and please be assured that we very much look forward to working with you to complete this very important project.

If you have any further questions, please contact Bob Batha (bob.batha@bccdc.ca.gov; 415/352-3612) of our staff or me directly.

Sincerely,



STEVE GOLDBECK
Deputy Director

SG/gg

cc: Nicholas E. Malasavage, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
William R. Dejager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Brian M. Mulvey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Keith Lichten, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
Dale Bowyer, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

References:

BCDC (1979). Management Program for San Francisco Bay. San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (prepared with financial assistance from the Office of Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the provisions of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended).

BCDC (2008). San Francisco Bay Plan. San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.



San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

Sent via e-mail – no hard copy to follow

July 13, 2015
CIWQS Place ID 813084

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
San Francisco District
Attn.: Thomas R. Kendall
1455 Market St.
San Francisco, CA 94103

Subject: Letter of support for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project

Dear Mr. Kendall:

This letter is in response to your request for a letter supporting the flood risk management and ecosystem restoration project (Project) proposed in the December 2014 *Draft South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Phase I Study, Integrated Document, Draft Integrated Interim Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement / Report* (Shoreline Study). Water quality certification (Certification) pursuant to section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act will be required to authorize construction of the Project. The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) usually reviews applications for Certification during the detailed, final design process that occurs after completion of a final environmental document. Therefore, we plan to consider issuing Certification for the Project following completion of Project review in compliance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and after review of near-final Project designs. At this time the Water Board has not been requested to take formal action on any requirements related to the Project. However, as is described below, the Project appears to be consistent with the intent of the *San Francisco Bay Basin Water Quality Control Plan* (Basin Plan), the Water Board's primary regulatory document, and, therefore, appears to be eligible for Certification. This letter provides Water Board staff's assessment of the proposed Project.

Project Description

The proposed Project is identified as Alternative 3 in the Shoreline Study. The Project's components include an Alviso North levee alignment, San José–Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility (WPCP) South levee alignment, a 30:1 (1 foot of elevation rise for each 30 feet of horizontal distance) ecotone adjacent to ponds A12/13 and A18, restoration of ponds A9-15 and A18, a flood gate across the Union Pacific Railroad tracks near ponds A12/13, and a tidal flood gate at Artesian Slough. The Project includes an engineered levee, approximately 15.2 feet high, along existing salt pond berms, the eastern border of Pond A12, and the southern borders of

DR. TERRY F. YOUNG, CHAIR | BRUCE H. WOLFE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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ponds A16 and A18. The Project would allow for continued Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) accreditation at the end of the study's period of analysis (2017-2067).

Water Board Comments

Water Board staff supports the Project and recognizes that it is needed both for flood protection and to enable the restoration of salt marsh and related habitats in about 2,800 acres of historically diked salt ponds in South San Francisco Bay, in the former Alviso Salt Pond Complex ponds A9 through A15 and A18. Since the current salt pond levees provide flood protection to the Alviso area, the Project will facilitate salt marsh restoration by allowing the outer salt pond levees to be breached after the Project has replaced flood protection provided by these levees. Project implementation is also part of a long-term adaptive management strategy to address the potential impacts of sea level rise in the Bay.

Reviewed in isolation, the flood control element of the Project, with adjacent ecotone fill, would place fill into about 137 acres of waters of the State, consisting of 16.8 acres of wetlands and 120.8 acres of open water. This impact is large for a single project and would require significant mitigation to be consistent with the Basin Plan, which incorporates the State of California's no net loss policy (Governor's Executive Order W-59-93 and Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 28). However, the Basin Plan also directs the Water Board to use the *Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals* (1999) (*Habitat Goals*), and the *Baylands Ecosystem Species and Community Profiles* (2000) (referred to collectively as the "Habitat Goals Reports") as guides for wetland restoration to protect beneficial uses of waters in San Francisco Bay. The *Habitat Goals* contains the following recommendation for the shoreline in the vicinity of Alviso Slough:

Restore tidal marsh throughout most of the segment, providing a continuous corridor of tidal marsh along the bayshore... Restoration should emphasize reestablishing a natural transition between tidal marsh and adjacent wetlands and upland habitats, as well as transitions between salt and brackish tidal marsh.

One of the significant beneficial uses that the Basin Plan assigns to waters of the State in South San Francisco Bay is the preservation of rare and endangered species. The proposed habitat enhancement activities in the Alviso Salt Pond Complex ponds will enhance this beneficial use. The *Habitat Goals* and the *USFWS Recovery Plan for Tidal Marsh Ecosystems of Northern and Central California* (Recovery Plan) (USFWS, August 27, 2013), which include recovery actions for the California Ridgway rail (formerly California Clapper Rail) and salt marsh harvest mouse (SMHM), support both the restoration of as many acres of tidal marsh as feasible and the creation of ecotones between marsh habitats and upland high water refuges.

The ecotones will contribute to the value of the marsh and the future success of special status species using the marsh by providing an important transition zone. This type of upland transitional habitat is not well represented in the South San Francisco Bay due to the historic severe loss of habitat and the typically abrupt transitions between remaining middle marsh habitat and steep-sided levees. The ecotones will provide high tide cover and escape habitat for the California Ridgway Rail and SMHM, as well as providing some opportunity for landward migration of wetland habitat in the face of sea level change.

