Proposed Habitat Management, Preservation, And Restoration Program for the Suisun Marsh NEPA/CEQA Scoping Comment Form

Name: Anthony Arnold

Mailing Address: 19 Hayes St
Novato, CA 94947

Telephone No. (optional): (415) 892 0238

e-mail (optional):

Comments/Issues/Alternatives: The recent Suisun Marsh Restoration Scoping meeting was extremely helpful. Thank you.

I believe that of the many important issues raised, the most important was the need to modify the present prohibition on slough dredging.

The present slough siltation situation is not the fault of marsh landowners, nor is it a "natural" marsh process. It derives from the mushrooming of housing and other developments around the marsh perimeter. The runoff from such activities has interrupted natural water flows that previously kept channels open and cleansed the marsh. It is resulting in the stagnation of water circulation to the point that it is becoming a menace to wildlife habitat and threatens to have a negative impact ~~of~~ on a broad spectrum of biota.

This issue is in urgent need of addressing.

Sincerely,

Anthony Arnold

Author of Suisun Marsh History – Hunting and Saving a Wetland

Please use the other side of the sheet if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED BY 2/8/04) TO:

MS. LAURIE BRIDEN
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
4001 N. WILSON WAY • STOCKTON, CA 95205

Phone: 209/948-7347 Fax: 209/946-6355 *or* lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: David A. Burgess [mailto:dburgess@jcis.net]
Sent: Saturday, April 03, 2004 7:58 PM
To: lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov
Subject: Suisun Marsh Plan

Ms. Briden -

I am a resident of Solano County and a frequent visitor to the Suisun Marsh. How do I obtain a copy of the Suisun March Plan, preferably in electronic form?

-- David A. Burgess
Fairfield, CA

Proposed Habitat Management, Preservation, And Restoration Program for the Suisun Marsh NEPA/CEQA Scoping Comment Form

Name: DAN CRONAN

Mailing Address: 145 SAN BUENAVENTURA WAY
SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94127

Telephone No. (optional): 415. 834-3552

e-mail (optional): dcronan@pacunion.com

Comments/Issues/Alternatives:

To whom it may concern,

My family and I have owned land in the Suisun Marsh since the mid-1920's. This marsh land has held a special place in my heart. Starting as a young child, I recieved an invaluable education and appreciation on the importance of being a good stewarda of the marsh. We have always strived to provide a good habitat for a host of birds and animals, including a myriad of migratory waterfowl. My family loves the habitat that we helped to develop over the years. Nothing quite compares to watching the bands of birds in early morning and late afternoon enjoying the marsh. To provide the optimal habitat for these majestic creatures, we have to maintain our levees, which require minor dredging from time to time. We also find that its best if we can occassionally burn invasive vegetation that hinders the growth of more beneficial vegetation for the good of local and migratory bird populations.

Your support of our efforts to maintain and enhance these endangered managed wetlands are greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Dan Cronan

Daniel P. CRONAN

Please use the other side of the sheet if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED BY 2/8/04) TO:

MS. LAURIE BRIDEN
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
4001 N. WILSON WAY • STOCKTON, CA 95205

Phone: 209/948-7347 Fax: 209/946-6355 *or* lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov

WATSON & ASSOCIATES

GENERAL AGENTS • INSURANCE & INVESTMENTS
1185 Chess Drive • Suite H • Foster City, California 94404
(650) 572-2383 • FAX (650) 572-1481
Robert E. Watson, Jr., Emeritus General Agent
Judy Watson, General Agent

February 8, 2004

Ms. Laurie Briden
California Department of Fish & Game
4001 N. Wilson Way
Stockton, CA 95205

Subject: Proposed Habitat Management, Preservation, & Restoration Program for The Suisun Marsh NEPA/CEQA Scoping Comment

Dear Ms. Briden:

As a property owner in the Suisun March for 45 years and a native of California I am deeply concerned over the future of our great natural resource, the Suisan Marsh. I am specifically referring to the proposed Habitat Management, Preservation and Restoration Program for the Suisan Marsh.

Levee Maintenance is a huge concern for all the reasons known and the problems entailed already being addressed by private property owners.

