

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
December 11, 2003

MARSH CREEK STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

File No. 03-146
Project Manager: Mary Small

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to: (1) accept a grant of \$357,146 from the California Bay Delta Authority Ecosystem Restoration Program to implement a public outreach program in the Marsh Creek watershed in Contra Costa County and to conduct planning for restoration of lower Marsh Creek in Oakley; and (2) disburse up to \$110,000 of the California Bay-Delta Authority funds to the Natural Heritage Institute to implement the Marsh Creek public outreach program and to plan the restoration of lower Marsh Creek.

PROGRAM CATEGORY: San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy

EXHIBITS

- Exhibit 1: Marsh Creek Watershed, Contra Costa County
 - Exhibit 2: Marsh Creek and Dutch Slough
 - Exhibit 3: Letters of Support
-

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following Resolution pursuant to Sections 31104 and 31160-31164 of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes:

1. Acceptance of a grant of three hundred fifty-seven thousand one hundred forty-six dollars (\$357,146) from the California Bay Delta Authority Ecosystem Restoration Program to implement a public outreach program in the Marsh Creek watershed in Contra Costa County and to conduct planning for restoration of lower Marsh Creek in Oakley, California; and
2. Disbursement of an amount not to exceed one hundred ten thousand dollars (\$110,000) to the Natural Heritage Institute for implementation of the public outreach program and restoration planning for lower Marsh Creek, subject to the condition that prior to the disbursement of any funds, the Natural Heritage Institute shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a work program, schedule, budget and any contractors to be employed in implementation of the project.”

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Public Resources Code Sections 31160–31164, regarding the Conservancy’s mandate to address the resource and recreational goals of the San Francisco Bay Area, and with the authority of the Conservancy under Section 31104 to apply for and accept funding from public and private sources.
 2. The proposed project is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 24, 2001.
 3. The Natural Heritage Institute is a nonprofit organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code”
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PROJECT SUMMARY:

This authorization would enable the Conservancy to accept California Bay Delta Authority (CBDA) funding in the amount of \$357,146 to implement a public outreach program in the Marsh Creek Watershed in Contra Costa County (Exhibit 1) and to plan for the restoration of lower Marsh Creek (Exhibit 2). This authorization would also enable the Conservancy to disburse up to \$110,000 to the Natural Heritage Institute (NHI) to implement the public outreach program and conduct the restoration planning.

In 2001, the Conservancy, in cooperation with the Natural Heritage Institute and others, applied to CBDA for a grant to fund outreach, planning, and restoration projects in the Marsh Creek watershed. On August 31, 2003, the CDBA awarded funding for two elements of the proposal: the public outreach program and restoration planning for lower Marsh Creek. Staff is recommending that the Conservancy authorize a grant to the Natural Heritage Institute to begin implementation of the outreach program and the restoration planning. It is anticipated that staff will bring additional items to the Board when future activities under this grant are ready to be implemented.

The goal of the outreach program is to educate the public about the watershed, to increase local support for environmental protection, and to create opportunities for the public to participate in watershed stewardship activities. The program will include the following elements:

- Water quality monitoring done in coordination with local high schools and a countywide volunteer monitoring program
- Environmental stewardship activities, such as removing trash from the creek and planting native plants along the trail
- A public education program
- Technical support to city planning staff to help implement the riparian corridor plan in Brentwood.

The CBDA grant creates an opportunity to expand public outreach and community involvement in the Marsh Creek watershed. This project will build on work initiated by NHI, the Delta Science Center, the Resource Conservation District, the County, and others. As restoration projects are implemented along the creek and at its mouth, this program will develop a structure to organ-

ize local volunteers and create opportunities for the community to get involved in these projects. This program will complement the Dutch Slough Restoration Project and two riparian restoration projects already underway on Marsh Creek.

The restoration planning for lower Marsh Creek will re-evaluate a conceptual restoration plan to restore floodplain and wetlands on the west side of Marsh Creek directly opposite the 1,166-acre Dutch Slough Restoration Project (Exhibit 2). This conceptual restoration plan was developed before the Dutch Slough project. Now that a large-scale restoration is being planned on the east side of this reach of Marsh Creek, the plan needs to be reconsidered. NHI will participate in the re-evaluation of this conceptual design.

