

# San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

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September 4, 2018

Secretary John Laird  
California Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In the absence of a full San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) meeting prior to the Governor's Climate Action Summit at which a resolution could be considered, I want to take this opportunity to express my conviction that BCDC is fully committed to protecting and enhancing the environmental, economic, and social benefits provided by San Francisco Bay in light of the challenges posed by climate change, and will encourage the responsible and productive use of the Bay's resources for this and future generations.

To do so, BCDC will continue to support and promote habitat restoration projects that provide multiple benefits for a wide variety of communities. These benefits include support for threatened and endangered species, enhanced water quality, public recreation, and flood protection. Those projects will be aligned with the "Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Science Update" and the "San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Report," and will use the best available science to understand and take advantage of emerging trends in habitat protection and connectivity. Currently, BCDC is in the midst of a regulatory process to update the San Francisco Bay Plan to account for the need to place larger amounts of fill into the Bay to implement those projects.

BCDC's 2017-2020 Strategic Plan Update, which builds upon the Commission's October 2016 Rising Sea Level Policy Recommendations, includes several objectives that will maintain and enhance Bay habitats and built communities in the face of rising sea level and climate change. These include creating a Regional Adaptation Plan for the entire Bay shoreline, increasing the beneficial reuse of dredged material to build those projects, and promoting living shorelines and adaptive management approaches as responses. Just as important, BCDC continues to lead the groundbreaking "Adapting to Rising Tides" program that works with public, private, and nonprofit organizations to make the Bay Area shoreline more resilient to the impacts of climate change, most notably the challenges posed by rising sea levels.



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BCDC also is a proud partner (with seven other regional, state, and federal regulatory agencies) of the emerging Bay Restoration Regulatory Implementation Team (the "BRRIT"). The BRRIT will dramatically shorten the time for multi-benefit habitat restoration projects to move from the pre-application design stage to full permitting. This multi-agency team will collaborate internally and externally to ensure that multi-benefit habitat restoration projects can be carried out in time to act as natural buffers to rising tides.

Congratulations on leading America's efforts to combat climate change, and thank you for organizing the Global Action Summit to demonstrate California's commitment to protecting its residents and natural areas in the face of such great challenges! BCDC is delighted to work within your Administration to implement the State's rising sea level adaptation policies.

Sincerely,



R. ZACHARY WASSERMAN, CHAIR