Tidal Restoration brings with it many problems currently being attended by property owners in spite of many restrictions imposed on dredging, repair of levees, and burning to name a few of the significant challenges.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Watson, Jr.
Emeritus General Agent

REW/jw

RECEIVED
FEB 1 0 2004
BY:_____

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

February 9, 2004

Laurie Briden
California Department of Fish and Game
4001 N. Wilson Way
Stockton, CA 95205

Dear Ms. Briden:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Federal Register Notice published on November10, 2003, for the Notice of Intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the **Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan**, Solano County, California. Our review is pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA has no formal comments on the Notice of Intent at this time. When the Draft PEIS is released for public review, please send two copies to the address above (mail code: CMD-2). If you have any questions, I can be reached at 415-972-3792 or schmidt.davidp@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

David P. Schmidt

David P. Schmidt
Federal Activities Office
Cross Media Division

cc: Daniel Buford, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (via e-mail at daniel_buford @fws.gov)
Lee Laurence, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (via e-mail at llaurence@mp.usbr.gov)

Printed on Recycled Paper

Making San Francisco Bay Better

February 9, 2004

California Department of Fish and Game
Attention: Ms. Laurie Biden
4001 North Wilson Way
Stockton, California 95205

SUBJECT: BCDC Inquiry File No. SL.PH.7214.1, Proposed Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan for the Suisun Marsh, Solano County, California

Dear Ms. Biden:

The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) received a Notice of Preparation (Notice) and request for comments on the proposed Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (PEIS/EIR) for the Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan for the Suisun Marsh, Solano County, California, dated November 2003, and received in our office on November 21, 2003. The PEIS/EIR "will address the potential environmental benefits and impacts resulting from various actions necessary in the Suisun Marsh to preserve and enhance managed seasonal wetlands, implement a comprehensive levee protection/improvement program, and protect ecosystem and drinking water quality, while restoring habitat for tidal marsh-dependent sensitive species, consistent with the California Bay-Delta Program's strategic goals and objectives." Although the Commission has not reviewed the notice, the following staff comments are based on the Commission's laws, the McAteer-Petris Act and Suisun Marsh Preservation Act, and its plans, the *San Francisco Bay Plan* and the *Suisun Marsh Protection Plan*.

The study area shown in the November 2003 notice is not precise about what areas are included in the project study area. However, portions of the area shown on the map are within the Commission's Bay jurisdiction, as defined in the McAteer-Petris Act, (Government Code §§66600-66682). A significant portion of the study area lies within the Primary and Secondary Management Areas of the Suisun Marsh, as defined in the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act of 1977 (Public Resources Code §§ 29000-29612) which provides, in part, that continued State planning and management of the Marsh is a responsibility BCDC shares with other state agencies involved in the Suisun Marsh Charter Group.

The notice states, in part, that "[t]he proposed Suisun Marsh Plan would be developed to balance the goals and objectives of the Bay-Delta Program, Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement, and other management and restoration programs within the Suisun Marsh.... The proposed Suisun Marsh Plan would serve as the Bay-Delta Program's regional implementation plan for the Suisun Marsh portion of the Suisun Marsh Ecological Management Zone. The Plan would address Bay-Delta Program implementation in the Suisun Marsh over the next 30 or more years with an emphasis on Bay-Delta Program Stage 1, formally defined as the first 7 years of Bay-Delta Program implementation."

The Suisun Marsh Preservation Act states, in part, that, "…to protect regional, state, and national interests in assuring the maintenance of the long-term productivity of the Suisun Marsh; to avoid long-term costs to the public and a diminished quality of life resulting from the misuse of the marsh; to coordinate and integrate the activities of the many agencies whose activities impact the marsh; and to supplement the activities of such agencies in matters not properly within the jurisdiction of any existing agency; it is appropriate to provide for continued state planning and management through the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission…"

Based on this expression of the Legislature's intent with regard to planning for the Suisun Marsh, the agencies preparing the proposed "Suisun Marsh Plan" should continue to consult with the Commission to ensure that this planning process is consistent with the Commission's authority and policies, and that it integrates the Commission into the planning process. Although the Commission staff has participated in some of the Suisun Marsh Charter Group discussions, it will become increasingly important for the Commission's active involvement in the development of this proposed plan.