Mr. Tom Kendall

- 3 -

July 13, 2015

The Project's inclusion of tidal marsh restoration, along with the habitat enhancement provided by the ecotones in the proposed Project, supports the Water Board's ability to issue Certification for the Project.

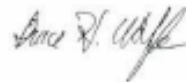
As is noted in the Shoreline Study, South San Francisco Bay appears to be on the verge of becoming a sediment sink, rather than a sediment source. With increasing sea level and decreasing sediment supply, restoration practitioners and researchers in San Francisco Bay are encouraging all stakeholders to proceed with a sense of urgency to create sustainable marshes. Since the uncertainties related to sediment supply will increase over time, we encourage the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to commence work on the Project as soon as possible.

Conclusion

In summary, Water Board staff is supportive of the Project, which will provide the integrated flood risk management and tidal habitat restoration that is necessary to support the preservation of rare and endangered species and to enhance habitat resilience to sea level rise. We look forward to continuing to work with the Project sponsors to complete the Certification process as further design details are provided.

If you have questions regarding the Certification process, please contact me at (510) 622-2314 or via email to bwolfe@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Bruce H. Wolfe
Executive Officer

Digitally signed by Bruce H. Wolfe
DN: cn=Bruce H. Wolfe,
o=SWRCB, ou=Region 2,
email=bwolfe@waterboards.
ca.gov, c=US
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Cc:

John Bourgeois, California Coastal Conservancy – John.Bourgeois@scc.ca.gov

Melanie Richardson, Santa Clara Valley Water District – mrichardson@valleywater.org

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 10600, San Francisco, California 94102 tel 415 352 3600 fax 415 352 3606

September 4, 2015

Mr. Thomas Kendall
Chief of Planning
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1455 Market Street, 16th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

SUBJECT: BCDC Support for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study, Phase 1

Dear Mr. Kendall, *kom*

Thank you for the request by the San Francisco District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) that the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) support the flood risk management and ecosystem restoration work proposed by USACE's South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study, Phase 1. The project is described in the draft Integrated Report released on December 19, 2014, and with additional detail provided in subsequent meetings with the project proponent.

As the proposed project would be constructed by the federal government, with some local and state funding, BCDC will require USACE to prepare and submit a Consistency Determination for review by BCDC under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). Based on decades of past practice and experience, we believe that it would be most prudent for USACE to submit its Consistency Determination during the project's Pre-Construction Engineering & Design phase.

In general, the BCDC staff supports the purpose of this project and looks forward to taking it before the Commission for its review and action under the CZMA when enough information is gathered and analyzed to ensure that it will both comply with the enforceable policies of the Coastal Management Program (CMP), as contained in the McAteer-Petris Act and in the San Francisco Bay Plan ("Bay Plan"), and benefit the region. Both the staff and Commissioners can better provide USACE with practical suggestions if USACE is willing to provide the Commission with an initial briefing on the project. As such, we have reserved time for a USACE presentation at our next Commission meeting on September 17, 2015.

It is worthwhile to note that the Commission previously has unanimously approved at least two horizontal levees to create transition zones, upland habitat, and areas where marsh can move inland with rising sea level rise at Sonoma Creek (Consistency Determination No. C2014.004) and Max Keech Properties (BCDC Permit No. 2007.005). That being said, the project's south bay shoreline levee would require much larger amounts of fill than either of the two above-referenced projects, although the fill is proposed to be placed within salt ponds, as opposed to within the Bay. While BCDC's criteria for evaluating fill in salt ponds are different than its criteria used to analyze fill proposed in the Bay, any fill proposed within BCDC's

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Mr. Thomas Kendall
United States Army Corps of Engineers
September 4, 2015
Page 2

jurisdiction must be justified. Also, the Commission will analyze this project in light of its efforts to make the Bay's shoreline more resilient to expected rising sea level; it has consistently supported appropriate efforts to do so in the past, and I am sure that USACE will receive many questions from the staff and Commissioners about the project's design and purpose in light of the ramifications of climate change and the need to protect the Bay's existing natural resources.

Based on the draft Integrated Report, BCDC-USACE staff-level coordination, and USACE's responses to BCDC's comment letter of February 23, 2015, the BCDC staff can indicate now that the proposed project is generally consistent with the Bay Plan's policies, or can be amended to be so, with additional documentation and a series of changes. The Bay Plan encourages converting salt ponds to tidal and subtidal habitats and designing ecosystem restoration and flood risk management features that provide for, and are adaptable to, projected rising sea level. The USACE proposal incorporates these attributes and its proposed ecotone would provide important habitat and ecosystem resilience. The Bay Plan requires that the public have access to the Bay shoreline, and the project would promote such access by filling a gap in the Bay Trail. I am happy that discussions among the Corps, BCDC, and other project-related staff indicate that the federal agencies are willing to work with Commission staff to ensure that the project design will be fully consistent with the Commission's policies as it is brought to a more detailed level.

Finally, please note that BCDC is open to the concept of phased consistency review, as authorized by section 930.36(d) of the CZMA regulations, should USACE elect to pursue this approach. Using this approach, BCDC generally requires up to 75 days to conclude our process and provide a federal agency with a phased Consistency Concurrence following the submission of a phased Consistency Determination. As stated above, however, we believe that a better process would be to expedite a Commission briefing on the overall goals of the project now, and review a USACE Consistency Determination later at the Pre-Construction Engineering & Design phase.

I hope this letter clarifies our position and please be assured that we very much look forward to working with you to complete this very important project.