The Natural Heritage Institute is a nonprofit organization that uses its technical expertise to develop innovative solutions to environmental problems. NHI has worked on numerous projects related to habitat restoration and water supply in the Bay Delta system and has extensive experience working in the Marsh Creek watershed. NHI was a co-applicant with the Conservancy for this grant and has played a critical role in identifying other project partners.

Site Description: The Marsh Creek watershed is located in eastern Contra Costa County; it extends from Mount Diablo to the Delta. Much of the upper watershed is protected land, including Cowell Ranch State Park and the East Bay Regional Park District's (EBRPD) Morgan Territory Preserve. A flood control reservoir, owned by Contra Costa County Flood Control District, is located upstream from the city of Brentwood and the lower section of the creek is a levied flood control channel. Marsh Creek enters the Delta between the East Bay Regional Park District's Big Break Regional Shoreline and the Department of Water Resources' Dutch Slough property.

As with most watersheds in the San Francisco Bay Area, Marsh Creek has been modified extensively during the past 200 years. The amount and the timing of water flowing down the creek have been altered and the quality of that water degraded. The shape and position of the creek have also been changed. Today, the creek is confined to a linear flood control channel in its lower section. However, compared to other urban creeks, Marsh Creek still provides habitat for a number of native species, including river otters, western pond turtles, and Chinook salmon. Recent studies by NHI and others have identified several opportunities for restoration along the creek and some of these projects are being implemented through other grant funds. While development is encroaching around the creek, there is still a significant amount of open land along the riparian corridor. A public trail allows for continuous public access along the creek from Big Break through Brentwood.

Project History: In December 1999, the Coastal Conservancy gave a grant to the Natural Heritage Institute to help fund planning of the Delta Science Center and to identify restoration opportunities in the Marsh Creek Watershed. One of the products of that grant was a Riparian Corridor Plan for the city of Brentwood that included specific recommendations for protecting Marsh Creek as the land around it is developed. The City has adopted this plan; however, it continues to seek technical support as it tries to implement the plan's recommendations. A portion of the grant to NHI would help fund continued technical support to help implement that plan.

Under the Conservancy's 1999 grant, NHI identified restoration opportunities along Marsh Creek. The City of Brentwood and NHI have received grants from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Urban Streams Program and the California Department of Parks and Recreation Riparian Program to fund two of these restoration projects. In addition, DWR and American

Rivers have provided technical support and grant funding to evaluate barrier removal for a fish passage barrier on the creek.

Marsh Creek flows along the western boundary of the 1,166-acre Dutch Slough Restoration Project (Exhibit 2). For more than two years, the Conservancy has worked with the Department of Water Resources, NHI, The Conservation Fund, the City of Oakley, CBDA, and others to implement this restoration project. This outreach program and restoration planning will complement the restoration work at Dutch Slough.

PROJECT FINANCING:

Coastal Conservancy	\$	0
California Bay Delta Authority Grant		<u>357,146</u>
Total Project Cost		\$357,146

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION:

The proposed authorization is consistent with Public Resources Code Sections 31160-31164, regarding the Conservancy's mandate to address the resource and recreational goals of the San Francisco Bay Area. Specifically, §31162(b) directs the Conservancy to protect, restore, and enhance watersheds of regional importance. The Marsh Creek watershed is regionally important because it provides habitat to a number of listed species; it links together significant open space areas; and a regional trail follows along the creek for several miles. This project will help to protect, restore, and enhance these important resources.

The proposed authorization is also consistent with §31104, which gives the Conservancy authority to apply for and accept funding from public and private sources.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S):

Consistent with **Goal 10, Objective B** of the Conservancy's Strategic Plan, the proposed project would provide technical assistance to the City of Brentwood to implement its Riparian Corridor Plan. The project will also collect information that will help identify future opportunities to enhance the riparian habitat in the creek.

Consistent with **Goal 11 Objective C**, the proposed project would help develop an interpretive program that is linked to real restoration projects and would serve an urban population.

