

April 25, 2011

Charles R. Hoppin  
Chair  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

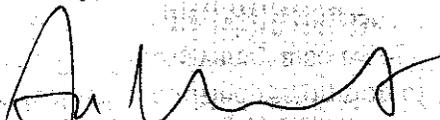
Re: City of Long Beach Funding Request for Colorado Lagoon

Dear Chairman Hoppin:

The California Coastal Conservancy is very pleased to support the City of Long Beach's application for funding to complete Phase 1 of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project. Restoration of Colorado Lagoon represents a great opportunity to restore sensitive estuarine habitat (including important Southern California fisheries) in a region which has lost more than 90% of such habitat. The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project has identified restoration of Colorado Lagoon as a priority project on its work plan. The Conservancy also recognizes the importance of restoring Colorado Lagoon and has been working with Long Beach and other project partners on developing and implementing a restoration project at Colorado Lagoon since 2002. The Conservancy funded preparation of a restoration feasibility study, which was completed in February 2005 and completion of final engineering designs for the project and is working now with the City and others to implement this very important project in one of the last coastal lagoons in Los Angeles County.

Long Beach has already been very successful in securing funding from various state and federal sources to keep this important project moving forward. Funding of the City's proposal by SWRCB will provide the final funding needed to complete Phase 1 of the restoration project. In addition, this funding would help ensure that the goals set by the recent adopted TMDL for Colorado Lagoon are met. We strongly support the City's funding request.

Sincerely,

  
Samuel Schuchat  
Executive Officer

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