The notice also states, in part, that "[t]he PEIS/EIR would address the design, implementation, and maintenance of specific actions needed to achieve the Suisun Marsh Plan… The Plan would also present strategies to resolve permitting issues related to past and ongoing maintenance and management activities, and identify strategies to resolve other interagency conflicts related to the management of the Suisun Marsh. Specific alternatives to the proposed Suisun Marsh Plan have not been identified at this time and will be developed following scoping."

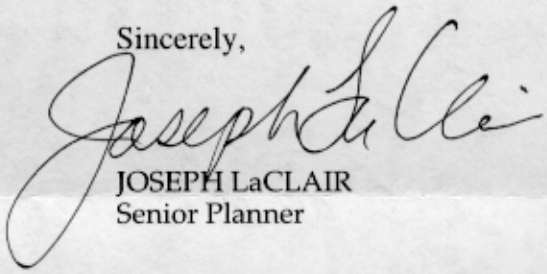
The *Suisun Marsh Protection Plan* states, in part, that "State, regional, and local agencies with regulatory responsibilities in the Marsh should be required to carry out those responsibilities and activities in conformity with the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan. Therefore, the specific implementation and maintenance activities that may be developed pursuant to this planning process will need to be consistent with the Commission's existing policies for the Marsh, including the approved Local Protection Programs and issued BCDC Marsh Development Permits. Under some circumstances, the Commission staff recognizes that some of the Commission's more specific plans and permits may be amended to address inconsistencies. Therefore, the PEIS/EIR should address the consistency of proposed actions with the Commission's policies.

Finally, §§ 29500 and 29501 of the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act provides that, "[i]n addition to obtaining any other permit required by law from any local government or from a state, regional, or local agency, on and after January 1, 1978, any person wishing to perform or undertake any development in the marsh shall obtain a marsh development permit….Within the primary management area, a marsh development permit required under Section 29500 shall be obtained from the commission and shall be in lieu of any other permit that may be required by law from the commission….Subsequent to certification of the local protection program, the commission may define and delegate by regulation to the local government having jurisdiction the commission's permit authority under this section over development that does not have significant impact on the marsh. Any local government to which the commission has delegated any part of its permit authority under this section shall issue a marsh development permit under this section if it finds the proposed development is consistent with the local protection program… Any action by a local government on an application for a marsh development permit under this section may be appealed to the commission pursuant to Section 29522. The commission, on appeal, shall issue the permit if it finds the proposed development that is the subject of the appeal is consistent with the local protection program."

The PEIS/EIR should discuss the nature of the Commission's authority within the marsh and inform the public of that role.

The Commission staff looks forward to working with the State and Federal agencies, local governments and districts and the public in developing the proposed Suisun Marsh Plan. Please feel free to contact me with any questions about these comments, or any other matter at (415) 352-3656 or email joel@bcdc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



JOSEPH LaCLAIR
Senior Planner

Cc: Barbara Kondylis, Supervisor, Solano County
Carl Wilcox, DFG
Steve Chappelle, SRCD
Margit Arambaru, Delta Protection Commission
Lee Laurence, US Bureau of Reclamation
Dan Buford, USFWS

California Department of Fish and Game
Attention: Ms. Laurie Briden
4001 N. Wilson Way
Stockton CA 95205

RE: Comments on Scope of Suisun Marsh Plan

Sent by FAX: 209-946-6355

Dear California Department of Fish and Game,

I wish to provide comments on the scope of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Report (PEIS/EIR) on the Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan for the Suisun Marsh (Suisun Marsh Plan). I offer these comments as a concerned citizen of California, and as a shareholder in the Wheeler Island Land Company which is a fee owner of approximately 980 acres of managed wetland located in the southern region of the Suisun Marsh.

The scope of the Suisun Marsh Plan should include a) the need to resolve regulatory gridlock over levee and marsh management; b) the recognition that regulatory gridlock by government agencies constitutes a regulatory taking of private land; c) the recognition of managed wetlands as important contributors to biological diversity in California; d) the need for public funding to support the many public benefits that are derived from public and private lands of the Suisun marsh; and finally e) the Suisun Marsh Plan should lay out very clear objectives for the desired number of acres in tidal salt marsh versus seasonal managed wetland.

