

From: Dyan Whyte
To: Tang, Lila
Date: 3/2/2009 11:03 AM
Subject: Fwd: in support of Richardson Bay Audubon

Dyan C. Whyte
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>>> "Grosholz, Ted" <tedgrosholz@ucdavis.edu> 02/24/2009 4:25 PM >>>

February 24, 2009

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

Dear Ms. White:

I would like to thank you for your support of the Richardson Bay Audubon Center and your help with including funding for the Sanctuary's Aramburu Island restoration plan in the settlement with the Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin. This will help initiate a really important local restoration and enhancement project for this valuable conservation area located within the immediate area of the sewage release.

Development around San Francisco Bay, particularly the Marin coastline, has greatly reduced the habitat for native birds and other wildlife. Aramburu Island, which was created from dredge spoils in the early 1960s, provides a rare opportunity to restore important habitat that is relatively protected from human impacts. The planned restoration project would significantly improve habitat for resident and migratory birds such as the San Pablo Song Sparrow, the Salt Marsh Yellowthroat, various shorebirds and terns as well as marine mammals including the Harbor Seal. It will also increase the cover of native plants, including rare marsh annuals such as Point Reyes Bird's-Beak, Salt Marsh Owl's Clover, and Smooth Goldfields. In addition, by reducing erosion, this project will likely benefit adjacent subtidal habitats, including native eelgrass that is often limited by sediments in the water. All of these actions will contribute to the regional restoration objectives presented in the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Report.

The Richardson Bay Audubon Center & Sanctuary has a 50-year presence on Richardson Bay and has the staff and project management expertise to undertake this important restoration project. Moreover, as a Center with strong education programs they will help ensure that the Aramburu restoration will engage volunteers from the community and use it as an opportunity to help children and families learn more about the San Francisco Bay.

Your decision to support funding for the Aramburu restoration will greatly benefit not only the wildlife and overall health of Richardson Bay, but also the local communities around the bay who enjoy these waters and shoreline habitats. Thanks once again for your partnership on this important project.

Sincerely,

Edwin Grosholz
Alexander and Elizabeth Swantz Specialist in Cooperative Extension

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