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January 8, 2008

Steve Ritchie, Executive Project Manager
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Final Environmental Impact
Statement/Report (FEIS/R).

Dear Mr Ritchie:

The City of Union City is pleased to have received a copy of the South Bay Salt Pond (SBSP) Restoration FEIS/R. The City supports the restoration project. The City also supports public access to the project area via the San Francisco Bay Trail and loop trails to access to the bay shoreline. Union City has worked with the East Bay Regional Park District to continue the planning and environmental review process for the trail. The Bay Trail is an important asset to the residents of Union City and the region for recreational use and for regional circulation.

The Association of Bay Area Government's Bay Trail Plan identifies this segment as part of the adopted Bay Trail alignment. As a regional connector, this trail will serve Fremont, Union City and Hayward in the immediate project area. Union City supports a Bay Trail alignment that will provide a bridge crossing of the Alameda County Flood Control Channel to Coyote Hills Regional Park, connecting to other parks, regional trails and transportation corridors. The project team should also endeavor to protect the existing Alameda Creek Trail and provide elevated viewpoints where possible within the project to observe wildlife with minimal disturbance.


The FEIS/R evaluates three long-term alternatives for the Project with Alternative A being the no-action scenario. Alternatives B and C represent possible outcomes ranging from a 50:50 tidal to managed pond scenario to a 90:10 tidal to managed pond scenario. The ultimate configuration of tidal habitat and managed ponds will be determined through an Adaptive Management Plan. As stated in the Adaptive Management Plan the overarching mission of the Project is the restoration and enhancement of wetlands in the

South San Francisco Bay while providing for flood management and wildlife-oriented public access and recreation.

The City of Union City would favor a scenario that provides a balanced approach somewhat closer to Alternative B in that it meets the goals for restoration and wetland enhancement while providing reasonable public access.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project.

Sincerely,



Mark Leonard,
Economic and Community Development Director