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COMMITTEES  
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BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 2  
ON HUMAN SERVICES  
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

November 6, 2024

Christy Fischer  
Conservation Director, Coastal Northern California  
Trust for Public Land  
23 Geary St., Suite 1000  
San Francisco, CA 94108

RE: Letter of Support – Newark Baylands Proposal

Dear Ms. Fischer,

I am writing to express my support for Trust for Public Land's (TPL) proposal entitled "Newark Baylands – Acquisition, Interim Management, and Restoration Planning." This proposal demonstrates a strong collaboration with community and government partners and a shared commitment to ensure the protection and restoration of Newark Baylands - Area 4.

TPL's acquisition of 430 acres of Newark Baylands will protect approximately 249 acres of wetlands and 181 acres of uplands with excellent restoration potential. The property is one of the few remaining undeveloped and unprotected sites along the South San Francisco Bay shoreline and it provides an opportunity for tidal marsh restoration in response to sea level rise.

In addition, future enhancements of the tidal wetland ecosystem and habitat would benefit several threatened and endangered species, including the salt-marsh harvest mouse and the Ridgeway's rail, and would help protect adjacent communities against flooding and storm surges. Protection of the property also will enable future public access to the shoreline and ensure the preservation of open space.

I support TPL's plans to convey the property to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), which manages the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, for long-term ownership and management. The Service has identified the acquisition of Newark Baylands as a priority due to the site's ability to support endangered species recovery, provide climate-change resilient habitat, and increase the Refuge's connections to local communities.

Again, I firmly endorse the Trust for Public Lands Newark Baylands proposal. I believe that this project will protect our communities from the impacts of climate change and sea level rise, and will restore and enhance tidal marshes, preserving these ecosystems for the future.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alex Lee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Lee".

California State Assemblymember  
Assembly District 24