Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

November 21, 2005

The Honorable Gale A. Norton, Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Norton,

We're writing to encourage you to include $3 million in the Administration's Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Request to Congress to begin restoration at Bair Island.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is poised to approve the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this priority project to restore critical endangered species habitat within the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Redwood City, California.

Restoring habitat on 2,600 acres of former salt evaporation ponds at Bair Island will improve the health of San Francisco Bay by restoring wetlands for fish and wildlife, improving water quality, and enhancing public recreation opportunities within the nation's largest urban wildlife refuge. Reintroducing the tides to Bair Island also will reduce mosquito breeding habitat and the threat of West Nile virus.

The project enjoys broad public support throughout the entire Bay Area, and a "high priority" ranking from the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture of state and federal agencies working with non-governmental organizations to restore Bay habitat. Oracle Corporation, Pacific Gas and Electric, and other local businesses, community organizations, and students are already engaged in stewardship and maintenance activities around Bair Island, a further indication of the project's importance. We're enclosing letters of support from these private and non-profit organizations.

The Fish and Wildlife Service's restoration plan estimates the total project cost at $21 million over four years, beginning with $3 million in FY 2007. We ask you and the President to include this dedicated funding for Bair Island restoration in the Administration's Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Request to Congress.

Thank you for your consideration of our important request.

Sincerely,

Tom Lantos

Pete Stark

Ben Lofgren

Ellen O. Tauscher

Sam Farr

Michael M. Honda

Barbara Lee

George Miller

Lynn C. Woolsey

Nancy Pelosi

Mike Thompson

Enclosures

cc. Hon. Craig Manson
Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Signers

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Anna G. Eshoo

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Pete Stark

Zoe Lofgren

Ellen O. Tauscher

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George Miller

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Nancy Pelosi

Mike Thompson

SAVE THE BAY

November 4, 2005

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Eshoo:

Save The Bay strongly supports your request to the Department of Interior to provide funding to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fiscal Year 2007 to begin habitat restoration at Bair Island in Redwood City.

Save The Bay is the oldest and largest membership organization working to celebrate, protect and restore San Francisco Bay, with more than 10,000 members. Since 1961, we have been the region's chief proponent for protecting the Bay shoreline, restoring Bay habitat and increasing public access and recreation amenities, and we helped create the nation's largest urban wildlife refuge in the midst of the bustling Bay Area metropolis.

The Bay Area's scientific blueprint for regional restoration, the *Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals,* identifies Bair Island within the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge as a priority project to restore critical habitat for endangered species. Congress recognized that important opportunity when it responded to your leadership and provided funding to add Bair Island to the Refuge over the last decade.

The Bair Island restoration plan will improve habitat on 2,600 acres that was previously diked off from the Bay's tides and used for salt evaporation. Restoration at Bair Island will improve the Bay's health by providing tidal wetlands that support fish and wildlife, filter sediment from runoff entering the Bay, and offer wildlife viewing and open space to the public. The project also will reduce mosquito breeding habitat and the threat of West Nile virus.

Support for this project is broad and strong among communities adjacent to the site and throughout the entire Bay Area, and from regional and state resource agencies. In addition, Save The Bay volunteers, employees from large and small area businesses, and local students are already together to provide hands-on stewardship at the site. Dedicated federal funding for Bair Island restoration, beginning in Fiscal Year 2007, will fulfill the vision we all share.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

David Lewis

David Lewis
Executive Director

Save San Francisco Bay Association * 350 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 900 * Oakland, CA 94612

SAN FRANCISCO BAY JOINT VENTURE

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MANAGEMENT BOARD:

Bay Area Audubon Council
Bay Area Open Space Council
Bay Planning Coalition
Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge
Ducks Unlimited
National Audubon Society
Point Reyes Bird Observatory
PG&E Corporation
Save San Francisco Bay Association
Sierra Club
The Bay Institute
The Conservation Fund
Urban Creeks Council

Ex-Officio Members:

Bay Conservation & Development Commission
California Department of Fish and Game
California Resources Agency
Coastal Conservancy
Coastal Region, Mosquito & Vector Control District
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
National Marine Fisheries Service
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Regional Water Quality Control Board, SF Bay Region
San Francisco Estuary Project
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Wildlife Conservation Board

October 31, 2005

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Eshoo:

I am writing on behalf of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture to support your request that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seek project funding in the President's Fiscal Year 2007 Budget for the restoration of Bair Island in Redwood City, California.

The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture is a partnership of non-governmental organizations, utilities, landowners, and non-voting agencies working to acquire, restore and enhance wetlands on San Francisco Bay and on the coasts of San Mateo, Marin, and Sonoma Counties. The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture is one of the twelve wetland habitat Joint Ventures operating under the certification of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, a Congressional agreement between the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

The Joint Venture seeks to protect, restore, and enhance 200,000 acres of wetland habitats for migratory birds, endangered species, and other wildlife habitat. Restoration of Bair Island will contribute significantly toward our toward the Joint Venture goals and is a high priority project in the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture's Implementation Strategy, *Restoring the Estuary* (2001 and was also identified as such in the region's restoration blueprint, *Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals* (1999).

Bair Island restoration will provide critical habitat for endangered species and other wildlife in the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex, the nation's largest urban national wildlife refuge. Restoration will also constitute a highly-visible, near-term validation of habitat restoration on former salt ponds and other parcels around the Bay.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. If you have further questions about the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture or this request, please contact our Coordinator, Beth Huning.

Sincerely,

Ellie Cohen/BH

Ellie Cohen
Chair

Cc: San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Management Board

ORACLE

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Redwood Shores
California 94065

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fax 650.506.7200

October 28, 2005

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Eshoo:

Oracle Corporation expresses strong support for your request that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seek project funding for the restoration of Bair Island in Redwood City, in the President's Fiscal Year 2007 Budget.

Bair Island restoration will provide critical habitat for endangered species in the midst of the nation's largest urban wildlife refuge, and help improve the quality of life for our employees and all residents of the San Francisco Bay Area.

Employees at Oracle Worldwide Headquarters are contributing their volunteer labor to help the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge prepare for this restoration project, removing non-native plant species and conducting other site stewardship activities. With full funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bair Island restoration can demonstrate the effectiveness of public private partnerships to advance environmental objectives.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Randall W. Smith

Randall W. Smith
VP Global Real Estate & Facilities
Oracle

Pacific Gas and Electric Company®

Robert L. Harris
Vice President
Environmental Affairs

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November 10, 2005

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Eshoo:

Pacific Gas and Electric Company expresses strong support for your request that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seeks project funding for the restoration of Bair Island in Redwood City, in the President's Fiscal Year 2007 Budget.

Bair Island restoration will provide critical habitat for endangered species in the midst of the nation's largest urban wildlife refuge, and help improve the quality of life for our employees and all residents of the San Francisco Bay Area.

Employees of PG&E have been active contributors to the stewardship and restoration of San Francisco Bay wetlands, volunteering their labor to help area resource agencies. With full funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bair Island restoration can demonstrate the effectiveness of public private partnerships to advance environmental objectives.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Harris

RLH:aa