

## Item 6h - Exhibit 3: Letters of Support

February 23, 2018

Chairman John Laird and Council Members  
California Ocean Protection Council  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

**Re:    Support for *Restoring Eelgrass in Living Shorelines: Opportunities to Combine Shore Protection with Amelioration of Ocean Acidification***

Dear Chairman Laird and Members of the Council:

I am writing to express my strong support for the above-referenced project proposed for funding under the Ocean Protection Council's second Proposition 1 solicitation. This project, proposed by Katharyn Boyer and Karina Nielsen of the Estuary and Ocean Science Center, San Francisco State, and Marilyn Latta of the State Coastal Conservancy, will restore eelgrass in two locations in San Francisco Bay as an opportunity to increase carbon storage and locally reduce acidification of waters that can lead to poor shell formation of oysters and other creatures. This is a permitted, shovel-ready project at sites that already (San Rafael site oyster reefs constructed on a parcel owned by The Nature Conservancy in 2012) or very soon (Giant Marsh site oyster reefs to be constructed in spring/summer 2018) will have reefs built to provide substrate for native oysters. Funding is being requested to conduct eelgrass restoration to complete the living shorelines at these two sites and to assess the contribution of the restored plants to both carbon storage and buffering of the effects of ocean acidification. The Nature Conservancy is enthusiastic to test the hypothesis that restoring eelgrass, which is already known to be valuable for providing habitat and increasing water clarity, can also be a tool to combat climate change through shoreline protection, carbon storage, and water quality improvement that can benefit other native species.

The Nature Conservancy owns one of the proposed project locations, a shallow subtidal parcel in San Rafael, which has proved in the past to be favorable for restoration of both eelgrass and native oysters. During the extremely wet winter and extended low salinity period of last spring, many native species were lost in parts of the Central San Francisco Bay, including the eelgrass and oysters previously restored and thriving at this site. The Nature Conservancy is very supportive of recovering eelgrass and oysters at this site, especially because previous work by Dr. Boyer, Ms. Latta, and colleagues showed increased species diversity of invertebrates, fish, and birds when both eelgrass and oyster reefs were present. We are willing to extend the lease

held by the Coastal Conservancy so that the restoration can be conducted and assessed over the four-year proposed project period.

We are very supportive of this innovative project and grant application. please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions ([snewkirk@tnc.org](mailto:snewkirk@tnc.org); (415) 730-7437).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sarah Newkirk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sarah" being more prominent than the last name "Newkirk".

Sarah Newkirk  
Senior Coastal Project Director

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0010  
(916) 319-2010  
FAX (916) 319-2110



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February 21, 2018

Ms. Deborah Halberstadt  
California Ocean Protection Council  
1416 Ninth St, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Halberstadt,

I write to express my support for San Francisco State University's Proposition 1 Grant solicitation, "Restoring Eelgrass in Living Shorelines: Opportunities to Combine Shore Protection with Amelioration of Ocean Acidification". This project, proposed by the University's Estuary and Ocean Science Center, in partnership with the State Coastal Conservancy, will restore eelgrass in two locations in San Francisco Bay. The project will protect the shoreline, increase carbon storage, and reduce acidification of adjacent waters.

The North Bay is already suffering from the impacts of sea level rise. Commuter parking lots along Highway 101 flood at high tide; last winter, Highway 37 was closed due to storms and floods; and some of our most economically vulnerable neighborhoods lie at the lowest elevations. We need to start protecting the North Bay now.

This project will result in multiple benefits to the communities I represent including, but not limited to, shoreline protection, habitat restoration, fisheries enhancement, carbon sequestration, and ocean acidification amelioration.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact my office at (415) 479-4920.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Levine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MARC LEVINE



February 20, 2018

Ocean Protection Council  
Proposition 1 Grant Program

Dear Madam or Sir,

I am writing to express my support for a project proposed in response to your Prop 1 grant solicitation, "Restoring Eelgrass in Living Shorelines: Opportunities to Combine Shore Protection with Amelioration of Ocean Acidification". This project, proposed by Katharyn Boyer and Karina Nielsen of the Estuary and Ocean Science Center, San Francisco State, and Marilyn Latta of the State Coastal Conservancy, will restore eelgrass in two locations in San Francisco Bay as an opportunity to increase carbon storage and locally reduce acidification of waters that can lead to poor shell formation of oysters and other creatures. This is a permitted, shovel-ready project at sites that already (San Rafael site oyster reefs constructed on a parcel owned by The Nature Conservancy in 2012) or very soon (Giant Marsh site oyster reefs to be constructed in spring/summer 2018) will have reefs built to provide substrate for native oysters. Funding is being requested to conduct eelgrass restoration to complete the living shorelines at these two sites and to assess the contribution of the restored plants to both carbon storage and buffering of the effects of ocean acidification.

This project integrates and builds on major habitat enhancement programs led by the Conservancy in coordination with San Francisco State University and other local partners. The proposed project will apply the synthesized findings of the San Francisco Bay Living Shorelines Project at San Rafael and Giant Marsh. This new project also has been developed based upon recommendations of the 2018 Ocean Acidification Report by the California Ocean Protection Council and California Ocean Science Trust, analyzing seagrass and kelp as an ocean acidification management tool in California. This report recommends eelgrass restoration and monitoring that is included in our proposal.

