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February 15, 2017

IMEE OSANTOWSKI
CHAIR

State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RYAN HERNANDEZ
TREASURER

E-mail: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

LYN KRIEGER
IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

Subject: Comment Letter – Climate Change Resolution

JIM HAUSSENER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Members of the Board:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed resolution.

We would like to suggest that sediment management be included as one of the activities the State Board shall undertake and the Regional Boards encouraged to work on.

As the San Francisco Bay Regional Board reported in a tentative order in 2015: "Less sediment in suspension and circulation within the Bay impairs the ability of shorelines, mudflats, and tidal wetlands to withstand erosion and inundation, especially as sea level rises."

Concerns have been raised that sea-level rise will take place at a faster rate than tidal wetlands can accrete sediment. This is based on a scenario of reduced suspended sediment concentrations as is currently occurring in San Francisco Bay combined with sea-level rise occurring at close to predicted high rates.

According to the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Project "If tidal marshes cannot keep pace with sea-level rise and begin to lose elevation, tidal marsh habitat will be lost and converted to unvegetated mudflats..."

We encourage the Boards to look at the concept of putting dredged material that is suitable for unconfined aquatic disposal back into the water column or into the near shore zone as a way to increase sediment accretion on tidal wetlands and marshes in the face of sea-level rise. Such placement could improve ecosystem resiliency.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Jim Haussener