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Ventura
Coastkeeper

July 19, 2010

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy Board
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94618

Re: CCKA Supports the San Francisco Bay Living Shorelines Project

Dear Mr. Bosco,

The California Coastkeeper Alliance represents 12 Waterkeeper groups spanning the coast from the Oregon border to San Diego. The Alliance and its member Waterkeepers work daily to protect and enhance healthy coastal and marine habitats throughout the state, for the benefit of Californians and California ecosystems. On behalf of the Alliance, I am writing in strong support of the San Francisco Bay Living Shorelines Project, which would help the State test climate change adaptation strategies that protect natural ecosystem functions in our wetlands, beaches, floodplains, and watersheds.

Decisions about how to deal with rising sea level, erosion, and associated impacts will have a profound impact on the future of the California Coast. If structural methodologies, such as sea walls and levees, become the default approach to deal with sea level rise, it would significantly alter the functioning of coastal habitats, which could in turn decrease the overall adaptive capacity of coastal ecosystems. Ten percent of California's coast has already been armored, or hardened, including 33% of coastal areas in the four most southerly counties. The San Francisco Bay Living Shorelines project will test alternatives to hard/structural stabilization. Living Shorelines utilize a suite of techniques to reinforce the shoreline, minimize erosion, and maintain coastal processes while protecting, restoring, and creating natural habitat for fish and aquatic plants and wildlife.

Living Shoreline projects have been successfully tried and tested by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and other organizations for more than two decades on the East Coast and in areas of the Gulf Coast. The Alliance supports the San Francisco Bay Living Shorelines Project to test the effectiveness of climate change adaptation strategies that both reduce our vulnerability to climate impacts and enhance the resiliency of our ecosystems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara Aminzadeh".

Sara Aminzadeh, Programs Manager
sara@cacoastkeeper.org

cc: Marilyn Latta, Project Manager (mlatta@scc.ca.gov)