



SAN MATEO, SANTA CLARA & SAN BENITO COUNTIES

February 16, 2021

Mr. Charlton "Chuck" Bonham, Director
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CDFW Headquarters
1416 9th Street, 12th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Letter of Support for the Calabazas/San Tomas Aquino Creek-Marsh Connection Project

Dear Director Bonham:

On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters, the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter is pleased to express our support for Valley Water's grant application for funding assistance for the Calabazas/San Tomas Aquino Creek-Marsh Connection Project.

The project embodies an innovative approach to substantially improve both shoreline and creek hydrology. Habitat in stream channels, tidal and brackish marshes and seasonal wetlands would be restored and enhanced to provide natural adaptation and buffers to sea level rise. This approach may become a model for other creeks that meet the San Francisco Bay.

We believe funding would accelerate this multi-benefit, collaborative project to restore historic conditions and provide significant habitat benefit for multiple endangered species such as the California Central Coast steelhead, the Ridgway's rail, the salt marsh harvest mouse, the California least tern, and others. A thorough planning effort is needed given the novel approach and the potential for this project to serve as a case study for future creek-Bay reconnection projects to also address sea level rise adaptation.

We strongly endorse this application and urge your favorable review. We share CDFW's goal of restoring coastal estuaries and ensuring that funds are appropriately awarded. We believe Valley Water and this project fulfill the SFBRA goals.

Sincerely,

Katja Irvin, AICP
Water Committee Chair
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Cc: State Coastal Conservancy 1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612

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