

Mr. John Robertus, Executive Officer
 San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
 9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
 San Diego, CA. 92123-4340

October 12, 2006

Dear Mr. Robertus:

At a recent Port of San Diego meeting you mentioned the possibility of considering the Port's environmental projects as Supplemental Environmental Projects. On behalf of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP), we request that the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB) deem all projects in the WRP Work Plan that are located in the San Diego region to be eligible for consideration as Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs).

As you know, the WRP is a partnership of a number of state and federal agencies working collaboratively to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands in Southern California. The SDRWQCB has been a member of WRP from the outset. Both the WRP Board of Governors and the WRP Wetlands Managers Group include representatives of the SDRWQCB.

The WRP Work Plan consists of a prioritized list of projects that the WRP is working to implement. The review and selection of projects for the Work Plan using our ecological, policy, and feasibility evaluation criteria ensure that the projects have technical merit and the project proponents are capable. Projects on the WRP Work Plan are managed by non-profit organizations and local and state governmental agencies. Updates to the WRP Work Plan are adopted by the WRP Board of Governors every other year, after vetting by the WRP Wetlands Managers Group. The current WRP Work Plan includes twenty one projects located in the San Diego region. These projects are in seven different hydrologic units, and include planning studies, wetland acquisitions, and riparian, salt marsh, freshwater habitat restorations.

WRP staff maintains up-to-date descriptions of and reports on the status of projects on the WRP Work Plan. WRP staff works to find funding and when needed, provides technical assistance for projects in the WRP Work Plan. The WRP has been very successful in leveraging funds from a variety of sources to enable our partners to implement wide-reaching and long-term projects.

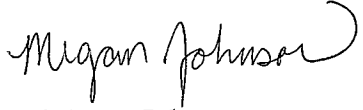
SEPs represent an additional way of providing funding to implement projects on the WRP Work Plan. The strategy of the WRP will encourage leveraging of SEP funding with funding from other sources.

In view of the above, we believe that when a project in the WRP Work Plan is accepted as a SEP, the SDRWQCB can be confident that:

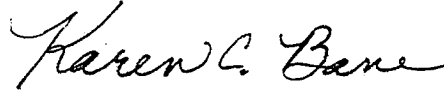
- 1) The SEP will be important and valuable;
- 2) SEP funds will be well spent and well leveraged;
- 3) The SEP will be well managed; and
- 4) The SEP will be well implemented.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you. If you would like to do so, please call Megan Johnson at 760.943.0350 or Karen Bane at 510.286.0922.

Sincerely,



Megan Johnson
Wetlands Recovery Project
San Diego Project Coordinator



Wetlands Recovery Project Manager

cc: Bruce Posthumus, SDRWQCB