

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

February 4, 2016

Ms. Susan Schwartzberg, Director
Bay Observatory
Exploratorium
Pier 17, Suite 100
San Francisco, CA 94111

RE: *Exploratorium Grant Proposal: NOAA Environmental Literacy Grants for Building Capacity of Informal and Formal Educators*

Dear Ms. Schwartzberg:

Please accept this letter from the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (“BCDC” or “the Commission”) as a demonstration of its complete and enthusiastic support for fully funding the Exploratorium’s “Project Resilience” grant proposal to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to address the challenges the Bay Area faces due to rising sea level and extreme weather through its award-winning and groundbreaking programs in science education and its outstanding ability to convene experts in all fields. The Commission voted ~~X-X-X~~ to support this important grant proposal at its regularly scheduled February 4, 2016 meeting.

BCDC and the Exploratorium have a longstanding partnership. In addition to being a BCDC permittee, the Exploratorium has hosted two major events for BCDC during the past six months due to its standing as a national educational leader and its premier location on San Francisco Bay. The first of these two events was BCDC’s 50th Anniversary Summit that brought together nationally recognized thought leaders to provide BCDC and the public with recommendations about how to plan for a rising Bay. Just last month, the Exploratorium hosted a smaller meeting in its Bay Observatory to kick-off an influential working group’s efforts to focus and integrate the public-facing efforts of a wide variety of unique, albeit related, rising sea level adaptation projects.

Simply put, there is no more successful, appropriate, experienced, or strategically placed educational facility in the Bay Area with which BCDC can partner on rising sea level adaptation issues that will reach such a large number and wide swath of students and adults on a daily basis. The Exploratorium connects science, resilience, and sustainability education with practitioners, and understands how to communicate information about climate change, rising sea level, resilience, and extreme weather to diverse communities. BCDC and its working group members are beginning to work with the Exploratorium so that its staff can help us present

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information in the Bay Observatory that will help the Bay Area develop more effective community resilience – including information from the award-winning NOAA/BCDC-funded Adapting to Rising Tides Program. We and the Exploratorium, along with several other public sector collaborators, have started to partner with the Exploratorium to convene a cross section of scientists, policy professionals, and community members to reach a very wide variety of target audiences in the Bay Area, and we shall work with Exploratorium staff to help develop even more effective tools to educate the public about rising sea level. We recognize that this may be a novel approach; we believe that in the Bay Area it is the approach that will work best. We can best utilize the qualities and resources of the Bay Observatory by co-developing programs and materials and by linking the Exploratorium with our scientific, policy, and community partners. For example, we are now exploring the opportunity to host the entire Bay Area State Senate and State Assembly delegations for a meeting designed to educate them about how the Exploratorium, our partners, and we are all helping to make the Bay Area more resilient.

Thank you very much for allowing BCDC to provide this letter of support. Please feel free to contact me, or BCDC's Executive Director, Larry Goldzband (415/352-3653; larry.goldzband@bcdca.gov) if you have any questions about the Commission's commitment to working with the Exploratorium or on any other issue related to its grant proposal.

Sincerely,

R. ZACHARY WASSERMAN
Chair