If you have any further questions, please contact Bob Batha of our staff at 415-352-3612, or by email at bob.batha@bcdc.ca.gov; or me directly.

Sincerely,



LAWRENCE J. GOLDZBAND
Executive Director

Mr. Thomas Kendall
United States Army Corps of Engineers
September 4, 2015
Page 3

References:

BCDC (1979). Management Program for San Francisco Bay. San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (prepared with financial assistance from the Office of Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the provisions of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended).

BCDC (2008). San Francisco Bay Plan. San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 10600, San Francisco, California 94102 tel 415 352 3600 fax 415 352 3606

November 6, 2015

Mr. Thomas Kendall
Chief of Planning
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1455 Market Street, 17th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

SUBJECT: BCDC Support for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project

Dear Mr. Kendall:

Thank you for the San Francisco District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) request that the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) support the flood risk management and ecosystem restoration project proposed by the USACE's South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study. The project is described in the draft Chief's Report and Integrated Report sent to BCDC in September, was the subject of a briefing before our Commission on September 17, 2015, and has been the center of many detailed discussions between the project proponents and BCDC staff.

As the proposed project would be constructed by the federal government, with some local and state funding, BCDC will require the USACE to submit a Consistency Determination for review and approval by the Commission under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) prior to commencing any work on the ground. Based on decades of past practice and experience, the staff and Commission believe that it would be most prudent for the USACE to submit its Consistency Determination during the project's Pre-Construction Engineering & Design (PED) phase.

While that is the case, on November 5, 2015, on a vote of 17-0-0, the Commission requested that I send you this letter to demonstrate its support for the project in principle because its successful completion will greatly benefit the region's shoreline resilience and habitat. The Commission viewed the project purpose, at this phase, as being generally consistent with the enforceable policies of the Coastal Management Program (CMP) as contained in the McAteer-Petris Act and in the San Francisco Bay Plan. The Commissioners look forward to BCDC's formal review and action under the CZMA during the PED phase, during which more information will be available for BCDC to review as the Corps demonstrates complete compliance with the CMP.

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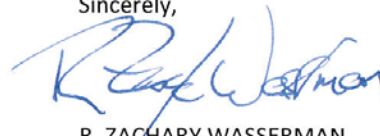
Mr. Thomas Kendall
United States Army Corps of Engineers
November 6, 2015
Page 2

The Bay Plan encourages converting publicly owned and non-operational salt ponds to tidal and subtidal habitats and designing ecosystem restoration and flood risk management features that provide for, and are adaptable to, a projected rise in sea level. The USACE project proposes to incorporate these attributes and its proposed ecotone would provide important habitat and ecosystem resilience. The Bay Plan requires that the public have access to the Bay shoreline, and the project would promote such access by proposing to fill a gap in the Bay Trail.

It is worthwhile to note that the Commission previously has unanimously approved at least two horizontal levees to create transition zones, upland habitat, and areas where marsh can move inland with rising sea level, first at Max Keech Properties (Permit No. 2007.005) and then at Sonoma Creek (Consistency Determination No. C2014.004.00). The Commission plans to analyze this project in light of its efforts to make the Bay's shoreline more resilient to expected rising sea level; it has consistently supported appropriate efforts to do so in the past. I hope this letter clarifies the Commission's position on this important proposal. Please be assured that we very much look forward to working with you to complete this very important project.

If you have any further questions, please contact Bob Batha of our staff at (415) 352-3612, or by email at bob.batha@bcdc.ca.gov. Of course, you can always contact me directly, as well.

Sincerely,



R. ZACHARY WASSERMAN
Chair

References:

BCDC (1979). Management Program for San Francisco Bay. San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (prepared with financial assistance from the Office of Coastal Zone

Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the provisions of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended).

BCDC (2008). San Francisco Bay Plan. San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

DAVE CORTESE
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT
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August 19, 2015

Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G St., NW
Washington, DC 20314

Dear Lt. Gen. Bostick:

As President of the Board of Supervisors of Santa Clara County, home to Silicon Valley, I am writing to convey my strong support for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study (Shoreline). This study has been decades in the making and once built, the project will provide a resilient solution to our sea level rise concerns and ecosystem restoration priorities.

The south San Francisco bay shoreline area contains homes, schools, businesses and critical infrastructure—including roads, bridges, and power, water, and wastewater pipelines—worth more than \$50 billion. Many of the most recognized companies in the world are located along the shoreline in our county, including Cisco, Google, Intel, Yahoo, and Oracle. These companies aren't just integral to the local economy by employing tens of thousands, they also drive the global economy.

Yet these assets are vulnerable to catastrophic flooding from increasingly volatile storms, king tides, and sea level rise, with devastating economic and social consequences. As just one example, the shoreline area that I represent houses the largest wastewater facility in the Bay Area, serving more than 1 million people. Left unprotected from flooding, the facility could become compromised, threatening the public health and safety of hundreds of thousands of residents in Silicon Valley. To make matters worse, vast areas of tidal wetlands along the shoreline have been diked off, developed, or neglected outright, removing their ability to naturally protect the shoreline against flooding.

The Shoreline project directly addresses these issues, by restoring up to 25 square miles of bay habitat, providing crucial protection from tidal flooding, and providing public access and recreation along restored tidal areas. Importantly, Shoreline will use natural infrastructure to provide an adaptable flood protection system that can evolve over time. Once constructed, Shoreline will protect valuable public and private assets along the shoreline, including the economically disadvantaged community of Alviso that sits 13 feet below sea level.

