



San Francisco Refinery
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December 14, 2005

ESDR-585-05
06-E-02

CERTIFIED MAIL -7004 0550 0000 2565 9301

Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Francisco Bay Region
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, California 94612

Attention: Robert Schlipf

**Subject: SEP Proposals for MMP Complaint No. R2-2005-0052
ConocoPhillips San Francisco Refinery at Rodeo**

Dear Mr. Schlipf:

This letter and attachments are provided in response to Complaint No. R2-2003-0052 and your letter dated November 15, 2005. ConocoPhillips hereby waives the right to a hearing and agrees to make payment and undertake three supplemental environmental projects (SEP's) in lieu of the suspended liability. Because the total MMP fine is \$111,000 and there is a cap of \$63,000 on the total SEP amount, ConocoPhillips agrees to remit payment of the balance of the fine (\$48,000) to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA) within 30 days after the signed waiver becomes effective.

ConocoPhillips proposes the following three supplemental environmental projects and amounts:

1) Provide funding to CREEC to support an invasive plant eradication project on Edwards Creek in Crockett, Ca. This project seeks to remove invasive non-native plants on a riparian area situated on East Bay Regional Park District land at a new trailhead-staging site. This removal is vital to proceed with the planting of native plants leading to habitat restoration and improved water quality on Edwards Creek. The scope of this SEP project is summarized in **Attachment #1** prepared by Sandra J. Dare, Executive Director of CREEC.

- **SEP Amount: \$10,000.00**

2) Provide funding to Muir Heritage Land Trust to support the East Bay Conservation Corps (EBCC) restoration of Rodeo Creek and stewardship of the 702-acre Fernandez Ranch in West Contra Costa County. The scope of this SEP project is summarized in **Attachment #2** prepared from materials submitted by Christina N. Batt, Executive Director of the Muir Heritage Land Trust.

- **SEP Amount: \$33,000.00**

3) Provide funding to enhance the availability of and public access to discharge and receiving water information that is generated by various dischargers in the San Francisco Bay Area. This will be accomplished through enhancement of the functionality of the Regional Water Board's Electronic Reporting System (ERS), and the interface of ERS to the State Water Board's System for Water Information Management (SWIM) System. A designated contractor will provide support to RWQCB staff on various tasks to improve public accessibility of wastewater discharge data. The focus of the effort will be to enhance the capabilities of the ERS, and improve the interface of ERS with California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS). The tasks include computer programming, data and file review to verify accuracy of databases, and compilation of data reports in response to inquiries. These tasks will be performed in collaboration with, and under the direction of the Regional Water Board's ERS Program Manager, and/or SWIM Coordinator. The tasks will be performed in accordance with good customer service practices. A copy of the project summary provided by Mr. Johnson Lam of the RWQCB is provided as **Attachment #3**.

- Amount: \$20,000.00

SUMMARY:

A signed waiver form is attached with box #2 checked. This proposal letter was prepared for Board review as specified in your letter of November 15, 2005. This letter and all attachments will be FAXed to Mr. Robert Schlipf @ (510) 622-2460 and mailed to the RWQCB in Oakland. ConocoPhillips understands that following Board staff approval of this proposal, the SEP funding will be managed as follows:

Payment or Proposed SEP	Amount
1. ConocoPhillips agrees to remit payment of the balance of the fine to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA) within 30 days after the signed waiver becomes effective.	\$48,000
2. For the proposed SEP #1, ConocoPhillips will draft a check to CREEC to support an invasive plant eradication project on Edwards Creek in Crockett, CA.	\$10,000
3. For the proposed SEP #2, ConocoPhillips will draft a check to Muir Heritage Land Trust to support the East Bay Conservation Corps (EBCC) in the restoration and stewardship of Rodeo Creek located in the 702-acre Fernandez Ranch in West Contra Costa County.	\$33,000
4. For the proposed SEP #3, ConocoPhillips will draft a check to the Friends of the San Francisco Estuary to provide funding to enhance the availability and access to the public of discharge and receiving water information that is generated by various dischargers in the San Francisco Bay Area.	\$20,000
Total:	\$111,000

For each proposed SEP project (except for item #4), ConocoPhillips will comply with Section E of the Standard Criteria and Reporting Requirement for Supplemental Environmental Projects which stipulates that no later than 60 days after completion of the approved SEP, a final notification shall be filed. In addition, if the timeframe for full expenditure of the entire proposed SEP amount will exceed one year or is delayed significantly, ConocoPhillips will submit an annual status report.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Dennis Quilici at (510) 245-4403.