Consistent with the Conservancy's Long Term Financial Strategy, this project would bring outside funding to the Conservancy to implement a priority project and help offset staff costs.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:

The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted January 24, 2001, in the following respects:

Required Criteria

1. **Promotion of the Conservancy's statutory programs and purposes:** See the "Consistency with Conservancy's Enabling Legislation" section above.
2. **Consistency with purposes of the funding source:** See the "Project Financing" section above.
3. **Support of the public:** The grant application to CBDA included letters of support from many individuals and organizations, including: Assemblywoman Leach, State Senator Torlakson, County Supervisor Uilkema, Liberty Union High School Superintendent Smith, Brentwood Union High School Superintendent Adams, the Mayor of Brentwood, the Mayor of Oakley, the President of the Delta Informal Gardeners, the General Manager of East Bay Regional Park District, the President of the Ironhouse Sanitary District, the General Manager of the County Mosquito and Vector Control District, and others. These letters are attached as Exhibit 3.
4. **Location:** The proposed project would be located in Contra Costa County, within the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Area Program.
5. **Need:** The Conservancy was the lead applicant for the CBDA grant, so the Conservancy needs to accept the grant in order for the project to go forward. As discussed above, the public outreach program is needed to improve local support and participation in regional restoration efforts.
6. **Greater-than-local interest:** Marsh Creek is a significant regional resource, and the watershed outreach program will work with a number of communities in the area to improve public understanding of this resource and create opportunities for the community to get involved in resource protection.

Additional Criteria

7. **Urgency:** Both Oakley and Brentwood are rapidly developing communities, and as development is approved there are important opportunities to protect the resources of the creek through control of storm water and preservation of the riparian corridor. A portion of this grant will be used to fund staff from the Natural Heritage Institute to continue to work with City staff to be sure these opportunities are not lost. Restoration planning at Dutch Slough will begin this fall. The public outreach program in the watershed needs to be established as soon as possible so that it can be used to help identify volunteers to participate in the planning of Dutch Slough.
8. **Resolution of more than one issue:** This project would educate the public, create opportunities for the community to improve their environmental quality, and help to implement long-term plans for protecting the creek corridor and restoring wetlands in the watershed.
9. **Leverage:** See the "Project Financing" section above.
11. **Innovation:** Public participation in data collection and environmental stewardship creates educational opportunities and helps build support for the environmental protection. This program is innovative because the watershed outreach and stewardship is being planned as a valuable component of other restoration efforts in the watershed.
12. **Readiness:** If approved, this project will begin immediately.

13. **Realization of prior Conservancy goals:** See the “Project History” section above.
14. **Return to Conservancy:** See the “Project Financing” section above.
15. **Cooperation:** This project will be implemented in partnership with local schools, the County, the Cities, and local organizations such as the Delta Science Center and the Delta Informal Gardeners.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:

The proposed elements of the public outreach program are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under a variety of specific provisions.

Water quality monitoring is categorically exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to 14 Cal. Code of Regulations Section 15322, as it does not have the potential to result in any physical changes to the environment. Trash clean-up along the flood control channel is categorically exempt from review pursuant to §15301(h) as it consists of minor alterations of existing facilities. Planting native plants along the creek is categorically exempt from review pursuant to §15304(b) as it consists of minor alterations to land. Development of public education materials in the outreach program is categorically exempt from review pursuant to §15322(a).

Staff will file a Notice of Exemption upon Conservancy approval of this project.

EXHIBIT 1

Marsh Creek Watershed, Contra Costa County



EXHIBIT 2

Marsh Creek and Dutch Slough



EXHIBIT 3
LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Gayle B. Uilkema, *Chair*, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

Lynne C. Leach, *Assemblymember*, Fifteenth District, California Legislature

Steve Cochrane, *Program Manager*, San Francisco Estuary Project

Daniel M. Smith, *Superintendent*, Liberty Union High School District

J. Douglas Adams, *Superintendent*, Brentwood Union High School

Michael A. McPoland, *Mayor*, City of Brentwood

Velma E. Gonzalez, *President*, Delta Informal Gardeners

Nicole Kozicki, *Warden*, California Department of Fish and Game

Claire Lamb, *Horticulture Instructor*, La Paloma High School

Pat O'Brien, *General Manager*, East Bay Regional Park District

Lenny Byer, *President*, Ironhouse Sanitary District Board of Directors

Tom Torlakson, *Senator*, Seventh Senatorial District, California State Senate

Craig Downs, *General Manager*, Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District

Brad Nix, *Mayor*, City of Oakley

The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building
651 Pine Street, Room 106
Martinez, California 94553-1293