The Shoreline project is an innovative, critical investment in our community's future. That is why as the Board President—and proud representative of much of the precious shoreline itself—I ask you to allow the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study to advance toward a signed Chief's Report. Without question, this project will be to the benefit of our economy, our community, and our future.

We are the Shoreline.

Sincerely,



Dave Cortese
President, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors

SANTA CLARA COUNTY OFFICIAL

August 25, 2015



Mayor

Jamie L. Matthews

Council Members

Dominic J. Caserta
Debi Davis
Lisa M. Gillmor
Patrick Kolstad
Jerry Marsalli
Teresa O'Neill

Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G St., NW
Washington, DC 20314

Lt. Gen. Bostick:

On behalf of the City of Santa Clara—home to the San Francisco 49ers and Levi's Stadium—I am writing to convey my strong support for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study (Shoreline). This study has been decades in the making and once built, the project will provide a resilient solution to our sea level rise concerns and ecosystem restoration priorities.

The south San Francisco bay shoreline area contains homes, schools, businesses and critical infrastructure—including roads, bridges, and power, water, and wastewater pipelines—worth more than \$50 billion. Many of the most recognized companies in the world are located along our shoreline, including Citrix, Intel, Google, Yahoo, and Oracle. These companies aren't just integral to our local economy by employing tens of thousands, they also drive the global economy.

Yet these assets are vulnerable to catastrophic flooding from increasingly volatile storms, king tides and sea level rise, with devastating economic and social consequences. As just one example, the shoreline area houses the largest wastewater facility in the Bay Area, serving more than 1 million people. Left unprotected from flooding, the facility could become compromised, threatening the public health and safety of hundreds of thousands of residents in Silicon Valley. To make matters worse, vast areas of tidal wetlands along the shoreline have been diked off, developed, or neglected outright, removing their ability to naturally protect the shoreline against flooding.

The Shoreline project directly addresses these issues, by restoring up to 25 square miles of bay habitat, providing crucial protection from tidal flooding, and providing public access and recreation along restored tidal areas. Importantly, Shoreline will use natural infrastructure to provide an adaptable flood protection system that can evolve over time. Once constructed, Shoreline will protect valuable public and private assets along the shoreline.

Mayor and Council Offices
1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050
(408) 615-2250
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Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick
August 25, 2015
Page 2

The Shoreline project is an innovative, critical investment in our community's future. In light of its importance to our city, and the region as a whole, I ask you to allow the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study to advance toward a signed Chief's Report. Without question, this project will be to the benefit of our economy, our community, and our future.

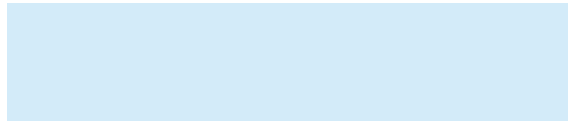
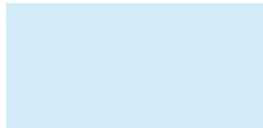
We are the Shoreline.

Sincerely,



Jamie L. Matthews
Mayor
City of Santa Clara

cc: City Council
City Manager





Manh Nguyen
Councilmember – District 4

August 31, 2015

Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G St., NW
Washington, DC 20314

Lt. Gen. Bostick:

As the elected official representing a critical segment of the south bay shoreline, I am writing to convey my strong support for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study (Shoreline). This study has been decades in the making and once built, the project will provide a resilient solution to our sea level rise concerns and ecosystem restoration priorities.

This shoreline area contains homes, schools, businesses and critical infrastructure—including roads, bridges, and power, water, and wastewater pipelines—worth more than \$50 billion. Many of the most recognized companies in the world are located along the shoreline in and adjacent to my district, including Cisco, Brocade, Intel, Yahoo, and Oracle. These companies aren't just integral to the local economy by employing tens of thousands, they also drive the global economy.


Yet these assets are vulnerable to catastrophic flooding from increasingly volatile storms, king tides, and sea level rise, with devastating economic and social consequences. As just one example, the shoreline area that I represent houses the largest wastewater facility in the Bay Area, serving more than 1 million people. Left unprotected from flooding, the facility could become compromised, threatening the public health and safety of hundreds of thousands of residents in Silicon Valley. To make matters worse, vast areas of tidal wetlands along the shoreline have been diked off, developed, or neglected outright, removing their ability to naturally protect the shoreline against flooding.

The Shoreline project directly addresses these issues, by restoring up to 25 square miles of bay habitat, providing crucial protection from tidal flooding, and providing public access and recreation along restored tidal areas. Importantly, Shoreline will use natural infrastructure to provide an adaptable flood protection system that can evolve over time. Once constructed, Shoreline will protect valuable public and private assets along the shoreline, including the economically disadvantaged community of Alviso in my district that sits 13 feet below sea level.

The Shoreline project is an innovative, critical investment in our community's future. That is why as the District 4 Councilmember—and proud representative of much of the precious shoreline itself—I ask you to allow the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study to advance toward a signed Chief's Report. Without question, this project will be to the benefit of our economy, our community, and our future.

We are the Shoreline.

