

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 458 (Wolk) (Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy) – Hearing in Senate Natural Resources Committee (April 14, 2009) – SUPPORT IN CONCEPT

Dear Senator Wolk:

On behalf of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our conceptual support for your bill, SB 458, which would establish a Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy. As one of the five Delta Counties, Contra Costa County is keenly interested in the concept of a Delta Conservancy, as a Conservancy would foster many components of a healthy Delta that we feel are important.

The Conservancy, much like the successful Sierra Nevada Conservancy model, should be constituted with significant local representation on its governing board. Only with such representation can local government address the significant environmental and economic challenges the Delta faces now and in the future. These challenges are especially acute in the communities that are located in the Delta, so consideration of economic development, agriculture, infrastructure, and recreation in addition to environmental stewardship is particularly important.

We appreciate your leadership and commitment to restoring the Delta and to protecting its communities. The creation of a Delta Conservancy with substantial local representation could help achieve these goals and would make more likely the preservation of this precious and endangered resource for all of California.

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors looks forward to working with you and your staff on this bill as it moves forward. In particular, we would like to discuss Conservancy board membership composition, responsibilities of a Conservancy, its jurisdiction and funding aspects.

Our Board is also monitoring the outcome of the bicameral meetings on Delta legislation before taking more specific action on proposed legislation.

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". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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