

The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building
651 Pine Street, Room 106
Martinez, California 94553

John Gioia, 1st District
Gayle B. Uilkema, 2nd District
Mary N. Piepho, 3rd District
Susan A. Bonilla, 4th District
Federal D. Glover, 5th District

Contra Costa County



David Twa
Clerk of the Board
and
County Administrator
(925) 335-1900

April 8, 2009

Honorable Senator Lois Wolk
State Capitol, Room 4032
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 457 (Wolk) (Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta) – Hearing in Senate Natural Resources Committee (April 14, 2009)

Dear Senator Wolk:

On behalf of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, we are very appreciative of your work in SB 457 to create a Delta Stewardship Council and implement a Delta Stewardship Plan as well as a Delta Science and Engineering Program.

The Board of Supervisors has not yet met to take a position on SB 457, but we look forward to working with you in developing a necessary governance structure for the Delta. The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors supports new governance in the Delta, specifically in the areas of ecosystem and water management. As you know, we also strongly support protecting “the Delta as a Place” as a tri-equal goal (along with ecosystem restoration and reliable water supply) in any plans and legislation related to the Delta, as we embark on significant changes to the Delta that will be necessary to restore it.

We appreciate your leadership and commitment to restoring the Delta and to protecting its communities. The creation of a state-level Council which recognizes the importance of the Delta is long overdue. As one of the five Delta Counties, we are concerned that all bodies charged with planning and preserving the resources of the Delta have significant local representation. Such representation is critical to achieving statewide goals for the Delta and will make more likely the preservation of this precious and endangered resource for all of California.

We assume the conservancy components of this bill will be removed or made consistent with the provisions contained in SB 458, your Delta Conservancy bill. We look forward to working with you and your staff on both bills as they move forward.

Please contact our legislative advocate in Sacramento, Cathy Christian, at 916-446-6752 if you have any questions. We will make our County staff available to you for

future discussion. We thank you again for your advocacy for the Delta and its communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan A. Bonilla".

Susan A. Bonilla, Chair
Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Fran Pavely, Chair, Senate Natural Resources Committee
Members, Senate Natural Resources Committee
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Senator Mark Desaulnier
Senator Loni Hancock
Assembly Member Tom Torlakson
Assembly Member Joan Buchanan
Assembly Member Nancy Skinner
L. DeLaney, CAO's Office
C. Christian, Nielsen, Merksamer, Parrinello, Mueller & Naylor, LLP
R. Goulart, CC Water Agency