Sincerely,



Manh Nguyen
Councilmember

200 East Santa Clara St. Fl. 18, San José, CA 95113 tel (408) 535-4904 District4@SanJoseCa.Gov



Sam T. Liccardo
MAYOR

August 27, 2015

Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G St., NW
Washington, DC 20314

Lt. Gen. Bostick:

As Mayor of the 10th largest city in the United States, I am writing to convey my strong support for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study (Shoreline). This study has been decades in the making and once built, the project will provide a resilient solution to our concerns of a rising sea level and a deteriorating bay ecosystem.

The south San Francisco bay shoreline area contains homes, schools, businesses and critical infrastructure—including roads, bridges, and power, water, and wastewater pipelines—worth more than \$50 billion. Many of the most recognized companies in the world are located along the shoreline, including Cisco, Google, Intel, Yahoo, and Oracle. Not only are these companies integral to the local economy by employing tens of thousands, they also drive the global economy.

Yet these assets are vulnerable to catastrophic flooding from increasingly volatile storms, king tides, and sea level rise, with devastating economic and social consequences. The shoreline area houses the largest wastewater facility in the Bay Area, serving more than 1 million people. Left unprotected from flooding, the facility could become compromised, threatening the public health and safety of hundreds of thousands of residents in Silicon Valley. To make matters worse, vast areas of tidal wetlands along the shoreline have been diked off, developed, or neglected outright, removing their ability to naturally protect the shoreline against flooding.

The Shoreline project directly addresses these issues, by restoring up to 25 square miles of bay habitat, providing crucial protection from tidal flooding, and providing public access and recreation along restored tidal areas. I look forward to continued cooperation with our partners through the design process to ensure flood control benefits to the shoreline area within San Jose. Once constructed, Shoreline will protect valuable public and private assets in San Jose, including the community of Alviso that sits on the shore, 13 feet below sea level.

The Shoreline project is an innovative, critical investment in our community's future. That is why as the Mayor of San José, I ask you to allow the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study to advance toward a signed Chief's Report. Without question, this project will be to the benefit of our economy, our community, and our future.

Sincerely,



Sam Liccardo
Mayor, City of San Jose



Executive Committee

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PRESIDENT & CEO
 Matthew R. Mahood
 San Jose Silicon Valley
 Chamber of Commerce

August 17, 2015

Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick
 Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 441 G St., NW
 Washington, DC 20314

Lt. General Bostick:

On behalf of the San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce and our 1500 members, we are writing to convey my strong support for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study (Shoreline). This study has been decades in the making and once built, the project will provide a resilient solution to our sea level rise concerns and ecosystem restoration priorities.

Our Chamber believes, as one of its guiding principles that "infrastructure solutions must take a regional approach and will need to integrate partnerships across Silicon Valley". The South San Francisco Bay Shoreline area contains homes, schools, businesses and critical infrastructure—including roads, bridges, and power, water, and wastewater pipelines—worth more than \$50 billion. Many of the most recognized companies in the world are located along the shoreline in our county, including Cisco, Google, Intel, Yahoo, and Oracle. These companies aren't just integral to the local economy by employing tens of thousands, they also drive the global economy.

Yet these assets are vulnerable to catastrophic flooding from increasingly volatile storms, king tides and sea level rise, with devastating economic and social consequences. As just one example, the shoreline area in north San Jose houses the largest wastewater facility in the Bay Area, serving more than 1 million people. Left unprotected from flooding, the facility could become compromised, threatening the public health and safety of hundreds of thousands of residents in Silicon Valley. To make matters worse, vast areas of tidal wetlands along the shoreline have been diked off, developed, or neglected outright, removing their ability to naturally protect the shoreline against flooding.

The Shoreline project directly addresses these issues, by restoring up to 25 square miles of bay habitat, providing crucial protection from tidal flooding, and providing public access and recreation along restored tidal areas. Importantly, Shoreline will use natural infrastructure to provide an adaptable flood protection system that can evolve over time. Once constructed, Shoreline will protect valuable public and private assets along the shoreline, including the economically disadvantaged community of Alviso that sits 13 feet below sea level.

The Shoreline project is an innovative, critical investment in our community's future. In light of its importance to our member businesses and their 250,000 employees, I ask you to allow the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study to advance toward a signed Chief's Report. Without question, this project will be to the benefit of our economy, our community, and our future.

We are the Shoreline.

Sincerely,

Matthew R. Mahood
 President & CEO



August 17, 2015

Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G St., NW
Washington, DC 20314

Lt. Gen. Bostick:

On behalf of the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to convey my strong support for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study (Shoreline). This study has been decades in the making and once built, the project will provide a resilient solution to our sea level rise concerns and ecosystem restoration priorities.

The south San Francisco bay shoreline area contains homes, schools, businesses and critical infrastructure—including roads, bridges, and power, water, and wastewater pipelines—worth more than \$50 billion. Many of the most recognized companies in the world are located along the shoreline in our county, including Intuit, Google, and LinkedIn. These companies aren't just integral to the local economy by employing tens of thousands of people; they also drive the global economy.

Yet these assets are vulnerable to catastrophic flooding from increasingly volatile storms, king tides and sea level rise, with devastating economic and social consequences. The shoreline area houses the largest wastewater facility in the Bay Area, serving more than 1 million people. Left unprotected from flooding, the facility could become compromised, threatening the public health and safety of hundreds of thousands of residents in Silicon Valley. To make matters worse, vast areas of tidal wetlands along the shoreline have been diked off, developed, or neglected outright, removing their ability to naturally protect the shoreline against flooding.

