

Marin Audubon Society

P.O. Box 599 | MILL VALLEY, CA 94942-0599 | MARINAUDUBON.ORG

January 13, 2020

Marc Zeppetello, Chief Counsel
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
375 Beale Street, Suite 510
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: Amendments to BCDC Permit Application Fees

Dear Mr. Zeppetello:

The Marin Audubon Society strongly supports the proposed reduction or elimination permit fees for Measure AA projects. We also recommend that the same or similar adjustment be applied to wetland restoration projects that are not funded with Measure AA, as long as they are not mitigating for destroying habitat.

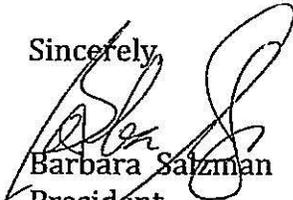
Marin Audubon has recently been awarded a Measure AA grant for a sea level rise wetland restoration project in San Rafael. We will appreciate not having to pay high fees, as we have with other projects, when it is time to construct our project.

Measure AA is bringing considerable funding to benefit bay resources but these funds are limited. There undoubtedly will be many worthy projects that will not be able to be funded by Measure AA. Perhaps they are small, or do not rank high for other reasons, or there simply are not sufficient grant monies to meet the need. These projects can still restore valuable habitat, may be funded by other sources, are in the public interest, and would also benefit from reduced permit fees. In some instances reduced fees may make a projects more viable, particularly small projects.

We recognize that BCDC staff through the BRRIT will have already reviewed most, if not all, Measure AA-funded projects, so it is fair to not charge Measure AA applicants again for project review. We still believe it is fair and in the public interest, to encourage habitat restoration through reducing or eliminating fees.

Thank you for considering reducing or ending fees for habitat restoration projects.

Sincerely,



Barbara Salzman
President