

California Legislature

May 2, 2017

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Holly Mitchell
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 5080
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve – Butano Channel Restoration and Resiliency

Dear Chairs Ting and Mitchell:

We write to you to request funding in the amount of \$4 million from the \$27 million requested by the Governor for Coastal Watershed Flood Risk Reduction funding from Proposition 1 for the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District's Butano Channel Restoration and Resiliency project in coastal San Mateo County.

The Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve is land under control of the California Department of Parks and Recreation. It is the most significant outer coast estuary between Elkhorn Slough in Monterey County and Tomales Bay in Marin County, as well as home to many state and federally listed threatened and endangered species. Routine dredging of creeks and the marsh, historically conducted by local farmers and property owners, ended when the state acquired the marsh and lagoon in 1974.

Since that time, sediment accumulation has filled the historic channel of Butano Creek so that connectivity through the marsh to the lagoon no longer exists. This has resulted in chronic flooding impacting the town of Pescadero, the entire Butano Creek Watershed being inaccessible to adult and juvenile salmonids during nearly all flows, and stagnant water causing significant annual fish-kill events. As a result of sediment build-up, even a small rain event results in flooding of the main road into town, stopping commerce in this tourism-fueled community.

The Butano Channel Restoration and Resiliency Project will restore the connectivity of Butano Creek through Butano Marsh to Pescadero lagoon. The effect of this change is dramatic for residents, fish, and habitat. Specifically, it would reestablish 8,000 feet of the historic channel, remove 45,000 cubic yards of sediment, and restore degraded marsh habitat, all of which would reduce socio-economic impacts to the community of Pescadero due to flooding that closes the primary access road.



Chairs Ting and Mitchell
May 2, 2017
Page 2

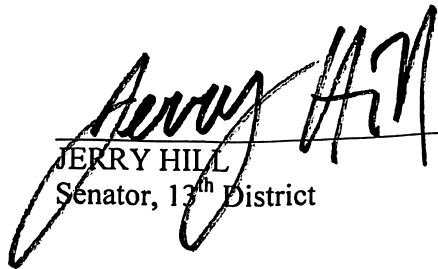
The total estimated cost of the Butano Channel Restoration and Resiliency Project is \$5 million. The lead agency, the public San Mateo Resource Conservation District, has applied for grant funding from NOAA, and San Mateo County may be providing \$1 million in financial support. This project has broad-based support among elected officials, agencies, NGOs, and community members. It is also the kind of project that the Coastal Watershed Flood Risk Reduction funds were intended to address, as it is a multi-benefit flood management project that achieves public safety and fish and wildlife habitat enhancement.

For all the reasons stated, we urge you to appropriate funding for Coastal Watershed Flood Risk Reduction and we believe that the project described above would meet the criteria for \$4 million of that funding.

Sincerely,



MARC BERMAN
Assemblymember, 24th District



JERRY HILL
Senator, 13th District



KEVIN MULLIN
Assembly Speaker pro Tem

cc: Assemblymember Richard Bloom
Senator Bob Wieckowski