

## Resolution No. 124

## Approving Letter to Chair Eduardo Garcia, Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee, in Support of AB 2501

Whereas, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority ("Authority") was the first funder of the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT), which supports the State of California's Cutting Green Tape Initiative by improving the efficiency of permitting for ecosystem restoration projects; and

**Whereas,** the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board is a member of the BRRIT; and

**Whereas,** 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; and

**Whereas,** AB 2501 (Alvarez) - Cutting the Green Tape for Climate Adaptation and Restoration would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board to accept, on behalf of itself and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards, funds from state and local public agencies for planning, permitting, or providing technical support for projects of public benefit, thus enabling the Water Boards to accept funds from the Authority to participate in the BRRIT; and

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved,** that the Authority approves the letter (Exhibit A) to Chair Eduardo Garcia, Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee, supporting AB 2501 (described in Exhibit B).

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Governing Board of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority at its meeting on May 3, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: Governing Board Members _	Gioia, Peskin, Holman, Gorin, Pine
NOES: Governing Board Members _	
ABSENT: Governing Board Members	s
ABSTAIN: Governing Board Member	rs
	Dave Pane
	Dave Pine, Chair

I, Paul Johnson, Clerk of the Governing Board of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the Governing Board of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority at its meeting of May 3, 2024, which Resolution is on file in the office of this regional governmental entity.

Paul Johnson Paul Johnson, Clerk



**Governing Board** 

Supervisor Dave Pine
Chair
County of San Mateo

Supervisor John Gioia Vice Chair County of Contra Costa

Supervisor Aaron Peskin City & County of San Francisco

> Supervisor Susan Gorin County of Sonoma

Councilmember Lisa Gauthier City of East Palo Alto

Councilmember Sophie Hahn City of Berkeley

Director, Karen Holman Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board

> Amy Hutzel Executive Officer

Address: c/o State Coastal Conservancy 1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor Oakland, CA 94612

Telephone: 510-286-7193

Email: info@sfbayrestore.org

Web: www.sfbayrestore.org

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,

Dave Pare

Chair Dave Pine