The Shoreline project directly addresses these issues, by restoring up to 25 square miles of bay habitat, providing crucial protection from tidal flooding, and providing public access and recreation along restored tidal areas. Importantly, Shoreline will use natural infrastructure to provide an adaptable flood protection system that can evolve over time. Once constructed, Shoreline will protect valuable public and private assets along the shoreline, including the economically disadvantaged community of Alviso that sits 13 feet below sea level.

The Shoreline project is an innovative, critical investment in our community's future. In light of its importance to our businesses and their employees, I ask you to allow the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study to advance toward a signed Chief's Report. Without question, this project will be to the benefit of our economy, our community, and our future.

Sincerely,



Oscar Garcia
President & CEO



August 27, 2015

Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G St., NW
Washington, DC 20314

Lt. Gen. Bostick:

On behalf of the Sunnyvale Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce and its 500 member businesses, I am writing to convey my strong support for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study. This study has been decades in the making and once built, the project will provide a resilient solution to our sea level rise concerns and ecosystem restoration priorities.

The south San Francisco bay shoreline area contains homes, schools, businesses and critical infrastructure—including roads, bridges, and power, water, and wastewater pipelines—worth more than \$50 billion. Many of the most recognized companies in the world are located along our shoreline, including NetApp, Google, Intel, Yahoo, Amazon126, Comcast, Lockheed Martin, and Oracle. These companies aren't just integral to the local economy by employing tens of thousands, they also drive the global economy.

Yet these assets are vulnerable to catastrophic flooding from increasingly volatile storms, king tides and sea level rise, with devastating economic and social consequences. As just one example, the shoreline area houses the largest wastewater facility in the Bay Area, serving more than 1 million people. Left unprotected from flooding, the facility could become compromised, threatening the public health and safety of hundreds of thousands of residents in Silicon Valley. To make matters worse, vast areas of tidal wetlands along the shoreline have been diked off, developed, or neglected outright, removing their ability to naturally protect the shoreline against flooding.

The Shoreline project directly addresses these issues, by restoring up to 25 square miles of bay habitat, providing crucial protection from tidal flooding, and providing public access and recreation along restored tidal areas. Importantly, Shoreline will use natural infrastructure to

provide an adaptable flood protection system that can evolve over time. Once constructed, Shoreline will protect valuable public and private assets along the shoreline.

The Shoreline project is an innovative, critical investment in our community's future. In light of its importance to our 500 businesses and their 30,000 employees, I ask you to allow the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study to advance toward a signed Chief's Report.

Sincerely,

Don Eagleston

Don Eagleston
President & CEO
Sunnyvale Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & CONVENTION – VISITORS BUREAU

August 27, 2015

Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G St., NW
Washington, DC 20314

Lt. Gen. Bostick:

On behalf of the Santa Clara Chamber of Commerce's almost 600 member businesses, I am writing to convey our strong support for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study (Shoreline). This study has been decades in the making and once built, the project will provide a resilient solution to our sea level rise concerns and ecosystem restoration priorities.

The south San Francisco bay shoreline area contains homes, schools, businesses and critical infrastructure—including roads, bridges, and power, water, and wastewater pipelines—worth more than \$50 billion. Many of the most recognized companies in the world are located along the shoreline, including Citrix, Google, Intel, Yahoo, and Oracle. These companies aren't just integral to the local economy by employing tens of thousands, they also drive the global economy.

Yet these assets are vulnerable to catastrophic flooding from increasingly volatile storms, king tides and sea level rise, with devastating economic and social consequences. As just one example, the shoreline area houses the largest wastewater facility in the Bay Area, serving more than 1 million people. Left unprotected from flooding, the facility could become compromised, threatening the public health and safety of hundreds of thousands of residents in Silicon Valley. To make matters worse, vast areas of tidal wetlands along the shoreline have been diked off, developed, or neglected outright, removing their ability to naturally protect the shoreline against flooding.

The Shoreline project directly addresses these issues, by restoring up to 25 square miles of bay habitat, providing crucial protection from tidal flooding, and providing public access and recreation along restored tidal areas. Importantly, Shoreline will use natural infrastructure to provide an adaptable flood protection system that can evolve over time. Once constructed, Shoreline will protect valuable public and private assets along the shoreline, including global business leaders.

The Shoreline project is an innovative, critical investment in our community's future. In light of its importance to our businesses and their 22,000 employees, I ask you to allow the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study to advance toward a signed Chief's Report. Without question, this project will be to the benefit of our economy, our community, and our future.

We are the Shoreline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Truitt".

Roy Truitt
Interim President & CEO
Santa Clara Chamber of Commerce

1850 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050 • www.santaclarachamber.org • www.santaclara.org
Telephone: 408.244.8244 • Chamber of Commerce Fax: 408.244.7830 • Convention-Visitors Fax: 408.244.9202



August 26, 2015

Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G St, NW
Washington, DC 20314

Lt. Gen. Bostick:

On behalf of the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, I am writing to convey my strong support for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study (Shoreline). This study has been decades in the making and once built, the project will provide a resilient solution to our sea level rise concerns and ecosystem restoration priorities.

The south San Francisco bay shoreline area contains homes, schools, businesses and critical infrastructure—including roads, bridges, and power, water, and wastewater pipelines—worth more than \$50 billion. In addition, the shoreline area contains precious open space traversed by recreational trails that provide thousands of visitors with sweeping views of the south bay, its tidal wetlands, and the unique flora and fauna that live within them.

