

February 9, 2011

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
R. Sean Randolph, Chair
50 California Street, Suite 2600
San Francisco, California 94111



Protecting Marin Since 1934

Dear Chairman Randolph, Commissioners, and Staff:

I am writing you on behalf of the Marin Conservation League to support the Bay Conservation and Development Commission's efforts to assess sea level rising in the next century and to educate the Bay Region on the need to adapt to the anticipated rise. We also support the Commission's efforts over the past several years to amend the Bay Plan by incorporating a section on climate change and related policies consistent with your findings.

Your on-line document, "Living with a Rising Bay: Vulnerability and Adaptation in San Francisco Bay and on its Shoreline," April, 2009, is a tremendous contribution to a growing body of knowledge on how to face this environmental challenge. The readable text covers the basis of concern, the authority and limitations of BCDC's authority, the responsibilities of local governing bodies and agencies; furthermore, it describes adaptation strategies and regional planning needs. The proposed amendments to the Bay Plan appropriately capture these strategies and planning needs within the context of a Plan that continues to serve as a blueprint for preserving the Bay and its surrounding shoreline.

We in Marin can anticipate a 15- inch rise in sea level by 2050 and 4 feet, 7 inches by 2100. This is clearly shown in the BCDC maps and text, which also indicate where the inundation will be, the sections of public access trails that will be lost, the extra challenges to those housed in the low income area of the Canal District, the vulnerability of flooding to US101, the need to search diligently for new wetlands areas, and the call for adaptive management and regional planning. Our own experiences with storm rainfall inundation, storm surges, and wave action under current conditions add sobering urgency to planning for future sea and bay level rising.

It is ironic that BCDC's original reason for being was to stop the shrinking of the bay, and now the bay region is faced with the enlarging of the bay. During the years in which the Bay Plan was taking shape, Marin Conservation League served on advisory boards, with a particular interest in protecting Richardson Bay. Now, some 45 years later, MCL fully

supports BCDC's conservation mission of protecting the Bay and ensuring a viable ecosystem and economy at the land/water interface. The dynamic tensions between physical and living systems and the relentless human impact require a great deal of knowledge, care, and restraint on the part of the humans. We are pleased at the balance and energy which BCDC has

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put into framing the discussion and considering all the input.

As an organization involved in study of issues involving land use, parks and open space, transportation, water, and climate change, MCL supports your amendments to the Bay Plan – the policy adjustments regarding Climate Change and Sea Level Rising. We would urge all governments, agencies, and organizations to take up these responsibilities in their own jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nona Dennis".

Nona Dennis, President

cc. Supervisor Charles McGlashan