John Gioia, 1st District
Gayle B. Uilkema, 2nd District
Donna Gerber, 3rd District
Mark DeSaulnier, 4th District
Federal D. Glover, 5th District

Contra
Costa
County



September 24, 2001

John Sweeten
Clerk of the Board
and
County Administrator
(925) 335-1900

Patrick Wright, Director
CALFED
1416 9th Street, Room 115
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Wright:

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, as the Governing Board of the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, offers its support for the Big Break and Marsh Creek Water Quality and Habitat Restoration Program application. The District has general watershed information, including recent Orthophotos of the County that we will supply for the planning effort, as in kind assistance. The County Clean Water Program is currently involved in the Marsh Creek Watershed Study planning effort, and is interested in studies and work that will improve water quality in both the Big Break and Marsh Creek watersheds. The County Clean Water Program is working to increase public knowledge of our local watersheds to determine appropriate ways of improving water quality. Staff from the Flood Control and Water Conservation District has been actively pursuing numerous restoration projects and partnerships throughout the County and looks forward to working closely with the other partners of this project.

The Board of Supervisors would also like to thank the Coastal Conservancy, the San Francisco Foundation, the Switzer Foundation, the Delta Science Center, Natural Heritage Institute and the Contra Costa County Resource Conservation District for their efforts to initiate this program and work toward securing a funding source to enable this type of restoration project to be considered.

If you or your staff have any questions, or desire additional information, please contact Steve Wright at (925) 313-2259.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gayle B. Uilkema".

Gayle B. Uilkema
Chair

SW:sjw
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c: Members, Board of Supervisors
D. Eckerson, Flood Control
K. Emigh, Flood Control
S. Wright, County Clean Water Program
J. Robins, Natural Heritage Institute
2140 Shattuck Ave., 5th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704

STATE CAPITOL
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SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0015
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DISTRICT OFFICES
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WALNUT CREEK, CA 94596
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FAX (925) 988-6922

71 TREVARNO ROAD, STE. 201
LIVERMORE, CA 94550
(925) 447-8340

734 3RD STREET
BRENTWOOD, CA 94513
(925) 513-8550
FAX (925) 850-0773

Assembly California Legislature



LYNNE C. LEACH
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIFTEENTH DISTRICT

VICE CHAIR:
EDUCATION

MEMBER:
AGING & LONG TERM CARE
BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS
TRANSPORTATION
JOINT COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP A
MASTER PLAN FOR EDUCATION
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
SCHOOL SAFETY

September 21, 2001

Patrick Wright, Director
CalFed Bay-Delta Program
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Wright:

I would like to express my support for the Big Break and Marsh Creek Water Quality and Habitat Restoration Program submitted by the Delta Science Center in collaboration with the City of Brentwood.

Big Break is the third largest tidal marsh in the legal Delta and provides habitat for numerous native aquatic species. Marsh Creek and its tributaries originate on Mt. Diablo and flow through the rapidly urbanizing cities of Brentwood, Oakley and Antioch before emptying into the western Delta at Big Break.

With CalFed support and the strong community support which we currently enjoy, Big Break and Marsh Creek could be restored into healthy riparian and aquatic habitat for numerous special status species.

Due to rapid urbanization of the area, without funding Big Break and Marsh Creek are at great risk of irreversible degradation from residential and commercial development and the inevitable associated water quality and habitat impacts.

Again, I am very supportive of efforts to secure funding through CalFed for the protection and restoration of water quality and riparian and aquatic habitats of Big Break and Marsh Creek. Your favorable consideration of the proposal would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lynne C. Leach
Assemblywoman, 15th District





1515 Clay Street • Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612-1413
510.622.2465
Fax: 510.622.2501

September 19, 2001

Patrick Wright
Director of CalFed Bay Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Ste 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814


Dear Mr. Wright:

The San Francisco Estuary Project would like to express our support for the Big Break and Marsh Creek Water Quality and Habitat Restoration Program submitted by the State Coastal Conservancy in collaboration with the Delta Science Center and the Cities of Brentwood and Oakley. Big Break is the third largest tidal marsh in the legal Delta and provides habitat for numerous native aquatic species. Marsh Creek and its tributaries originate on Mt. Diablo and flow through the rapidly urbanizing cities of Brentwood, Oakley and Antioch before emptying into the western Delta at Big Break. There is a need to protect and enhance Big Break and Marsh Creek in order to conserve a valuable, non-replaceable resource for the benefit of present and future generations. We agree that educating and involving local people in scientific monitoring, restoration designs, and plant propagation activities will be an invaluable tool for guaranteeing the long-term success of the goals outlined in this proposal.

