



**SAN FRANCISCO BAY**  
RESTORATION AUTHORITY

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May 3, 2024

Chair Eduardo Garcia  
Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 171  
Sacramento, CA 95814

To Chair Garcia,

As Chair of the Governing Board of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, I am writing to express my strong support for AB 2501 (Alvarez) - Cutting the Green Tape for Climate Adaptation and Restoration.

This legislation aims to authorize the State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards to accept funds from state and local public agencies. By enabling the Water Boards to receive additional funds, it will assist with the timely review of permit applications for projects addressing climate change adaptation and ecosystem restoration.

The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority was the first funder and actively champions the work of the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT), which was formed to improve the permitting process for multi-benefit habitat restoration projects in the San Francisco Bay and along the shoreline of the nine Bay Area counties. The BRRIT consists of staff dedicated to this purpose from the state and federal regulatory agencies that have jurisdiction over habitat restoration projects in the bay, including the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The BRRIT plays an important role in realizing the State of California's Cutting Green Tape Initiative by improving the efficiency of permitting in one of its most populous and vulnerable regions. Since its formation in 2019, the BRRIT has issued 63 permits and other authorizations. It has fully permitted 8 ecosystem restoration projects and is working on permitting a further 20.

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, unlike other regulatory agencies serving on the BRRIT, has been unable to accept funds directly from the Authority to support its work. AB 2501 would align the authority of the Water Boards with that of other state agencies, enabling it to assist with the review of these urgent permit applications in a timely manner.

The Governing Board of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority stands in strong support of this bill and urge your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Chair Dave Pine