This letter also documents that the State Coastal Conservancy will provide \$115,000 in state match for the project. This match is from a Coastal Conservancy grant for the Giant Marsh Living Shorelines Project. We are pleased to lead that project and partner with the Estuary and Ocean Science Center, San Francisco State, on this application. We are very supportive of this innovative project and the OPC grant application, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions ([Mary.Small@scc.ca.gov](mailto:Mary.Small@scc.ca.gov), 510-286-4181).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Small".

Mary Small

Deputy Executive Officer

1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor  
Oakland, California 94612-1401  
510-286-1015 Fax: 510-286-0470



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# Assembly California Legislature



**TONY THURMOND**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIFTEENTH DISTRICT

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STATUS OF BOYS AND MEN OF COLOR  
**COMMISSION**  
ADVISORY COMMISSION ON SPECIAL  
EDUCATION

February 21, 2018

Ms. Deborah Halberstadt  
Executive Director  
California Ocean Protection Council  
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: San Francisco State University application to Proposition 1 Grant Program

Dear Ms. Halberstadt,

I am writing in support of the San Francisco State University application for funding to the California Ocean Protection Council's Proposition 1 Grant. The "Restoring Eelgrass in Living Shorelines: Opportunities to Combine Shore Protection with Amelioration of Ocean Acidification" project, proposed in the grant application, is an excellent example of the increasingly creative deployment of green infrastructure as a means of adapting to rising seas.

The Giant Marsh site described in the grant proposal is within my district. I'm very supportive of this project that will help protect the Point Pinole Regional Shoreline from the impacts of sea-level rise. The shoreline provides important recreational opportunities for my constituents. In addition, the project will also provide the multiple benefits including, but not limited to habitat restoration, fisheries enhancement, carbon sequestration, and ocean acidification amelioration.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'T' followed by a cursive 'H' and 'M'.

Tony Thurmond  
Assemblymember  
15th Assembly District



2950 PERALTA OAKS COURT P.O. BOX 5381 OAKLAND CALIFORNIA 94605-0381 T: 1-888-EBPARKS F: 510-569-4319 TRS RELAY: 711 WWW.EBPARKS.ORG

February 16, 2018

Ocean Protection Council  
Proposition 1 Grant Program

Dear Madam or Sir,

I am writing to express my strong support for a project proposed in response to your Prop 1 grant solicitation, "Restoring Eelgrass in Living Shorelines: Opportunities to Combine Shore Protection with Amelioration of Ocean Acidification". This project, proposed by Katharyn Boyer and Karina Nielsen of the Estuary and Ocean Science Center, San Francisco State, and Marilyn Latta of the State Coastal Conservancy, will restore eelgrass in two locations in San Francisco Bay as an opportunity to increase carbon storage and locally reduce acidification of waters. One of the two sites, offshore of Giant Marsh, is part of the Point Pinole Regional Shoreline, East Bay Regional Parks District, where I am the Chief of Stewardship.

Permit applications were submitted by the State Coastal Conservancy in December 2016 and all permits are expected to be in hand by March 2018. Oyster reefs will be installed by summer 2018. Funding from the OPC is being requested to conduct eelgrass restoration to complete the living shoreline array of oyster reef and eelgrass plantings proposed, and to assess the contribution of the restored plants to both carbon storage and buffering of the effects of ocean acidification.

We at East Bay Regional Park District are enthusiastic about this restoration work, as we recognize the habitat provided by eelgrass and its role in water quality improvement that can benefit other native species. Once the permitting is complete in March, we support installation of the proposed project and access by the staff who will install and assess the eelgrass plantings and water quality effects.

Sincerely,

Matt Gaul  
Chief of Stewardship  
East Bay Regional Park District

Board of Directors

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SENATOR.SKINNER@SENATE.CA.GOV

# California State Senate

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NANCY SKINNER  
MAJORITY WHIP  
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PUBLIC SAFETY & LABOR

COMMITTEES  
ENERGY, UTILITIES &  
COMMUNICATIONS  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING

July 11, 2018

Ms. Deborah Halberstadt  
California Ocean Protection Council  
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## Re: San Francisco State University Proposition 1 Grant Application

Dear Ms. Halberstadt,

I write to express my support for San Francisco State University's Proposition 1 Grant application, "Restoring Eelgrass in Living Shorelines: Opportunities to Combine Shore Protection with Amelioration of Ocean Acidification". This project, proposed by the University's Estuary and Ocean Science Center, in partnership with the State Coastal Conservancy, will restore eelgrass in two locations in San Francisco Bay. The project will protect the shoreline, increase carbon storage, and reduce acidification of adjacent waters.

One of project area locations, The Giant Marsh site, described in the grant proposal is within my district. I'm very supportive of this project that will help protect the Point Pinole Regional Shoreline from the impact of sea-level rise. The shoreline provides important recreational opportunities for my constituents and others. This project will result in multiple benefits to communities I represent including, but not limited to, shoreline protection, habitat restoration, fisheries enhancement, carbon sequestration, and ocean acidification amelioration.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Skinner".

Nancy Skinner  
Senator, District 9