There is extreme regulatory gridlock between local, state and federal agencies in relation to the management of privately-owned seasonal wetlands on the Suisun Marsh. The Wheeler Island Land Company faces regulatory delays, confusion, and inaction particularly in relation to the maintenance of exterior levees and irrigation control structures. Regulatory obstacles also exist for water management and vegetation management activities. The Suisun Marsh Plan must streamline and eliminate these regulatory problems.

The Suisun Marsh Plan should identify the circumstances under which regulatory gridlock constitutes a regulatory taking of private land, and the fact that regulatory gridlock may constitute a strategy by government agency personnel to influence the fate of private lands over the Suisun Marsh. The Plan should provide a review of case law on this subject, as it pertains to regulatory takings and its application to the Suisun Marsh. The Plan should identify the threshold beyond which regulatory gridlock constitutes a regulatory taking of private property rights.

The privately-owned seasonal wetlands of the Suisun Marsh offer many benefits to California's biological diversity, and to California's citizens. The Suisun Marsh is habitat for plants, wildlife, amphibians, and a remarkably rich bird fauna. The Suisun Marsh is recognized as an *Important Bird Area* by the National Audubon Society, and is the largest estuarine marsh in the western continental United States. The Suisun Marsh represents approximately 10% of California's remaining natural wetlands, and provides important habitat to waterfowl and shorebirds. A large

percentage of the Suisun Marsh is privately-owned, and thus many of these benefits are derived from private lands and private land stewardship.

The Suisun Marsh Plan must provide additional public funding to realize the many existing and potential contributions of the Suisun Marsh to biological diversity. The restoration of tidal salt marsh is very expensive and requires a great deal of additional funding. The maintenance of exterior levees requires additional public funding. The management of irrigation structures and vegetation requires additional public funding. This funding is needed over public and private lands of the Suisun Marsh.

Finally, the Suisun Marsh Plan should identify the number of acres of tidal salt marsh that public agencies seek to restore, and the number of acres of seasonal managed wetland that public agencies seek to support through regulatory streamlining and public funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the Suisun Marsh Plan.

Sincerely,

Reed Gaither
PO Box 350
Davis CA 95617

Laurie Briden

From: Tony Arnold [asqrd@marincounty.net]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2004 1:41 PM
To: lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov

Anthony Arnold

19 Hayes St

Novato, CA 94947

(415) 892-0238 - Fax (415) 898-5518

e-mail: ASQRD@Marincounty.net

Feb 9, 2004

Ms. Laurie Briden

CDFG

4001 N. Wilson Way

Stockton, CA 95205

(Postal followup to e-mail)

Dear Ms. Briden,

Last year's Suisun Marsh Restoration Scoping meeting was most helpful in airing opinions from all sides. Of the many topics raised I think that the single most important issue is the need to modify the present prohibition on slough dredging.

The present slough siltation situation is not the fault of marsh landowners, nor is it natural marsh process. It derives from the mushrooming of housing and other building developments around the marsh perimeter. The runoff from such activities has interrupted natural water flows that previously kept channels open and cleansed the marsh. It is resulting in stagnation of water circulation to the point that it is becoming a menace to wildlife habitat and eventually will have a negative impact on a broad spectrum of biota.

This issue is in urgent need of addressing

Anthony Arnold.

Author of *Suisun Marsh History: Hunting and Saving a Wetland*

RECEIVED
FEB 1 0 2004
BY:_____

California Department of Fish and Game
Attention: Ms. Laurie Briden
4001 N. Wilson Way
Stockton CA 95205

RE: Comments on Scope of Suisun Marsh Plan

Sent by FAX, with hard copy by US mail

Dear California Department of Fish and Game,

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The scope of the Suisun Marsh Plan should include a) the need to resolve regulatory gridlock over levee and marsh management; b) the recognition that regulatory gridlock by government agencies constitutes a regulatory taking of private land; c) the recognition of managed wetlands as important contributors to biological diversity in California; d) the need for public funding to support the many public benefits that are derived from public and private lands of the Suisun marsh; and finally e) the Suisun Marsh Plan should lay out very clear objectives for the desired number of acres in tidal salt marsh versus seasonal managed wetland.

