



CITIZENS COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE THE REFUGE

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Scott Wilson

Regional Manager – Bay Delta Region

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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July 20, 2016

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Chris Barr

Deputy Complex Manager

San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex

1 Marshlands Rd

Fremont, CA 94555

chris_barr@fws.gov

Re: California Department of Fish and Wildlife Eden Landing Ecological Reserve, South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, Proposed Phase 2 Actions and Public Scoping Comments

Dear Mr. Wilson and Mr. Barr,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide scoping comments for the environmental review document of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Phase 2 actions proposed at Eden Landing Ecological Reserve. The information provided during the public scoping session on June 30th was very helpful in providing an understanding of the breadth of actions that may be undertaken at Eden Landing as part of the Phase 2 actions.

Based upon the information provided during the scoping session, we request the following information be included in the draft environmental review document:

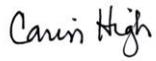
- Baseline data of the species that currently utilize all of the ponds within the Eden Landing Ecological Reserve, including daytime and nighttime use of Phase 2 ponds by roosting shorebirds.
- Mapping that depicts the existing approximate pond depths and salinities of all of the ponds in the complex.
- Identification of any existing management challenges within the Phase 1 ponds of the Eden Landing complex that have the potential to impact restoration of the Phase 2 ponds.
- Identification of suites of species that might be displaced by tidal marsh restoration of the Phase 2 ponds and identification of existing protected habitat that can absorb and sustain these populations in the long-term.
- We strongly support the inclusion of an alternative (Alternative D) that considers phased implementation of tidal marsh restoration for the ponds located south of Old Alameda Creek. We request that a conceptual timeline of phasing be included in the discussion. Please also identify data that would need to be collected to support a

decision to continue with conversion to tidal marsh habitat. Discuss how the managed ponds would be maintained in the long term should a decision be made to retain them, and in particular how they might be manipulated to address the needs of specific suites of waterbirds.

- Please provide conceptual plan and cross section views of the outboard levee and the anticipated benefits of including root wads.
- Please identify species that exist adjacent to each of the public access feature alternatives and describe what measures would be implemented to protect those species.
- Identify potential invasive species that may arise from actions proposed in Phase 2 restoration and how that would be addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. We request we be kept advised of any future opportunities for public comment, or of any additional information available for review.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carin High". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Carin High
CCCR Co-Chair