



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 7, 2002

To the Members of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project:

Congratulations on receiving the Coastal America 2002 Partnership Award.

I am pleased to commend the members of your team for their efforts to improve our environment in Southern California. The partnership you forged has brought together 17 State and Federal agencies, working in concert with scientists, local governments, and environmental organizations, as well as business leaders and educators, to increase the pace and effectiveness of wetlands recovery efforts in Southern California. Your efforts have already restored over 600 acres of wetlands and acquired some 2,500 acres for environmental protection of California's treasured aquatic resources. This is a significant achievement, because Southern California has experienced a loss of much of its historic wetlands. The issues you are addressing cannot be solved by any one entity alone, and I am pleased to see that partnerships such as this are proving the value of collaboration.

My Administration strongly supports efforts that bring together a variety of resources to meet common goals and address our challenging environmental needs. I appreciate your personal commitment and leadership.

Best wishes for your continued success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George W. Bush".

Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project
is one of only two programs recognized by
President George W. Bush
for their efforts to improve the environment
while coordinating with all levels of government
and local interest groups.