



Council Chair Wade Crowfoot
Ocean Protection Council
Via e-mail

June 3, 2022

SUBJECT: Support for Loma Alta Slough Wetlands Enhancement Project

Dear Chair Crowfoot,

I am writing to express the State Coastal Conservancy's support for the Loma Alta Slough Wetlands Enhancement Project. The Conservancy has provided funding to the City of Oceanside to support planning and design for this project, and has secured a USFWS National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant to help support implementation.

The project will provide multiple benefits by improving and restoring habitat for native species, including state endangered Belding's Savannah sparrow and federally endangered light-footed Ridgway's rail, providing increased habitat resiliency to sea-level rise, improving water quality in the Slough, and enhancing recreational enjoyment of the area. This restoration is part of a long-term effort to address priority water quality issues of concern and provide outdoor opportunities and conservation awareness to the citizens of Oceanside. The City has acquired the necessary property to restore the wetlands. OPC funds will fill the gap remaining after the anticipated USFWS and SCC funds are provided to allow the City to restore the ecosystem of this highly impacted area.

Thanks for your consideration of authorizing funds for this important project.

Sincerely,

Joel Gerwein

Joel Gerwein
South Coast Program Deputy Manager

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June 10, 2022

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency
715 P Street, 20th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

VIA EMAIL: COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov

RE: Support for June 14, 2022 Agenda Item #6 - Loma Alta Slough Wetlands Enhancement Project

Dear Chair Crowfoot:

On behalf of Coastal Commission staff, we are writing in support of the above-referenced Conservancy proposal to provide funding for the Loma Alta Slough Wetlands Enhancement Project. We believe this would be an appropriate use of the mitigation funding the Coastal Commission required, as described in your staff report, to address some of the impacts that would occur during decommissioning of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. The Conservancy would disperse the funding through its Once-Through Cooling Interim Mitigation Program, which is meant to support projects like this that will restore habitat for native species and provide water quality improvements. The project would additionally be consistent with the Conservancy's 2018 guidance on ocean restoration projects and would improve coastal resiliency along this part of the California coast. We appreciate, too, that the project would also provide public access and educational opportunities that we expect will result in better understanding of the importance of restoring and enhancing California's coastal resources.

Again, we are in support of the proposed funding. Thank you for considering this project.

Sincerely,

Tom Luster

Tom Luster
Energy, Ocean Resources, and Federal Consistency Division