The San Francisco Estuary Project/Friends of the Estuary is specifically interested in the native plant nursery component of the proposal. We have been involving students in native plant propagation since 1995. Our Creek Keepers program in Richmond/San Pablo is a model that can be replicated in other CALFED projects for habitat restoration and community involvement. Our experience with this type of program includes youth recruitment, training and leadership as well as knowledge of native plant propagation techniques. We propose to use our current students from Richmond High to train students in east county about their native plant resources and propagation techniques.

Again, The San Francisco Estuary Project is very supportive of efforts to secure funding through CALFED for the protection and restoration of water quality and the riparian and aquatic habitats of Big Break and Marsh Creek. We urge you to give this project your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



Steve Cochrane
San Francisco Estuary Project
Friends of the Estuary



Celebrating a Century of Pride

Liberty Union High School District

20 Oak Street

Brentwood, CA 94513

Phone: (925) 634-2166 Fax (925) 634-1687

Daniel M. Smith, Superintendent

September 14, 2001

Mr. Patrick Wright
Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program
Big Break and Marsh Creek Water Quality and Habitat Restoration Proposal

Dear Mr. Wright,

Please accept this letter as support for the Big Break and Marsh Creek Water Quality and Habitat Restoration Program submitted by the California State Coastal Conservancy in collaboration with the Delta Science Center, the City of Brentwood and the Natural Heritage Institute. Big Break is the third largest tidal marsh in the legal Delta and provides a habitat for numerous native aquatic species. Marsh Creek and its tributaries originate on Mt. Diablo and flow through the rapidly urbanizing cities of Brentwood, Oakley and Antioch before emptying into the western Delta at Big Break. There is an urgent need to protect and enhance Big Break and Marsh Creek in order to conserve a valuable, non-replaceable resource for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Liberty Union High School District is supportive of efforts to secure funding through CALFED for the protection and restoration of water quality and the riparian and aquatic habitats of Big Break and Marsh Creek. We urge you to give this project your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel M. Smith
Superintendent

DMS:llw

BRENTWOOD UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

J. DOUGLAS ADAMS, SUPERINTENDENT

BRENTWOOD
SCHOOL
925-634-3408

September 17, 2001

GARIN SCHOOL
925-634-8252

LOMA VISTA
ELEMENTARY
925-240-0642

Patrick Wright, Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

RON NUNN
SCHOOL
925-516-0131

EDNA HILL
SCHOOL
925-634-3548

Subject: CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program
Big Break/Marsh Creek Water Quality & Habitat Restoration Proposal

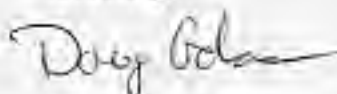
BRISTOW MIDDLE
SCHOOL
925-516-8720

Dear Mr. Wright:

I would like to express my support for the Big Break and Marsh Creek Water Quality and Habitat Restoration Program submitted by the California State Coastal Conservancy in collaboration with the Delta Science Center, the City of Brentwood and the Natural Heritage Institute. Big Break is the third largest tidal marsh in the legal Delta and provides habitat for numerous native aquatic species. Marsh Creek and its tributaries originate on Mt. Diablo and flow through the rapidly urbanizing cities of Brentwood, Oakley and Antioch before emptying into the western Delta at Big Break. There is an urgent need to protect and enhance Big Break and Marsh Creek in order to conserve a valuable, non-replaceable resource for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Brentwood Union School District is very supportive of efforts to secure funding through CALFED for the protection and restoration of water quality and the riparian and aquatic habitats of Big Break and Marsh Creek. We urge you to give this project your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



J. Douglas Adams
Superintendent

255 GUTHRIE LANE
BRENTWOOD, CA
94513

925-634-1168
925-634-8583 FAX



September 14, 2001

Patrick Wright, Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program
Big Break and Marsh Creek Water Quality and Habitat Restoration Proposal**

Dear Mr. Wright:

The City of Brentwood would like to express our support for the Big Break and Marsh Creek Water Quality and Habitat Restoration Program submitted to you by the California State Coastal Conservancy in collaboration with the Delta Science Center, the City of Brentwood and the Natural Heritage Institute. Marsh Creek and its tributaries flow through the center of the rapidly urbanizing cities of Brentwood, Antioch and Oakley before emptying into the western Delta at Big Break. There is an urgent need to protect and enhance Big Break and Marsh Creek in order to conserve a valuable, non-replaceable resource for the benefit of present and future generations.