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Finally, the Suisun Marsh Plan should identify the number of acres of tidal salt marsh that public agencies seek to restore, and the number of acres of seasonal managed wetland that public agencies seek to support through regulatory streamlining and public funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the Suisun Marsh Plan.

Sincerely,

James C. Gaither Jr.

James C. Gaither Jr.
PO Box 350
Davis CA 95617

Proposed Habitat Management, Preservation, And Restoration Program for the Suisun Marsh NEPA/CEQA Scoping Comment Form

Name: Arnold P. Lenk February 5, 2004

Mailing Address: 3575 Mt. Diablo Blvd #260

Lafayette, CA 94549

Telephone No. (optional): (925) 284-3100

e-mail (optional): APLENK@PacBell.net

Comments/Issues/Alternatives:

Having spent more than 50 years in the Suisun Marsh, recreationally, financially, and Administratively, I have the following comments regarding the Proposed Habitat Management, Preservation and Restoration Programs:

1) It is most important that the water quality (low salinity) be maintained between Collinsville and the Benicia Bridge.

2) That landowners have the ability to dredge exteriorly of their levees to maintain and restore levee integrity. This was a general practice for more than 100 years prior to the late nineteen seventies, as this is the only inexpensive material (clay base) available in most cases.

3) Some available funding from the CALFED/Bay Delta programs are necessary to help offset the continuing costs that the Landowners have been providing for all these years and no longer can afford this expense.

4) Encouragement and assistance with funds and technical support for land owners to provide restoration of natural habitat (seeding of native plants). This will necessitate some help from the Agencies supporting burning, mowing, & discing to provide areas to be replanted.

5) Agency discouragement of continued intrusions into the Marsh, such as the Potrero Hills Landfill Expansion and the Benicia Intermodel Transportation Station. I appreciate your consideration of the above comments.

Please use the other side of the sheet if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED BY 2/8/04) TO:

MS. LAURIE BRIDEN
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
4001 N. WILSON WAY • STOCKTON, CA 95205

Phone: 209/948-7347 Fax: 209/946-6355 *or* lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov

Proposed Habitat Management, Preservation, And Restoration Program for the Suisun Marsh NEPA/CEQA Scoping Comment Form

Name: R. JEFFERY TODOROFF, DVM

Mailing Address: 230 Summit Road
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Telephone No. (optional): (925) 935-2127

e-mail (optional): TODOROFFJ@sbcglobal.net

Comments/Issues/Alternatives:

As a landowner in the Suisun Marsh, I have a number of concerns regarding the maintenance of our managed wetlands, and the regulation thereof. Indeed, there are too many to address on this one piece of paper, so I will e-mail you my list. I would be glad to discuss them further with anyone involved in creating the Suisun Marsh Management Plan, in the hopes that we can all realize how much we desire the same outcome, and work in concert to those ends.

(1) Tidal Restoration: Will landowners be forced to sell their land for tidal restoration? What impact will tidal restoration have on adjacent properties?

Will there be a maximum amount of acreage slated for tidal restoration? Or will a current "maximum" be restricted and amended until the entire marsh is converted? Who will pay for this?

Can assurances that progressive tidal restoration beyond the currently proposed acreage be written into the agreement/documentation for the restoration plan?

Please use the other side of the sheet if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED BY 2/8/04) TO:

MS. LAURIE BRIDEN
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
4001 N. WILSON WAY • STOCKTON, CA 95205

Phone: 209/948-7347 Fax: 209/946-6355 *or* lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov

Who will build and maintain levees on properties inland of areas of tidal restoration? Who will pay for this? How about water control structures and fish screens on these newly proposed wetlands?

Will there be additional restrictions on management of lands adjacent to these new tidal wetlands (i.e. management of effluent that may have to be routed away from the newly created tidal wetlands)?

Loss of managed wetlands by tidal conversion will certainly have a negative impact on species diversity. Will this be mitigated by the creation of new, managed wetlands? Where?

... etc.