Sincerely,



Philip C. Stern
Superintendent, Environmental Services

DRQ/jj

WAIVER

(The signed waiver will become effective on the day after the public comment period for this Complaint is closed, provided that there are no significant public comments on this Complaint during the public comment period. If there are significant public comments, the Executive Officer may withdraw the Complaint and reissue it as appropriate.)

- Waiver of the right to a hearing and agree to make payment in full.
By checking the box, I agree to waive my right to a hearing before the Water Board with regard to the violations alleged in Complaint No. R2-2005-0052 and to remit the full penalty payment to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account, c/o State Water Resources Control Board at 1515 Clay Street, Oakland, CA 94612, within 30 days after the signed waiver becomes effective as indicated above. I understand that I am giving up my right to be heard, and to argue against the allegations made by the Executive Officer in this Complaint, and against the imposition of, or the amount of, the civil liability proposed.

- Waiver of the right to a hearing and agree to make payment and undertake a SEP.
By checking the box, I agree to waive my right to a hearing before the Water Board with regard to the violations alleged in Complaint No. R2-2005-0052, and to complete a supplemental environmental project (SEP) in lieu of the suspended liability up to \$63,000. I also agree to remit payment of the balance of the fine to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA) within 30 days after the signed waiver becomes effective. I understand that the SEP proposal shall conform to the requirements specified in Section IX of the Water Quality Enforcement Policy, which was adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board on February 19, 2002, and be subject to approval by the Executive Officer. If the SEP proposal, or its revised version, is not acceptable to the Executive Officer, I agree to pay the suspended penalty amount for the SEP within 30 days of a letter from the Executive Officer denying the approval of the proposed SEP. I also understand that I am giving up my right to argue against the allegations made by the Executive Officer in the Complaint, and against the imposition of, or the amount of, the civil liability proposed. I further agree to satisfactorily complete the approved SEP within a time schedule set by the Executive Officer. I understand that failure to adequately complete the approved SEP will require immediate payment of the suspended liability to the CAA.

J. MICHAEL KENNY
Name (print)

12-15-05
Date

Michael Kenny
Signature

REGISTRY MANAGER
Title/Organization

Caroco Phillips
REGISTRY MANAGER

ATTACHMENT #1

Supplement Environmental Project to

Provide Funding to Carquinez Regional Environmental Education Center (CREEC) to Support an Invasive Plant Eradication Project on Edwards Creek in Crockett, CA.

Sandra J. Dare, Executive Director
753 Loring Avenue – Crockett, CA 94525
510/787-2265
December 14, 2005

mailbox@creecyouth.org

Summary

Carquinez Regional Environmental Education Center (CREEC) has been involved in environmental restoration and education in the Carquinez Strait region since 1995. The Carquinez Strait is the only sea-level link between California's interior and is "nature's gateway to the San Francisco Bay." The uniqueness of the Strait allows it to serve as a primary pathway for large numbers of birds, fish, and insects that all depend on clean water, not only in the Strait, but also the surrounding watersheds.

CREEC's mission is the improvement of the area's natural resources through restoration projects using cooperative, constructive and mutually beneficial partnerships with youth, families, agencies, schools, businesses, and service groups in the Carquinez Strait region. CREEC reaches out to adults and youth in projects dedicated to habitat restoration, planting native trees, propagating native plants, and watershed stewardship. CREEC youth projects include hands-on environmental education, vocational education, and community outreach and service. CREEC's efforts are centered in the protection, restoration, and improvement of the natural environment. Our work and outreach encourage the protection of the watersheds and the quality of the water entering the Strait.