Enhancement and restoration of Marsh Creek and Big Break will not only provide habitat for numerous aquatic species but will greatly enhance the quality of life for our residents and visitors. Again, we are very supportive of efforts to secure funding through CALFED for the protection and restoration of water quality and the riparian and aquatic habitats of Big Break and Marsh Creek. We would like to take this opportunity to urge CALFED to contribute funding assistance to this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. McPoland".

Michael A. McPoland
Mayor

September 13, 2001

Patrick Wright
Director of CalFed Bay Delta Program
1416 ninth Street, Ste 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

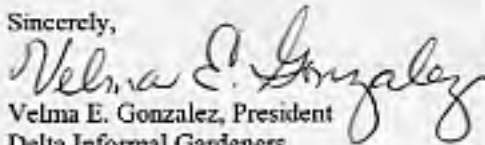
Dear Mr. Wright:

The Delta Informal Gardeners (DIG) is a group of people in the Brentwood--Oakley--Antioch--Byron areas who have the purpose of beautifying the community. We would like to express our support for the Big Break and Marsh Creek Water Quality and Habitat Restoration Program submitted by the State Coastal Conservancy in collaboration with the Delta Science Center and the cities of Brentwood and Oakley. Big Break is the third largest tidal marsh in the legal Delta and provides habitat for numerous native aquatic species. Marsh Creek and its tributaries originate on Mt. Diablo and flow through the rapidly urbanizing cities of Brentwood, Oakley and Antioch before emptying into the western Delta at Big Break. There is a need to protect and enhance Big Break and Marsh Creek in order to conserve a valuable, non-replaceable resource for the benefit of present and future generations. We agree that educating and involving local people in scientific monitoring, restoration designs, and plant propagation activities will be an invaluable tool for guaranteeing the long-term success of the goals outlined in this proposal.

DIG is specially interested in the native plant nursery component of the proposal as our members are available to help train local students and teachers in plant propagation techniques.

Again, the Delta Informal Gardeners are very supportive of efforts to secure funding through CALFED for the protection and restoration of water quality and the riparian and aquatic habitats of Big Break and Marsh Creek. We urge you to give this project your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



Velma E. Gonzalez, President
Delta Informal Gardeners
P.O. Box 66
Brentwood, CA 94513
925-634-3521 x 5559 work phone



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>
POST OFFICE BOX 47
YOUNTVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94599
(707) 944-5500



September 14, 2001

Patrick Wright, Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program
Big Break and Marsh Creek Water Quality and Habitat Restoration Proposal**

Dear Mr. Wright:

I would like to express my support for the Big Break and Marsh Creek Water Quality and Habitat Restoration Program submitted by the California State Coastal Conservancy in collaboration with the Delta Science Center, the City of Brentwood and the Natural Heritage Institute. Big Break is the third largest tidal marsh in the legal Delta and provides habitat for numerous native aquatic species. Marsh Creek and its tributaries originate on Mt. Diablo and flow through the rapidly urbanizing cities of Brentwood, Oakley and Antioch before emptying into the western Delta at Big Break. There is an urgent need to protect and enhance Big Break and Marsh Creek in order to conserve a valuable, non-replaceable resource for the benefit of present and future generations.

The California Department of Fish and Game is very supportive of efforts to secure funding through CALFED for the protection and restoration of water quality and the riparian and aquatic habitats of Big Break and Marsh Creek. We urge you to give this project your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicole Kozicki, Warden
California Department of Fish and Game



September 13, 2001

Patrick Wright, Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program
Big Break and Marsh Creek Water Quality and Habitat Restoration Proposal**

Dear Mr. Wright:

I would like to express my support for the Big Break and Marsh Creek Water Quality and Habitat Restoration Program submitted by the Delta Science Center in collaboration with the City of Brentwood. Big Break is the third largest tidal marsh in the legal Delta and provides habitat for numerous native aquatic species. Marsh Creek and its tributaries originate on Mt. Diablo and flow through the rapidly urbanizing cities of Brentwood, Oakley and Antioch before emptying into the western Delta at Big Break. There is an urgent need to protect and enhance Big Break and Marsh Creek in order to conserve a valuable, non-replaceable resource for the benefit of present and future generations.