Proposed Habitat Management, Preservation, And Restoration Program for the Suisun Marsh NEPA/CEQA Scoping Comment Form

Name:	HOWARD STEAIN
Mailing Address:	140 MAYHEW WAY #405
	PLEASANT HILL CA. 94523
Telephone No. (optional):	(925) 932-1700
e-mail (optional):	

Comments/Issues/Alternatives:

I AM A PROPERTY OWNER IN THE SUISUN MARSH. MY MAIN CONCERNS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION OF THE MARSH ARE:

1) THE PROPER MAINTENANCE OF THE LEVEE SYSTEM IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE MARSH FROM UNWANTED WATER INTRUSION.
2) IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE NATURAL WILD LIFE AND VEGETATION OF THE MARSH, THE WATER QUALITY IS VERY IMPORTANT.
3) IMPROVE ON THE PROCESS THAT IT TAKES TO OBTAIN PERMITS FOR DREDGING WHICH ARE PRESENTLY LONG, COSTLY & TIME CONSUMING.

THANK YOU

Please use the other side of the sheet if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED BY 2/8/04) TO:

MS. LAURIE BRIDEN
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
4001 N. WILSON WAY • STOCKTON, CA 95205

Phone: 209/948-7347 Fax: 209/946-6355 *or* lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov

Proposed Habitat Management, Preservation, And Restoration Program for the Suisun Marsh NEPA/CEQA Scoping Comment Form

Name: DAVE GRANGER (RICH ISLAND DUCK CLUB)

Mailing Address: 165 EL DORADO AVE.
DANVILLE, CA 94526

Telephone No. (optional): (925) 362-9222

e-mail (optional):

Comments/Issues/Alternatives:

DEAR MS. BRIDEN:

I HAVE A NUMBER OF CONCERNS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PRESERVATION & RESTORATION PROGRAM FOR THE MARSH AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. WHAT ASSURANCES CAN YOU GIVE LAND OWNERS THAT THIS PLAN WILL BE AFFORDABLE TO THEM? WILL OWNERS BE FORCED TO SELL?
2. CAN DREDGING OF THE SLOUGH'S BE RE-IMPLEMENTED? LEVEE MAINTENANCE HAS BECOME OVERWHELMINGLY EXPENSIVE. CAN YOU HELP WITH THIS?
3. WILL THERE BE ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS REGARDING THE BURNING OF VEGETATION? OR CAN BURNING BE RESTORED?
4. WHAT IMPACT WILL THERE BE ON PRIVATE LAND OWNERS IF PUBLIC FUNDS ARE UTILIZED TO FUND THE PROPOSED PROJECTS? WILL THE PUBLIC BE ALLOWED TO USE WHAT OUR "PRIVATE PROPERTY" I FOR ONE HOPE THIS IS NOT THE CASE!
5. WILL THERE BE ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON LAND OWNERS ABOVE WHAT IS CURRENTLY IN PLACE?

Please use the other side of the sheet if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED BY 2/8/04) TO:

MS. LAURIE BRIDEN
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
4001 N. WILSON WAY • STOCKTON, CA 95205

Phone: 209/948-7347 Fax: 209/946-6355 *or* lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov

Proposed Habitat Management, Preservation, And Restoration Program for the Suisun Marsh NEPA/CEQA Scoping Comment Form

Name:	Michael West
Mailing Address:	1112 Peacock Creek Dr
	Clayton CA 94517
Telephone No. (optional):	925 6767437
e-mail (optional):	mwesttax @ aol.com

Comments/Issues/Alternatives:

I am a land owner in the Suisun Marsh. I am concerned that we are unable to dredge and maintain our levies.

Please use the other side of the sheet if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED BY 2/8/04) TO:

MS. LAURIE BRIDEN
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
4001 N. WILSON WAY • STOCKTON, CA 95205

Phone: 209/948-7347 Fax: 209/946-6355 *or* lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov

Proposed Habitat Management, Preservation, And Restoration Program for the Suisun Marsh NEPA/CEQA Scoping Comment Form

Name: Richard Taylor

Mailing Address: 7552 Lakeshore Drive
Granite Bay, CA 95746

Telephone No. (optional):

e-mail (optional):

Comments/Issues/Alternatives: I am a property owner in the Suisun Marsh and I am very concerned that a Levy integrity and levy maintenance plan be in place that includes allowing dredging for Levy maintenance and using dredge spoils for Levy Repairs. This is an absolute minimum requirement for saving the marsh.