CREEC provides key services that further the vision of improved water quality through wetlands and riparian restoration, the propagation and promotion of native drought-tolerant plants, creek stewardship outreach, and herbicide and pesticide-free gardening. These education services help reach more people so that they can directly contribute to the preservation of our natural surroundings and further spread water quality preservation information.

CREEC's programs contribute to the protection of water quality. We strive to protect the beneficial uses of water through education, services, and products. We have educational programs for youth, restoration projects that restore native plants to local watersheds, provide plants and products at our facility (including mulch and vermin-compost material) that are better suited for the local ecosystem because they prevent erosion, resist drought, reduce chemical use and support the native ecosystems and habitat. We focus our programs on protecting water for beneficial use, help prevent pollution, and misuse for the present and future health of our local watersheds and the surrounding communities.

Project Significance and Need

The proposed SEP proposal is for an invasive plant eradication project on Edwards Creek in Crockett. The project site is of regional significance because Edwards Creek is the only perennial stream on the Crockett shoreline that flows to the Carquinez Strait. The site, located on East Bay Regional Park (EBRP) land, contains a staging area for the park hiking trail, a nineteenth century milk house and barn, and CREEC's native plant greenhouse and butterfly vivarium. (CREEC has inhabited this area under a Special Use Permit granted by EBRP since 1995.) Future EBRP plans include opening additional trails,

expanding area access, and adding a family picnic area and a small interpretive center to provide for the interpretation of the natural history of the shoreline area.

Of additional significance is the existence of an area along the creek within the project zone consisting of freshwater marsh dominated by narrow-leaf cattail (*Typha angustifolia*). Freshwater marsh is one of the most rare plant communities in our area, and it is important for many wetland species of wildlife. In this case, the habitat patch contributes to the resource heterogeneity of the project area. This section of Edwards Creek is a very visible and significant portion of the watershed. It is situated at the trailhead-staging site and consists of a mosaic landscape containing several plant communities, including: grassland, oak/bay woodland, riparian, and freshwater wetland. This habitat diversity creates a rich study area for the proposed project, and an ideal location for a restoration demonstration site.

On September 11, 2003, the California State Coastal Conservancy ("the Conservancy") granted CREEC \$30,000 for a three-year environmental education and restoration project to integrate California teaching standards into a hands-on watershed restoration project. Edwards Creek is an ideal study area due to its proximity to three John Swett campuses. Approximately 195 local students have participated in this program on a weekly basis since January 2004, and six hundred other students have benefited through presentations given by these participants. As part of the program the students study general principles of riparian restoration, techniques for plant collection, propagation, and planting, water quality and soil testing. The program has been especially beneficial to the students at Willow High School, a continuation school with no science program or lab. The Coastal grant includes funding for 650 native trees, shrubs, and grasses, which is only a small portion of the necessary plant material. CREEC proposes to plant additional plant material in fall 2006 but must prepare the site. As the purpose of the Coastal grant is watershed education, it includes no money for invasive removal. The removal of these invasive plants is necessary for the success of this project and vital for the watershed's health.

This portion of the Carquinez shoreline has been severely degraded in the past through industry and extensive logging that occurred here during the mid to late 1800s and the cattle grazing over the past century. CREEC has made a positive impact on the local environment through its tree planting and watershed restoration efforts. CREEC has an excellent relationship with East Bay Regional Park, planting trees and working in the watersheds. At CREEC's request, park personnel recently fenced off the restoration area to prevent the cattle grazing which had historically taken place. This measure will greatly improve the health of this portion of Edwards Creek and contribute to the success of the project.

Project Description

This project seeks to remove invasive non-native plants on a riparian area situated on East Bay Regional Park District land at a new trailhead-staging site. This removal is vital to proceed to the planting of native plants in Fall 2006, which will lead to habitat restoration and improved water quality on Edwards Creek. This section is a very visible portion of Edwards Creek, which empties into the Carquinez Strait, a tidal waterway under jurisdiction of the EPA under the Clean Water Act. The 2000' project area (approximately 3 acres) has regional significance because of the existence of a freshwater marsh, the only habitat of this nature on the Crockett, Rodeo, Port Costa shoreline. This project provides the opportunity to contribute to a restoration of a heterogeneous complement of riparian (willow thicket), coastal scrub, and California bunchgrass prairie species. It is part of a mosaic landscape containing several plant communities, including grassland, oak/bay woodland, riparian, coastal scrub, and freshwater marsh. This habitat diversity creates a rich study area for the proposed

project and an ideal location for a restoration demonstration site, which will have value for public watershed education and stewardship.

