

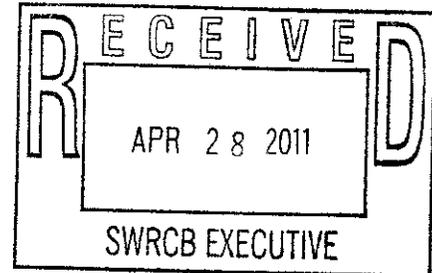


**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Region
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

5/17/11 Board Mtg. Item 4
Colorado Lagoon
Deadline: 5/10/11 by 12 noon

APR 25 2011



Charlie Hoppin, Chair and Board Members
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814
c/o Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board

Re: City of Long Beach Cleanup and Abatement Account Funding Request for the
Removal of Contaminated Sediments from Colorado Lagoon

Dear Chair Hoppin and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), I am writing in support of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project, and to urge you to support the City of Long Beach's request for \$3.3 million from the Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA). It is our understanding that CAA funds are available to any public agency with the authority to clean up waste or abate the effects of a waste on waters of the state. The non-point source (no private responsible party) contamination of the Colorado Lagoon is well established in environmental compliance documents like the 2008 Environmental Impact Report (EIR), 2010 EIR Addendum, and your recently adopted Colorado Lagoon Total Maximum Daily Load.

The NOAA Restoration Center and regional Habitat Conservation Division office have been working with the City of Long Beach on this important project for many years. NOAA is responsible for the stewardship of the nation's living marine resources and their habitat. The Colorado Lagoon serves as important coastal habitat that is essential to a unique assemblage of fish and invertebrate species. In addition, the NOAA Restoration Center is committed to providing funding to the restoration of Colorado Lagoon through a partnership with the California Coastal Conservancy

With your support, Colorado Lagoon will be cleaned, restored, and enhanced for the benefit and use of not just humans that utilize Colorado Lagoon for swimming and fishing, but also for the countless flora and fauna that depend on it for survival.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Hoffman
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Habitat Conservation