La Paloma High School is very supportive of efforts to secure funding through CALFED for the protection and restoration of water quality and the riparian and aquatic habitats of Big Break and Marsh Creek. We urge you to give this project your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Claire Lamb".

Clare Lamb
Horticulture Instructor



September 26, 2001

Patrick Wright Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street #1155
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Mr. Wright:

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) strongly supports the proposal to CALFED titled "Big Break and Marsh Creek Water Quality and Habitat Restoration." The State Coastal Conservancy, serving as the lead agency for this proposal, has worked with The Delta Science Center, Natural Heritage Institute, and the EBRPD to build a coalition of government, scientists and local stakeholders working together on resource issues at Big Break and in the Marsh Creek watershed. As you know, the EBRPD is a significant landowner and manager in the western Delta and its environs. Partnerships, including those outlined in this proposal, allow the EBRPD to share its own expertise, gain additional expertise and above all, reach out to the communities who use and support parks. On this particular project we will promote cooperative efforts relating to issues and permits when work involves EBRPD lands to accomplish project objectives.

Good work has already been accomplished in the region by this partnership, setting the stage for continued CALFED support focused on water quality and biological monitoring, in-ground restorations, and a much needed education component. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pat O'Brien
General Manager

cc: Steve Barbata, Delta Science Center

Deborah Peterson

John Suter
President
Ward 6

Ayn Brice Kemp
Vice President
Ward 5

Leo Radtke
President
Ward 7

Wing Ellen
Secretary
Ward 4

Bonnie Lipp
Ward 8

Carol Swanson
Ward 3

Jean O'G
Ward 1

Pat O'Brien
General Manager



FAX
(925) 625-0169



IRONHOUSE SANITARY DISTRICT
450 Walnut Meadows Drive • P.O. Box 1105 • Oakley, CA 94561

Telephone
(925) 625-2279

September 24, 2001

Patrick Wright, Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, #1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **BIG BREAK AND MARSH CREEK WATER QUALITY
AND HABITAT RESTORATION PROPOSAL**


Dear Mr. Wright:

The Ironhouse Sanitary District (ISD) supports the CALFED proposal titled "Big Break and Marsh Creek Water Quality and Habitat Restoration". ISD has worked with the Delta Science Center (DSC) and the Natural Heritage Institute (NHI) to plan, design and permit restoration of lower Marsh Creek on ISD property. It is a good plan that meets many CALFED restoration goals and demonstrates ISD's commitment to manage its lands for the benefit of our customers and their immediate environment.

The proposal proponents are continuing to work with our engineers and legal counsel to assure that the project keeps ISD and our operations whole and does not interfere with our responsibility of processing wastewater now and into the future. This exchange is ongoing and it is our intention to resolve all details and contingencies by early December 2001.

Your support of this proposal would validate our efforts to-date and bring the possibility of implementation to reality. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Lenny Byer, President
Board of Directors
IRONHOUSE SANITARY DISTRICT

TW:jt\wp8\
isd\CALFED.01

cc: Steve Barbata, Delta Science Center
chron file

STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 2088
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 445-6083
FAX (916) 445-2527

California State Senate

SENATOR
TOM TORLAKSON
SEVENTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



DISTRICT OFFICES
2801 CONCORD BOULEVARD
CONCORD, CA 94519
TEL (925) 602-6593
FAX (925) 602-6598

JOINT GOVERNMENT CENTER
420 WEST 3RD STREET
ANTIOCH, CA 94509
TEL (925) 754-1881
FAX (925) 778-5174

DUBLIN SATELLITE OFFICE
100 CIVIC PLAZA
DUBLIN, CA 94568
TEL (925) 560-6930
FAX (925) 329-7318

STANDING COMMITTEES
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CHAIR

SELECT COMMITTEES
BAY AREA INFRASTRUCTURE
CHAIR

September 26, 2001

Patrick Wright, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, #1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. ^{Patrick}Wright:

I am writing in strong support of the California State Coastal Conservancy's proposal to CALFED for the "Big Break and Marsh Creek Water Quality and Habitat Restoration Program." As you know, the Coastal Conservancy, Delta Science Center, and Natural Heritage Institute are building an impressive collaboration of Delta specialists and local stakeholders to work on research, restoration and education issues at Big Break in the western Delta.