CREEC and the Muir Heritage Land Trust have collaborated to increase watershed stewardship in the Rodeo, Refugio, and Carquinez Watersheds. The groups have combined funding from The Watershed Project and have sponsored a new Friends of the Rodeo, Refugio, and Carquinez Watersheds Group, which will focus on increased community participation, watershed quality, outreach to the diverse communities. In addition CREEC was awarded two year funding to develop a native plant propagation program for four West County watershed groups. The propagation program is underway and plants and cutting are being grown in the CREEC greenhouse for planting next fall. The program does not provide funding for the extensive invasive removal required at Edwards Creek.

Specifically, CREEC proposes to utilize this SEP funding for the following:

1. **Eradication of Invasives** – This component of the project is mandatory to prepare for the planting of native plants in fall 2006. The eradication includes several species of invasives which have dominated the site, including Himalayan blackberries (*Rubus discolor*), artichoke thistle (*Cynara cardunculus*), fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), and poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*). These invasives need to be removed to allow for the establishment of native plants on the site.
2. **Promote watershed stewardship and education** - Develop a team of students and citizens who will promote and participate in stream protection events, including invasive removal, stream cleanup, watershed monitoring, and watershed education.

Goals

By removing the invasives and developing a team for on-going eradication, the watershed conditions will be improved and the site prepared for the restoration of native plants. Enhancing the riparian area with native plants will provide a natural vegetative filter and reduce runoff. Planting native trees and shrubs along the stream to provide shading to keep the water temperature cooler for aquatic life. Streambed erosion will be reduced by planting native plants and trees for bank stabilization.

Workplan and Timeline

Initial eradication of invasives - In the high density areas, the eradication program will consist of several components. First step will be to weed remove the above-ground vegetation, followed by digging up roots. Then, the area will be covered with newspaper, topped with mulch, and covered with black plastic for solarizing to prevent re-growth prior to the fall planting.

The project would begin in February 2006 and continue throughout the summer. A majority of the work would be performed by the CREEC Youth Group after school and during the summer. In addition, CREEC would sponsor six monthly volunteer events to promote community stewardship and participation in watershed health. These events would focus on eradication and removal, and would be enhanced by an educational presentation on watershed health issues. These workshops would be scheduled monthly from March 2005 through October 2005, which would allow for any necessary re-scheduling due to weather conditions. The entire project is expected to be completed by October 31, 2006 in order for the planting to begin in November 2006.

Project Budget

February 1, 2006 Through September 30, 2006

Item	SEP	In-Kind	Source	Total Project
Project Manager 200 hours @ \$40/hour	\$ 4,000	\$4,000	CREEC	\$ 8,000
Project Assistant 150 hours @ \$20	2,000	1,000	CREEC & Watershed Project Grant	3,000
CREEC Youth 1,000 hours @ \$6/hour stipend	3,600	2,400	CREEC	6,000
Tools & supplies	400	2,000	CREEC	2,400
Insurance		2,000	CREEC	2,000
Total	\$10,000	\$11,400		\$21,400.00

The Organization

CREEC is a nonprofit organization existing under Section 501-C-3 of the U. S. Internal Revenue Code. Among its principal charitable purposes is "the preservation of land for scientific, historic, educational, recreational, and open-space opportunities." The educational goals are centered on training and educating students and community members in restoration techniques and the importance of protecting and enhancing the natural environment.

The initial education program, which started in 1995, was begun by a partnership with Union Oil Company of California, the Lindsay Wildlife Museum, John Swett Unified School District, and Diablo Valley College to work with local middle school students propagating oak seedlings to restore oak woodlands on the hills surrounding the Strait. Over time, the program has expanded and evolved to reach adults and students of all ages through workshops, community outreach, environmental education, and restoration programs. CREEC's restoration programs have been centered in the riparian areas that feed the Strait and replanting the surrounding oak woodlands that are vital for erosion control on the hillsides. In the riparian areas and adjacent slopes, CREEC has planted thousands of native plants and grasses and conducted extensive mulching practices. These measures also contribute to erosion reduction.

