



## San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

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March 12, 2009

Ms. Dyan C. White, Assistant Executive Officer  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Francisco Bay Region  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400  
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Ms. White:

Thank you for including funding for the Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary's Aramburu Island habitat restoration in the settlement with the Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin. This funding enables important restoration and enhancement for this valuable conservation area in the Marin Coast where habitat options for native birds and wildlife are limited by development.

The San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is a state-federal partnership that focuses on research, education and stewardship of the Bay. We work closely with the Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary on a variety of programs. We know that they have demonstrated clearly that they have the staff and project management expertise to undertake this important restoration project. Moreover, as a Center with strong education programs, Audubon will help ensure that the Aramburu restoration engages volunteers from the community and use it as an opportunity to help children and families learn more about the San Francisco Bay.

Aramburu Island offers an important opportunity to restore a variety of habitats on land that is relatively isolated from human disturbances and terrestrial predators. This restoration project should greatly improve habitat for resident and migratory birds, such as the San Pablo song sparrow, the salt marsh yellowthroat, shorebirds and terns, as well as mammals such as the harbor seal. It will also increase the cover of native plants, including marsh annuals such as Point Reyes bird's-beak, salt marsh owl's clover, and smooth goldfields that are rare in this region. In addition, the erosion reduction measures in this project may have indirect benefits for adjacent subtidal habitats, including native eelgrass that is likely to be limited by turbidity due to locally resuspended fine sediment. All of these actions will contribute to the regional restoration objectives presented in the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Report.

Thank you for your decision to fund the Aramburu restoration project. Both the natural communities of the Bay as well as the human communities that enjoy these waters and shorelines will benefit.

Sincerely,  
Jaime C. Kooser, Ph.D.  
Manager, San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve



*San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is a partnership among National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, San Francisco State University, California State Parks, Solano Land Trust and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.*

