



Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge

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Lawrence J. Goldzband, Executive Director

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

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Attn: megan.hall@bcdc.ca.gov

16 September 2020

Re: Staff Recommendation on BCDC Coastal Management Program Assessment and Strategy

Dear Executive Director Goldzband and Commissioners,

The Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge (CCCR) would like to thank staff for their consideration of our comments. As you are aware CCCR has worked for decades to protect Bay Area wetlands and the species that inhabit them. As the BCDC Coastal Management Program Assessment and Strategy acknowledges:

“The survival of Bay Area tidal wetlands will depend on the inherent resiliency of the wetlands systems themselves and our ability to protect, restore and enhance them. **Without intervention, the region will lose critical wetlands and their functions**, including habitat provision, flood protection, water quality improvements (pollutant reduction), carbon sequestration, and the prevention of shoreline erosion through wave energy attenuation.” (BCDC Draft July 2020, p. 26, bold added)

Loss of tidal wetlands also leads to the loss of species biodiversity at the local, regional and international levels as our tidal wetlands support a diversity of flora and fauna including rare and listed species, fisheries and migratory waterbirds.

The Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge looks forward to supporting BCDC in the implementation of those Coastal Management Program strategies that will improve the health of the Bay.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and thank staff for their efforts.

Respectfully,

Carin High
CCCR Co-Chair

Rick Johnson
CCCR Member