Since 1998, CREEC has provided vocational education opportunities for local youth to participate in propagation and restoration work year-round after school and weekends. The unique aspect of CREEC's youth program is the opportunity for participation in a work environment that includes valuable environmental education with the added benefit of improving watersheds on the Carquinez Strait. CREEC's efforts in restoration, environmental education, and community improvement have been widely supported by the major Crockett community groups and organizations, including the following: Carquinez Women's Club, Crockett Arts Alliance, Crockett Boy Scouts, Crockett Chamber of Commerce, Crockett Community Center, Crockett Community Foundation, Crockett Historical and Museum Association, Crockett Improvement Association, Crockett Lions Club, Crockett Sea Scouts, and John Swett Unified School District. CREEC's supporters in Rodeo include The Rodeo M.A.C., the Phillips Community Advisory Panel, Phillips Petroleum, and the Bayo Vista Residence Council.

Restoration, Outreach and Projects

Past restoration projects include Elkhorn Creek in Crockett and various oak woodland and tree planting projects in the Crockett and Rodeo areas. In combination with raising trees and plants for its restoring projects, CREEC propagates and sells native plants and trees to local residents, conducts education workshops, and distributes literature promoting herbicide and pesticide free gardening, which improves overall water quality in the Strait. CREEC youth have developed a website at www.CREECyouth.org, which will be continually improved to inform the public of CREEC's activities. We participate in creek and shoreline cleaning and monitoring water quality to help ensure the survival of native plants and to help restore the shores and waters of the Strait. Through CREEC outreach, we continually earn the support of the Crockett community and encourage more people to make a commitment to water quality protection through these ecologically sound practices.

We foster leadership through our youth programs and community outreach. We are inspiring youth to become leaders in natural resource protection and water quality issues. Youth learn to recognize resource protection through conservation and pollution prevention. Our youth programs encourage advance education in plant science and water quality. Our programs aid staff and our volunteer corps by providing education and information on development as well as growth opportunities in community outreach.

Personnel

Sandra J. Dare, Executive Director, has developed and supervised CREEC's education programs and restoration projects since 1998. She holds a M.S. in Environmental Studies and a MBA in Finance. She has been teaching a hands-on watershed environmental science class in the John Swett Unified School District since January 2004. She teaches watershed education classes for the Lindsay Wildlife Museum and Contra Costa Central Sanitary District.

Dean G. Kelch, Ph.D., botanist and native plant specialist, has been over-seeing and advising the native plant propagation and re-vegetation programs since 1999. He is currently performing postgraduate research at University of California Berkeley.

Karin Korda, Watershed Coordinator for the Rodeo, Refugio, & Carquinez Watersheds funded by The Watershed Project through a collaboration with CREEC and the Muir Heritage Land Trust and the Propagation Coordinator for CREEC's watershed restoration programs. She has a B.S. in forestry and 10+ years in natural resource management.

Kay Smith, Greenhouse Operations, has been supervising the CREEC Youth in the greenhouse program since January 2005. She is a long-time resident of Bayou Vista and is the Vice President of the Resident Council. She has been successfully recruiting Bayou Vista youth to join the CREEC Youth Group for over six years.

CREEC Youth include students from 14 to 18 years old from the John Swett Unified School District. Over 75 students have participated in the vocational education program since 1998. Another 200 students have participated on a volunteer basis in conjunction with scouting badges, community service projects, and hands-on science projects. CREEC has approximately 125 volunteers that participate in various aspects of its programs on an annual basis and 350 supporting contributors.

Evaluation Plan and Success Criteria

The success of the project will be determined by the completion of the above-outlined infrastructure.

Progress Reports

If R2-2005-0052 SEP expenditures are concluded by October 1, 2006, the final notification and progress summary could be combined in one report that would be due no later than 60 days after completion of the approved SEP.

