



CITY OF FAIRFIELD

Founded 1856

Incorporated December 12, 1903

City Manager's Office

March 7, 2019

Home of
Travis Air Force Base

COUNCIL

Mayor
Harry T. Price
707.428.7395
Vice-Mayor
Pam Bertani
707.429.6298
Councilmembers
707.429.6298

Catherine Moy
Chuck Timm
Rick Vaccaro

City Manager
David A. White
707.428.7400

City Attorney
Gregory W. Stepanich
707.428.7419

City Clerk
Karen L. Rees
707.428.7384

City Treasurer
Arvinda Krishnan
707.428.7036

DEPARTMENTS

City Manager's Office
707.428.7400

Community Development
707.428.7461

Finance
707.428.7036

Fire
707.428.7375

Human Resources
707.428.7394

Parks & Recreation
707.428.7465

Police
707.428.7362

Public Works
707.428.7485

Steven Goldbeck
Chief Deputy Director
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 10600
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: BCDC's March 7 Agenda Item 9: "Preliminary Recommendation for the Solano County Component of the Suisun Marsh Local Protection Program"

Dear Mr. Goldbeck:

Today, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) will be considering an update to the Solano County Component of the Suisun Marsh Local Protection Plan (LPP). The City of Fairfield is a partner agency with its own component of the LPP.

It has come to our attention that, within its recommendation on an update to the Solano County component, BCDC staff has made a recommendation on a related, but independent matter: initiation of an update to the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan and consideration of whether changes are needed to the Suisun Marsh Protection Act. The City of Fairfield and other affected agencies have not had an opportunity to discuss this matter with BCDC staff. We believe this to be an important step prior to BCDC action, so that local agencies can effectively evaluate and respond to the recommendation.

The City of Fairfield supports BCDC action on the matter within the staff report's subject line: Solano County's component of the LPP. We respectfully request, however, that BCDC direction regarding an update to the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan and potential amendments to the Suisun Marsh Protection Act be delayed until a meeting can be held with local agencies to discuss the scope and process for the update and the emerging issues that would be addressed.

Sincerely,

DAVID A. WHITE
City Manager

DAW/DF/ah

cc: Supervisor John Vasquez
Fairfield City Council
Cody Aichele-Rothman (cody.aichele@bcdc.ca.gov)
Bill Emlen, Solano County
Solano Marsh Local Protection Plan Agencies



Solano Local Agency Formation Commission

675 Texas St. Ste. 6700 • Fairfield, California 94533
(707) 439-3897 • FAX: (707) 438-1788

Mr. Steven Goldbeck
Chief Deputy Director
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)
455 Golden Gate Ave.
Suite 10600
San Francisco, CA 94102

Email address: steve.goldbeck@bcdc.ca.gov

RE: March 7 Agenda Item #9 – Recommendation on the Amendment to Solano County's Component of the Suisun Marsh Local Protection Program

Dear Mr. Goldbeck,

It has come to our attention that the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), along with adopting Solano County's amendment to the County's component of the Suisun Marsh Local Protection Program, will consider authorizing staff to *"review each of the local protection program components, initiate an update to the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan, and consider whether changes are needed to the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act to address climate change, wind energy development, and other emerging issues"* as part of the requested vote.

Solano Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) is one of the local components. As one of the local components, we believe it is premature to authorize staff to initiate an update.

Solano LAFCO supports Solano County's amendment to the County's component of the Suisun Marsh LPP but, respectfully, requests that the Commission delays authorizing staff to initiate an update to the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan until after meeting with the local protection plan components/agencies to more thoroughly define and clarify the process and emerging issues.

Respectfully,

Rich Seithel
Executive Officer

Cc: Supervisor John Vasquez
LAFCO Commissioners
Ms. Cody Aichele-Rothman, BCDC (cody.aichele@bcdc.ca.gov)
City of Fairfield
City of Benicia
City of Suisun City
Mr. Bill Emlen, Solano County

Commissioners

Harry Price, Chair • Jim Spering, Vice-Chair • Ron Rowlett • Nancy Shopay • John Vasquez

Alternate Commissioners

Ron Kott • Shawn Smith • Skip Thomson

Staff

Rich Seithel, Executive Officer • Michelle McIntyre, Sr. Analyst • P. Scott Browne, Legal Counsel



March 6th, 2019

Mr. Steven Goldbeck,
Chief Deputy Director
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
455 Golden Gate Ave. Suite 10600
San Francisco, CA 94102

Subject: SRCD Request that BCDC Delay Any Action Considering Staff Recommendation to Authorize BCDC Review of each Suisun Marsh Local Protection Program Components, Suisun Marsh Protection Plan and Suisun Marsh Preservation Act

