



Buena Vista Audubon Society
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Oceanside, CA 92049-0480

Felicia Marcus, Chair and Board Members
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I street
Sacramento, CA 95814

September 7, 2017

Sent by email: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Proposed California Wetlands Policy Regulation

Dear Chair Marcus and Board members:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Buena Vista chapter of the Audubon Society to express our support for the proposed statewide wetlands policy regulation ("Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Materials to Waters of the State"), and to request your support for this important legislation.

California has lost over 90% of its historic wetlands, and it is incumbent on us to stop further harm, protect what remains, and rebuild some of what we've lost. Wetlands provide important habitat for many native species in this state, such as birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians. Wetlands improve water quality by filtering water, and can provide protection from rising ocean levels resulting from climate change.

Despite these considerations, the U.S. EPA is proposing to roll back federal protections for wetlands. This is unacceptable to us, and therefore the state must step in and do all it can to protect these natural resources. The State Water Resources Control Board stands in a unique position to lead on this issue. We urge you to use your authority to adopt the statewide wetlands policy.

Sincerely,
Joan Herskowitz
Conservation Chair