Yet these assets are vulnerable to catastrophic flooding from increasingly volatile storms, king tides, and sea level rise, with devastating economic and social consequences. As just one example, the shoreline area houses the largest wastewater facility in the Bay Area, serving more than 1 million people. Left unprotected from flooding, the facility could become compromised, threatening the public health and safety of hundreds of thousands of residents in Silicon Valley. To make matters worse, vast areas of tidal wetlands along the shoreline have been diked off, developed, or neglected outright, removing their ability to naturally protect the shoreline against flooding.

The Shoreline project directly addresses these issues, by restoring up to 25 square miles of bay habitat, providing crucial protection from tidal flooding, and providing public access and recreation along restored tidal areas. Importantly, Shoreline will use natural infrastructure to provide an adaptable flood protection system that can evolve over time. Once constructed, Shoreline will protect valuable public and private assets along the shoreline, including sensitive wetlands that provide critical habitat for many plant and animal species, some of which are endangered.

6980 Santa Teresa Blvd
Suite 100
San Jose, CA 95119
408.224.7478 T
408.224.7548 F
openspaceauthority.org

The Shoreline project is an innovative, critical investment in our community's future. That is why I ask you to allow the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study to advance toward a signed Chief's Report. Without question, this project will be to the benefit of our economy, our community, and our future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Mackenzie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Andrea Mackenzie
General Manager



August 26, 2015

Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G St., NW
Washington, DC 20314

Lt. Gen. Bostick,

On behalf of Save The Bay, I wish to convey my strong support for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study (Shoreline). This study has been decades in the making and the project, once built, will provide a resilient solution to some of our region's most serious sea level rise concerns, while also addressing some of our most pressing ecosystem restoration priorities.

The south San Francisco bay shoreline area contains homes, schools, businesses and critical infrastructure—including roads, bridges, and power, water, and wastewater pipelines—worth more than \$50 billion. Many of the most recognized companies in the world are located along the shoreline, including Cisco, Google, Intel, Yahoo, and Oracle. These companies aren't just integral to the local economy, employing tens of thousands, but also drive the global economy.

Currently, these important assets are vulnerable to catastrophic flooding from increasingly volatile storms, king tides, and sea level rise, with potentially devastating economic and social consequences. To give just one example, the shoreline area houses the largest wastewater facility in the Bay Area, serving more than one million people. Left unprotected from flooding, the facility could be compromised, threatening the health and safety of hundreds of thousands of residents in Silicon Valley. To make matters worse, vast areas of tidal wetlands along the shoreline have been diked off, developed, or neglected, removing their ability to naturally protect the shoreline against flooding from extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change.

The Shoreline project directly addresses these issues, by restoring up to twenty-five square miles of Bay habitat and providing crucial protection from tidal flooding, while also providing public access and recreation along restored tidal areas. Importantly, Shoreline will use natural infrastructure to provide an adaptable flood protection system that can evolve over time. Once constructed, Shoreline will protect valuable public and private assets for residents of San Jose, including the economically disadvantaged community of Alviso that sits 13 feet below sea level.

The Shoreline project is a critical and innovative investment in our community's future that will benefit our economy and our community for generations to come. Therefore, we ask respectfully that you advance the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study to a signed Chief's Report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Lewis'.

David Lewis
Executive Director



2001 Gateway Plaza, Suite 101E
 San Jose, California 95110
 (408)501-7854 svlg.org
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JED YORK
 San Francisco 49ers
 Established in 1978 by
 DAVID PACKARD

August 28, 2015

Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick
 Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 441 G St., NW
 Washington, DC 20314

Lt. Gen. Bostick:

On behalf of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, I am writing to convey my strong support for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study (Shoreline). This study has been decades in the making and once built, the project will provide a resilient solution to our sea level rise concerns and ecosystem restoration priorities.

The South San Francisco Bay shoreline area contains homes, schools, businesses and critical infrastructure—including roads, bridges, and power, water, and wastewater pipelines—worth more than \$50 billion. Many of the most recognized companies in the world are located along the shoreline, including Cisco, Google, Intel, Yahoo, and Oracle. These companies aren't just integral to the local economy by employing tens of thousands, they also drive the global economy.

Yet these assets are vulnerable to catastrophic flooding from increasingly volatile storms, king tides, and sea level rise, with devastating economic and social consequences. As just one example, the shoreline area houses the largest wastewater facility in the Bay Area, serving more than 1 million people. Left unprotected from flooding, the facility could become compromised, threatening the public health and safety of hundreds of thousands of residents in Silicon Valley. To make matters worse, vast areas of tidal wetlands along the shoreline have been diked off, developed, or neglected outright, removing their ability to naturally protect the shoreline against flooding.

The Shoreline project directly addresses these issues, by restoring up to 25 square miles of bay habitat, providing crucial protection from tidal flooding, and providing public access and recreation along restored tidal areas. Importantly, the Shoreline Study calls for the use of natural infrastructure to provide an adaptable flood protection system that can evolve over time. Once constructed, Shoreline will protect valuable public and private assets in San Jose, including the economically disadvantaged community of Alviso that sits 13 feet below sea level.

The Shoreline project is an innovative, critical investment in our community's future. That is why we ask you to allow the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study to advance toward a signed Chief's Report. Without question, this project will be to the benefit of our economy, our community, and our future.