Directors

Tony Vaccarella, President
Terry Connolly
Arnold Lenk
Mike Lewis
Jim Waters

Associate Directors

Dennis Becker
Kurt Black
Bill Bush
H. Kent Hansen
Steve Roerden

Directors Emeritus

James Bancroft
Dr. William Coon
Paul Crapuchettes
Timothy Egan
Leland Lehman
Ray Lewis
Gregory Palamountain

Staff

Steven Chappell
Executive Director
John Takekawa, Ph.D.
Operations Manager
Kelli Perez
Office Supervisor
Tim Edmunds
Water Manager/Biologist
Jeff Taylor
Water Manager/Biologist
Phelan McKinney
Water Manager/Biologist
Nina Tortosa
Biologist
Marque Mouton
LJI Resident Caretaker

**SUISUN RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

2544 Grizzly Island Road
Suisun, CA 94585-9539
(707) 425-9302
(707) 425-4402 FAX
srcd@suisunrcd.org
www.suisunrcd.org

Dear Mr. Goldbeck,

The Suisun Resource Conservation District (SRCD) requests the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) delay any action to consider BCDC staff's recommendation to authorize BCDC's staff to review each of Suisun Marsh Local Protection Program Components, Suisun Marsh Protection Plan, and Suisun Marsh Preservation Act.

SRCD supports BCDC's adoption of the Solano County's Amendment to the County's Component of the Suisun Marsh Local Protection Program. SRCD also understand BCDC's desire to update your 1976 Suisun Marsh Protection Plan, but SRCD can't currently support BCDC staff's recommendation to authorize BCDC's staff to: "complete full review of each Suisun Marsh Local Protection Program Components, a comprehensive review of the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan, and consider whether changes to the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act to address a variety of emerging issues in the Marsh, but not limited to, wind energy, climate change, sea level rise, environmental justice, and other important issues." This request would provide BCDC staff an undefined blanket authorization to pursue any issues staff determines to be an "emerging issue or important", potentially resulting in modification of existing BCDC policies or the creation of new BCDC policies that could result in a significant expansion of BCDC's regulatory authority and jurisdiction in the Marsh.

The BCDC staff report states, "BCDC will work cooperatively with the County, affected local and state agencies, and other stakeholders." As of today, there has been no communication, outreach, or coordination from BCDC's staff with SRCD or any of the local and state agencies or stakeholders to be affected by these proposed recommendations. Seven Solano County agencies or local governments have certified Suisun Marsh Local Protection Program Components that will be directly impacted by this proposed action. The lack of BCDC communication and outreach fails to

consider the potential financial impact and strain on agencies staff resources to meet this newly created BCDC mandate.

SRCD would have addressed these concerns earlier with BCDC, but these elements of the BCDC Staff Recommendation were not listed on the February 7th, 2019 BCDC Meeting Notice, which only stated, a BCDC Public Hearing for the Solano County's Amendment to the County's Component of the Suisun Marsh Local Protection Program. Additionally, the March 7th, 2019 BCDC Meeting Notice only stated a BCDC Commission Vote on the Solano County's Amendment to the County's Component of the Suisun Marsh Local Protection Program and the addition of Staff's Recommendation to initiate an update to the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan and consider whether changes are needed to the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act. This BCDC Meeting Notice omitted further requests to also authorize BCDC staff to "review each of the local protection program components", as part of the requested vote.

In summary, this BCDC effort has been poorly communicated to the affected Solano County local agencies, stakeholders, and Suisun Marsh landowners. SRCD is committed to working with BCDC in developing a thoughtful inclusive process that meets BCDC's regulatory needs and continues to protect the wetland and wildlife resources of the Suisun Marsh. SRCD believes the next step should be for BCDC to convene a Solano County, local, state and federal agency, and stakeholder meetings to clearly define the needs for this effort, identify required staff resources needed to adequately perform this effort, and formulate a shared strategy and objectives to update existing policies, while continuing the long-term protection, enhancement, and management of the wetland and wildlife resources of the Suisun Marsh.

If you have any questions you can reach me at (707) 425-9302.

Sincerely,



Steven Chappell,
Executive Director

Cc. Ms. Cody Aichele-Rothman, BCDC
Ms. Brenda Goeden, BCDC
Supervisor John Vasquez,
Mr. Mike Yankovitch, Solano County
Mr. Rich Seithel, Solano County LAFCO
Mr. Richard Snyder, SCMAD
City of Fairfield
City of Benicia
Suisun City
Principal Agencies, Suisun Marsh Plan