



August 15, 2016

Habte Kifle
Project Engineer
Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Letter of Support
Settlement Agreement & Stipulation for Entry of Administrative Civil Liability Order
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Dear Mr. Kifle,

I am very pleased to provide a letter of support for California State Park Foundation's efforts to secure mitigation funding as part of the above referenced settlement to benefit capital improvements at Candlestick Point State Recreation Area (CPSRA), Yosemite Slough. I currently serve on the 35-member CPSRA Interpretive Planning Advisory Committee that is developing recommendations for future educational programming at the park.

The opening of the new interpretive center, infrastructure, trails and visitor amenities will be instrumental in connecting more than 200,000 annual visitors with the park's unique ecology and wildlife, as well as the area's Native American, industrial, cultural, and environmental justice history. In addition to providing visitors with a greater sense of place, the new park improvements will create a more welcoming, community-oriented environment, providing outdoor and indoor space for community gatherings, nonprofit programming partners such as the YMCA and others, volunteer events and, K-12 school groups and environmental education programming. Most importantly, these efforts will help strengthen ongoing local involvement with a key, urban state park as well as champion the need for the preservation of San Francisco Bay, shoreline habitats and open space.

I urge your support of California State Parks Foundation and their plans to build a new education center at CPSRA along with other planned improvements at the highest possible level. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Bennett
Director, Physical Activity & Nutritional Wellness
BVHP YMCA