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group, founded in 1978 by David Packard of Hewlett-Packard, represents more than 375 of Silicon Valley's most respected employers on issues, programs and campaigns that affect the economic health and quality of life in Silicon Valley, including energy, transportation, education, housing, health care, tax policies, economic vitality and the environment.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. If you have any questions on our position, please contact Mike Mielke, Vice President of Environmental Programs & Policy at 408-501-7858 or mmielke@svlg.org.

Sincerely,

Mike Mielke
 Senior Vice President of Environmental Programs & Policy
 Silicon Valley Leadership Group



August 28, 2015

Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G St., NW
Washington, DC 20314

RE: Support for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study

Lt. Gen. Bostick:

On behalf of Bay Area Council, I am writing to express support for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study (Shoreline). This study has been decades in the making and once built, the project will provide a resilient solution to our sea level rise concerns and ecosystem restoration priorities.

The South San Francisco bay shoreline area contains homes, schools, businesses and critical infrastructure—including roads, bridges, and power, water, and wastewater pipelines—worth more than \$50 billion. Many of the most recognized companies in the world are located along the shoreline, including Cisco, Google, Intel, Yahoo, and Oracle. These companies are integral to the local economy, employing tens of thousands, but also drive economic growth globally.

However, these assets are vulnerable to catastrophic flooding from increasingly volatile storms, sea level rise, and the degradation of tidal wetlands—our natural protectors against flooding and sea level rise—, posing devastating economic and social consequences. For example, the shoreline area houses the largest wastewater facility in the Bay Area, serving more than 1 million people. Left unprotected from flooding, the facility could become compromised, threatening the public health and safety of hundreds of thousands of local residents. The Bay Area Council Economic Institute estimates that a regional mega storm would result in over \$10 billion in damages.

The Shoreline project directly addresses these issues, by restoring up to 25 square miles of bay habitat, providing crucial protection from tidal flooding, and providing public access and recreation along restored tidal areas. Shoreline will use natural infrastructure to provide an adaptable flood protection system that can evolve over time. Once constructed, Shoreline will protect valuable public and private assets in San Jose, including the economically disadvantaged community of Alviso that sits 13 feet below sea level.

The Shoreline project is an innovative, critical investment in our community's future. That is why we ask you to allow the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study to advance toward a signed Chief's Report. This project will be to the benefit of our economy, our community, and our future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Wunderman".

Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council

P 415.946.8777
F 415.961.6408

353 Sacramento Street, 10th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111

1215 K Street, Suite 2220
Sacramento, California 95814

DIANNE FEINSTEIN
CALIFORNIA



SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE - VICE CHAIRMAN
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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504
<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

Chair Stockton and members of the review board,

I write to repeat my strong support for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study. I would also like to express my appreciation for the diligent efforts of all to complete this study on time: the Army Corps of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service, Santa Clara Valley Water District, and California Coastal Conservancy.

Decades in the making, this project is an innovative and cost-effective solution to flooding and sea level rise brought on by our changing climate. Coupled with ecosystem restoration, this project will provide both refuge to protected species in the region and protection for the vulnerable communities that lie beyond the patchwork of existing levees.

With nearly 200 square miles of communities in low-lying areas along the shoreline, some that are more than 13 feet below sea level, it is now well-established that this area faces a significant threat of major tidal flooding. Climate change and the inevitable sea level rise will only exacerbate this dire situation.

Much has changed since the surrounding dikes and levees were first constructed in the 1920s. Originally constructed for commercial salt ponds, these same dikes now surround vast urban tracts, home to Silicon Valley and critical infrastructure, like the largest advanced wastewater treatment facility in the western United States. This patchwork of dikes and levees—never designed for flood risk management—is now all that stands between these vulnerable communities and major flood events.

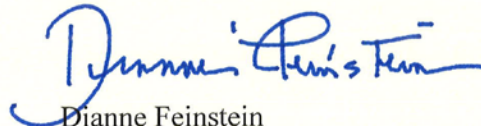
The effects of a major flood could be devastating. The Shoreline houses public and private infrastructure valued at more than \$50 billion. Drivers of economic growth—Google, Cisco, and Oracle, among them—are located here. And many communities, like that of Alviso, call this home. Yet the only infrastructure protecting these communities from widespread economic and environmental devastation is an outdated and ill-suited system of dikes, levees, and ponds. Increasing this region’s resilience to flooding and climate change is therefore money well spent.

The area's tidal marsh habitat has also been subject to severe environmental degradation, with more than 90 percent of the original tidal wetlands diked, drained, or filled over the past century. This decline in habitat quality and quantity has undermined the wetlands' dual benefits: providing refuge to impacted protected species, like steelhead trout and the salt marsh harvest mouse, while mitigating flood risks.

Once completed, this multi-purpose project will restore up to 25 square miles of lost tidal wetland habitat, provide protection from tidal flooding to urban areas adjacent to the South San Francisco Bay, and provide important opportunities for public access and recreation. Allowing the levees and ecosystem restoration to work in tandem also means this project satisfies two of the Corps' primary missions: flood risk management and habitat restoration. Beyond that, by relying on natural infrastructure, this project will develop and construct a flood protection system that can evolve over time.

I have had a long involvement in this project, from its initial concept to implementation, and strongly urge you to support this effort today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dianne" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Feinstein".

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

DF/kr