If project expenditures are expected to continue past October 1, 2006, separate progress and final notification reports will be submitted.

ATTACHMENT #2
Supplement Environmental Project to
Provide Funding to Muir Heritage Land Trust to support the East Bay
Conservation Corps (EBCC) restoration of Rodeo Creek and Ranch in
West Contra Costa County.

Christina N. Batt, Executive Director,
Muir Heritage Land Trust
December 14, 2005

The Muir Heritage Land Trust

MHLT's first 15 years of existence involved acquiring, managing and restoring over 660 acres of contiguous rangeland in the Franklin Ridge, the 7 acre Bodfish Preserve in Orinda, the 30 acre Goldfield Preserve in Hercules, and the 121 acre Pacheco Marsh property along the Carquinez Strait. MHLT closed escrow on their most recent acquisition, the 702 acre Fernandez Ranch in July, 2005. The Fernandez Ranch is the largest open space preserve in West Contra Costa County, a traditionally under-served region in terms of open space and parklands. As Land Trust stewardship responsibilities increase, MHLT has partnered with the East Bay Conservation Corps to manage and restore Land Trust owned properties. This partnership is essential as MHLT acquires and manages more land. MHLT also partners with the Vicente Martinez Continuing Education High School and the Urban Creeks Council to provide an environmental education curriculum for the students as they participate in the creek restoration alongside their campus. This program is being expanded as funds become available to serve students and community volunteers throughout MHLT's geographic region, which includes all of Contra Costa County and parts of Alameda County.

Statement of Need

With the completion of the 702 acre Fernandez Ranch acquisition in July, 2005, restoration of the two mile Rodeo Creek corridor that traverses the property will be a primary focus of the Muir Heritage Land Trust's work over the next two years. Historically, Rodeo Creek has been impacted by erosion due to very sandy soil in the upper watershed. In spite of this, steelhead have been found downstream because no physical barriers exist anywhere in the watershed. The Land Trust's challenge is to restore the riparian habitat on the Fernandez Ranch, while managing the erosion. We also need to reconstruct the bridge crossing the creek to allow for public and fire safety access. Debris from illegal dumping off Christie Road into the creek has to be removed and the riparian area restored. Further upstream, cattle have been allowed to cross the creek corridors. These areas will need to be fenced, along with the two stock ponds on the property. Additional restoration and fencing of the riparian corridor can be done over the long term as funding is identified.

Fernandez Ranch-Partners in Restoration

A State Coastal Conservancy grant will fund the restoration plan. They are also funding the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council's (BARTC) public access and trail plan for the property. Constructing the bridge across the creek is necessary to complete the segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail that goes from the EBMUD's watershed lands across the Fernandez Ranch north to the Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline Park. The Conservancy staff will work with MHLT's Stewardship Associate to hire and manage a restoration planning consultant and contractor to undertake the bridge construction.

East Bay Conservation Corps employees will assist with the debris clean-up, creek restoration, and the resulting erosion control. Students from MHLT's Environmental Academy at the Vicente Martinez High School will also be involved in the erosion control activities. By working with the EBCC employees, students from the Continuing Education High School can learn about job opportunities in the environmental field.

Bay Area Ridge Trail staff will undertake the trail planning, and Land Trust community volunteers will be asked to work with EBCC crews to construct trail improvements other than the bridge that crosses Rodeo Creek. Restoration and trail planning could take up to six months, followed by obtaining necessary permits from the regulatory agencies. Actual construction and restoration work will begin next May, 2006.

MHLT recently received a grant from the Contra Costa County Clean Water Program to help residents of West Contra Costa County form the Friends of Rodeo Creek in order to undertake a watershed management plan for the entire Rodeo Creek Watershed. This project will involve local community members in the Land Trust's work, and educate the public about the need to restore eroded and degraded sections of the watershed to improve water quality.

