



February 22, 2008

Mr. Eric Becker
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, California 92123-4353

Subject: **Notice of Proposed Settlement Administrative Civil Liability Against the Cities of Vista and Carlsbad for violations alleged in Complaint No. R9-2007-0099**

Dear Mr. Becker:

The California Coastal Conservancy supports the revised Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) developed by the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to meet requirements of the proposed Buena Vista Lagoon sewage spill settlement and impacts to the resource. If approved by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Board (SDRWQB), the revised SEP would provide needed funding to help complete engineering studies and modeling for lagoon restoration.

At this time the Conservancy is working with USFWS, Fish and Game, the cities of Carlsbad and Oceanside, and the Buena Vista Lagoon Foundation to improve the health of the lagoon via preparation and implementation of a comprehensive restoration plan addressing the interrelated factors and functions of water quality, habitat, human health, hydrology and hydrodynamics, and public infrastructure (including sewer pipes crossing the lagoon, stormwater outlets, bridges and roads, etc.). Initial studies and analyses have been completed with Conservancy and USFWS funding, but additional engineering studies and analyses are required for completion of the restoration plan. More funding is needed to proceed. As preparation and implementation of a comprehensive restoration plan is necessary for restoring lagoon health and beneficial uses, the Conservancy supports the revised SEP as proposed by USFWS and Fish and Game. We have reviewed, and concur with, the proposed scope of work, budget and timeline.

Sincerely,

Mary Small
South Coast Program Manager
State Coastal Conservancy

cc: John Robertus et al.

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