



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

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Mr. Larry Goldzband
Executive Director
San Francisco Bay Conservation
and Development Commission
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

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SAN FRANCISCO BAY CONSERVATION
& DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Goldzband:

On behalf of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), I congratulate you on the 50th anniversary of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC). This milestone represents many years of BCDC's visionary leadership in strengthening the National Coastal Zone Management Program and the management of San Francisco Bay.

The McAteer-Petris Act, which established BCDC in 1965, set a nationwide precedent in how to manage our Nation's valuable coastal areas. While all state coastal zone management programs approved by NOAA under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) are unique, each owes part of its identity and function to BCDC and the McAteer-Petris Act.

NOAA is proud to be the Federal partner to BCDC. Over the years, BCDC and NOAA have grown and learned together as we have implemented the CZMA, coordinated and collaborated on Federal actions through the CZMA, and addressed emerging issues important to California and all of our coasts by working together on such challenges as sea level rise.

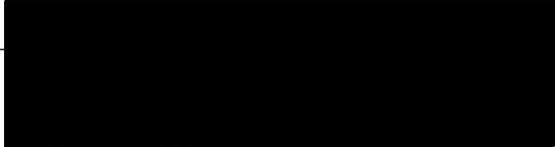
San Francisco Bay is an invaluable natural and economic resource to the region, the State of California, and the Nation. It provides diverse fish, wildlife, and habitat; public access and recreation opportunities; water dependent uses; and critical regional infrastructure. Key to BCDC's success in managing this important resource is your ability to build partnerships to support local, State, and regional decision-making across the many jurisdictions that work in the Bay. BCDC has been and continues to be at the forefront of coastal management, examining and adapting policy to respond to emerging issue, and changing conditions in and around the Bay.

I commend you and your staff for your dedication, innovation, passion, and hard work over the years to shepherd wise use of the Bay and protect and enhance its resources, as well as for the many accomplishments you have achieved. Since the establishment of BCDC, public access has increased from just four miles of Bay shoreline to more than 300 miles. BCDC has also become an international leader on assessing and addressing climate change impacts with the best available science, tools and information, regional strategy development, and policy revisions.



BCDC and its sister agencies – the California Coastal Commission and State Coastal Conservancy – have been leaders in pushing the boundaries of coastal management as they implement the California Coastal Management Program. Thank you for BCDC’s leadership and contributions to managing the San Francisco Bay, “an irrepressible gift of nature,” as the San Francisco Bay Plan put it so well in 1968. NOAA looks forward to your continued leadership and to our ongoing partnership.

Sincerely,



Kathryn D. Sullivan, Ph.D.
Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere