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February 28, 2014

Mr. Keith Caldwell  
Napa County Board of Supervisors  
1195 Third Street, Suite 310  
Napa, CA 94599

Subject: San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

Dear Supervisor Mr. Caldwell

I am writing to you in your capacity as the North Bay representative on the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Governing Board. I am writing to you in regard to the parcel tax ballot measure under consideration by the Restoration Authority.

First let me state that as a resident of Solano County, who has been involved in local environmental issues for more than 30 years, I fully understand the need to develop a dependable source of funding for wetland restoration in the San Francisco Bay area. I support the Restoration Authority's efforts to place a parcel tax on the ballot to provide this essential funding.

I have reviewed the draft expenditure plan (dated November 26, 2013) of the Restoration Authority and do have some concerns with the proposed wording. My main concern is that as currently written the expenditure plan does not give voters of the Bay Area the assurance and confidence that the revenue will be spent wisely and fairly in the nine-county area. As it is currently written I have concerns that voters in Solano County, especially those who live a distance away from the Bay, will not have the confidence and assurance that Solano County will receive its fair share of the funding raised.

Two suggestions that I would make in regard to the expenditure plan:

- The draft expenditure plan says that the allocation of funding "provide for geographic distribution across the region". This is inadequate for me. The expenditure plan shall state that a percentage of the money raised in each of the nine counties will be spent in that county. Perhaps this does not have to be on a yearly basis but at least it should be over the life of the fund.
- The expenditure plan needs to identify the specific projects that may be funded. The draft expenditure plan provides "examples of potential projects eligible for funding". "Examples" does not provide the voters assurance that the revenue will be spent on worthwhile projects. I believe voters need more assurance as to the projects that will be funded by this measure.

Thank you for your consideration of the above. I am available by telephone, email, or at an in-person meeting to further discuss my concerns regarding the tax ballot measure.

Yours truly

Bob Berman

CC: Linda Seifert  
CC: Erin Hannigan