Outcomes

The end result of the restoration activities on the Fernandez Ranch and within the greater Rodeo Creek watershed include: creation of the largest open space preserve in West Contra Costa County, restored riparian habitat on the Fernandez Ranch, public access trails and facilities for all residents of the County, increased community involvement and support and an established partnership with EBCC for both land stewardship and environmental education programs. MHLT will be able to evaluate the quality of our services by our ability to meet the project budget in a timely manner, and increase community involvement and support. Ongoing monitoring of the creek restoration and re-vegetation will be required by the regulatory agencies issuing permits for the work. Associated reports must be submitted as a condition of the private foundation and government grants.

Qualifications

MHLT has been acquiring and stewarding land in Contra Costa County for 17 years. Our support and land holdings have increased proportionately. Our partnership with EBCC will help us achieve our land management objectives, and increase the involvement of students and community volunteers over the long term. Completing the acquisition of the Fernandez Ranch was the first step towards meeting these long term partnership goals.

Funding & Sustainability

We still need to fund the Land Trust's stewardship endowment for the Fernandez Ranch. This is necessary to cover management costs over the long term. MHLT's Development Associate and Development Subcommittee have implemented a Planned Giving Program in hopes of soliciting bequests, and educating our donors about the need to invest in the Land Trust's longevity. Once we have completed CEQA, we will be applying to the California Rivers and Parkways program to fund the creek restoration and public access improvements.

Timeline and Cost Breakdown

A detailed timeline and a breakdown of the specific expenditures for the proposed SEP funds is being prepared, but is not attached to this letter. This information will be finalized and provided to RWQCB staff as soon as practicable prior to the January 11th Board meeting.

ATTACHMENT #3
Supplement Environmental Project to
Enhance Availability and Access to the Public of
Discharge and Receiving Water Information
Updated in November 2005

Background

Historically, the public's access to wastewater discharge and receiving water data must be obtained through their review of paper Self-Monitoring Reports submitted by wastewater dischargers. These reports present data separately on a monthly or quarterly basis. The reports were available only at the Regional Water Board's offices during file review times. Also, the dischargers did not use consistent formats for submitting data. This made it difficult and very time consuming for the public to obtain such data. Except for a small amount of State Water Board funds before 2000 to explore development of electronic discharge databases, there has not been ongoing State funding to support such efforts at the Regional Water Board; nor is there authority for the Regional Water Boards to require development of electronic databases by the dischargers.

Scope of Project

The scope of the project is to enhance the availability and access to the public of discharge and receiving water information that is generated by various dischargers in the San Francisco Bay Area. This will be accomplished through enhancement of the functionality of the Regional Water Board's Electronic Reporting System (ERS), and the interface of ERS to the State Water Board's System for Water Information Management (SWIM) System. These enhancements will be an ongoing effort, and will be determined by available funds. The goals of the enhancements will include at a minimum the following elements:

- accessibility of the water quality data on the web
- improvements to search and sort abilities to provide better service to public requests of water quality data
- migration of the existing database in Microsoft's Access to another enterprise system (e.g., Oracle or SQL server) to allow expanded capabilities
- expansion of the database to add more pollutants and parameters
- improvements in functionality to allow accurate flagging of data in excess of permit limits
- web-based application of the ERS so as to facility and encourage prompt and correct usage by dischargers
- enhancement the capabilities of the ERS and improve the interface of ERS with California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS)

Benefits of Project

Electronic discharge and receiving water databases allow much more accessibility of the data to the public, and would facilitate the public's investigations into pollutant impact and source identifications in their area, and watershed assessments in general.

Tasks

The contractor will provide support on various tasks to improve public accessibility of wastewater discharge data. The focus of the effort will be to enhance the capabilities of the ERS, and improve the interface of ERS with California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS). The tasks include computer programming, data and file review to verify accuracy of databases, and compilation of data reports in response to inquiries. These tasks will be performed in collaboration with, and under the direction of the Regional Water Board's ERS Program Manager, and/or SWIM Coordinator. The tasks will be performed in accordance with good customer service practices.

Estimated Operating Cost

Regional Water Board's staff estimates an annual cost for completion of this project to be \$50,000.

Third Party Oversight

Friends of the Estuary will provide third party oversight for this project. Their contact information is:

Marsha Brockbank
Program Manager
Friends of the Estuary
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 622-2325
FAX (510) 622-2501