

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



SAN FRANCISCO BAY
RESTORATION AUTHORITY

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 Hutzell
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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,

Dave Pine

Chair Dave Pine