As a founding member of The Delta Science Center, I have monitored their progress closely. I authored amendments to secure \$4 million for Center funding in the bonds approved by voters in Propositions 12 and 13. Working together, the Coastal Conservancy, Delta Science Center and Natural Heritage Institute promise CALFED an integrated approach to conduct needed water quality and biological monitoring, to restore lower Marsh Creek, and to fully involve local communities, students and agencies in the process.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this proposal. Please call me if you would like to discuss this project or any other matter.

Sincerely,


Tom Torlakson



CONTRA COSTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

155 MASON CIRCLE ■ CONCORD, CA 94520 ■ (925) 685-9301 ■ FAX: 685-0266

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Tim McDonough
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RICHMOND

September 17, 2001

SECRETARY
H. Richard Mant
EL CERRITO

Patrick Wright, Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, #1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

ANTIOCH
John Hall

BRENTWOOD
Jon Elam

Dear Mr. Wright:

CLAYTON
Ronald Tervelt

The Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District would like to express their support for the Big Break and Marsh Creek Water Quality and Habitat Restoration Program submitted by the California State Coastal Conservancy in collaboration with the Delta Science Center, the City of Brentwood and the Natural Heritage Institute. As a Board member representative of The Delta Science Center (DSC), we are familiar and involved with the comprehensive work being done at Big Break and the Marsh Creek watershed. This proposal, organized by the State Coastal Conservancy, DSC, and Natural Heritage Institute provides needed water quality and biological monitoring for a range of restoration projects in development.

CONCORD
Earl Morrison

CONTRA COSTA CO.
Russ Belles
Heather LeRoy
Jim Pirckmeyer

DANVILLE
David Jamieson, Ph.D.

HERCULES
Johnny Poon

The Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District is very supportive of efforts to secure funding through CALFED for the protection and restoration of water quality and the riparian and aquatic habitats of Big Break and Marsh Creek. We will assist in our areas of expertise to protect the community and enhance the science, design and management of these long-term public benefit projects. We urge you to give this project your favorable consideration.

LAFAYETTE
Daniel Carpenter

MARTINEZ
Daniel Pellegrini

MORAGA
Myrio Petreas, Ph.D.

ORINDA
Charles Lapsha

Sincerely,

Craig Downs
General Manager

OAKLEY
Richard Head

PITTSBURG
Vacancy

PLEASANT HILL
Richard Means

SAN PABLO
Jeanie Cummings

SAN RAMON
Dick Vesperman

WALNUT CREEK
Nancy Bronsfield



CITY OF OAKLEY
3633 Main Street
Oakley, CA 94561
925 625 7000 tel
925 625 9194 fax
www.ci.oakley.ca.us

October 1, 2001

MAYOR
Brad Nix
VICE MAYOR
Tinker Vaneck
COUNCIL MEMBERS
Pat Anderson
Jeffrey Huffaker
Carol Rios

Patrick Wright, Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, #1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

CITY MANAGER
Mike Oliver

Dear Mr. Wright:

The City of Oakley would like to express its support on the proposal to CALFED for the "Big Break and Marsh Creek Water Quality and Habitat Restoration Program" submitted by the California State Coastal Conservancy in collaboration with The Delta Science Center and the Natural Heritage Institute. The project collaborators have already developed a meaningful working relationship with the City of Brentwood regarding Marsh Creek and its influence on the western Delta at Big Break. It is now time for the new city of Oakley to become engaged in this planning, restoration and public education process.

Oakley became California's newest city in July 1999. We are in the process of creating the city's first General Plan to guide land-use planning. We want to take advantage of the science, design and community participation this CALFED proposal offers to our planning process and our responsibility as Delta residents. The Council unanimously voted in support of the proposal at the City Council meeting on September 24, 2001

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brad Nix, Mayor
City of Oakley