Sincerely Yours,

Richard Taylor

Please use the other side of the sheet if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED BY 2/8/04) TO:

MS. LAURIE BRIDEN
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
4001 N. WILSON WAY • STOCKTON, CA 95205

Phone: 209/948-7347 Fax: 209/946-6355 *or* lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov

Proposed Habitat Management, Preservation, And Restoration Program for the Suisun Marsh NEPA/CEQA Scoping Comment Form

Name: Ryan Taylor
Mailing Address: 537 Coconut St.
Brentwood, Ca 94513
Telephone No. (optional):
e-mail (optional):

Comments/Issues/Alternatives: I am writing as a concerned land owner in the suisun marsh. I believe that levee maintenence is an integral part of the marshes survival. I also believe that the burning of water ways to keep water ways open is very important.

Please use the other side of the sheet if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED BY 2/8/04) TO:

MS. LAURIE BRIDEN
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
4001 N. WILSON WAY • STOCKTON, CA 95205

Phone: 209/948-7347 Fax: 209/946-6355 *or* lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov

January 29, 2004

Ms. Laurie Briden
California Department of Fish and game
4001 Wilson Way
Stockton, CA 95205

Dear Ms. Briden:

This letter responds to your notice on the preparation of an environmental document for the Proposed Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Program for the Suisun Marsh. Comments are provided on the scope and development of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Report (EIS/R)

The alternatives to be evaluated should include a pre-intervention alternative. This alternative would assume elimination of the man-made dikes and other facilities and altered natural hydrology, increased freshwater flows, and elimination of invasive exotic species. This alternative would account for the species assemblages that these marshes supported historically and, to the extent feasible, emulate the natural processes that shaped this ecosystem over the past several millennia. Such an alternative would eliminate the need to maintain the dikes, mimic the natural variability in the watershed to the maximum extent possible, and potentially maximize benefits to plant and animal communities. A pre-intervention alternative would accomplish most of the stated goals of the Project, except for the goal of levee system integrity. The direct and indirect costs and benefits of maintaining such levees would become more obvious by including a pre-intervention alternative in the EIR/S.

The following specific impacts should be evaluated in the EIS/R:

- The impact of the Project on the ability to curb non-native invasive species. This would include preventing the establishment of new ones and reducing the impact of established ones.

- The impact of the Project on public use and access to the marsh. Public use and access is one of the stated goals of the Project. Furthermore, local agencies have identified the marsh as an ecological resource worthy of increased public awareness and access. Specifically, the City of Benicia General Plan calls for: 1) an improved/interpretive trail along the Suisun Marsh that would be paved and located where there are ecological or historical resources of educational value. 2) constructing trails in open space corridors linking regional and local open spaces, and 3) development of a Suisun Marsh interpretive center near the I-680/Lake Herman Road interchange area in conjunction with responsible agencies. Other local jurisdictions adjacent to the marsh may have similar goals for public use of and access to the marsh.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the notice. This response is offered to support a complete and adequate environmental analysis of the Project.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Goetz
347 Goldenslopes Court
Benicia, CA 94510

Proposed Habitat Management, Preservation, And Restoration Program for the Suisun Marsh NEPA/CEQA Scoping Comment Form

Name:	Don Putnam
Mailing Address:	60 Via Hermosa
	Orinda CA 94563
Telephone No. (optional):	
e-mail (optional):	

Comments/Issues/Alternatives:

As a property owner on Grizzly Isl our main concern are inability to dreg our harbor & dredge to reinforce levies

Please use the other side of the sheet if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED BY 2/8/04) TO:

MS. LAURIE BRIDEN
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
4001 N. WILSON WAY • STOCKTON, CA 95205

Phone: 209/948-7347 Fax: 209/946-6355 *or* lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov

Proposed Habitat Management, Preservation, And Restoration Program for the Suisun Marsh NEPA/CEQA Scoping Comment Form

Name:	LESLIE BRANMAN SMITH
Mailing Address:	Office of the Atty General, 110 West "A" Street, Suite 1100
	San Diego, California 92101
Telephone No. (optional):	
e-mail (optional):	

Comments/Issues/Alternatives: MAINTENANCE OF LEVEES: Private property owners must be permitted to maintain levees on their land to maintain the water and habitat qualify;

ACCESS TO FRESH WATER: Property owners must be provided with sufficient fresh water to de-salinate and irrigate the natural plantlife on their land. Migratory waterfowl and all other forms of wildlife depend on the presence of fresh water. Over the years, the salinity of ambient bay/river water in the Suisun Marsh has increased. Property managers must be provided with sufficient fresh water to support wildlife.

PLANTING AND MANIPULATION OF WILD NATIVE FLORA: Property manager must be encouraged to grow and development abundant natural wild flora. Migratory birds and wild life on the marsh depend on the presence of these plants. Property managers must not be prohibited from removing problem plants and replacing them with wild, natural food sources.

DREDGING OF HARBORS AND INLETS: Property managers must be permitted to dredge their river/bay harbor and inlets. These harbors enable property managers to access their land from the water.

Please use the other side of the sheet if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED BY 2/8/04) TO:

MS. LAURIE BRIDEN
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
4001 N. WILSON WAY • STOCKTON, CA 95205

Phone: 209/948-7347 Fax: 209/946-6355 *or* lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov

Laurie Briden

om: Bruce.Smith@usdoj.gov
ent: Wednesday, January 28, 2004 8:11 PM
To: 'lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov'
Subject: PROPOSED HABITAT MANAGEMENT, PRESERVATION, AND RESTORATION PROGRAM FOR THE SUISUN MARSH

Dear Ms. Briden:

I respectfully submit the SUISUN MARSH and the wildlife inhabiting it are facing a great crisis. Expansion and development of communities are encroaching on our precious marsh, as well as the western California coast. Each year wildlife and migratory birds have less and less freshwater marsh area to sustain them. We must amend the present regulations and add new ones that preserve the integrity of the freshwater marsh and its inhabitants. And the new order must support and encourage the land owners and property managers who work to maintain the marsh.

ACCESS TO FRESH WATER: Property managers in the Suisun Marsh and Grizzly Island must be given access to sufficent FRESH WATER to de-salinize their land and help natural feed plants flourish. Each year, the water quality of GRIZZLY ISLAND and the surrounding area is decreasing. Land managers must pump more and more fresh water onto the land to maintain the natural plant life. The native animals and migratory birds depend on that fresh water. Mis-guided restrictions on pumping, flooding and draining marsh areas with fresh water must be abolished.

MAINTENANCE OF LEVEES: Property mangers in the Suisun Marsh and Grizzly Island must be encouraged to maintain their levees. These levees are the only barriers between their vital freshwater marsh habitat and the salty river and bay. If property managers in the GRIZZLY ISLAND AREA are prohibited from maintaining and repairing levees, their lands will eventually become contaminated and flooded with bay and river water. This heavily linated water will kill off the essential natural feed plants upon which wildlife and migratory birds depend.

DREDGING OF HARBORS AND INLETS: Property Mangers in the Suisun Marsh and Grizzly Island must be permitted to dredge their river/bay access harbors and inlets. Many of the property managers in the marsh are having an increasingly difficult time accessing their property from the bay/river because of silting and accumulation of bay/river debris and soil. Freshwater marsh property managers must be permitted quick and easy access to DREDGING PERMITS with REASONABLE CONDITIONS to enable them to access their property from the bay/river and to continue their work on the marsh property. By creating and maintaining unreasonably complicated and time-consuming regulations re the dredging permit process, freshwater marsh property managers and prevented from doing necessary work to their land. We must remember these property managers work tirelessly to maintain and enhance the fresh water marsh in the Suisun district and Grizzly Island. They do so at their own expense. The benefits to the wildlife and migratory birds are imense.

RETURN TO THE BURNING, NOT FLOODING, OF HARVESTED RICE FIELDS: For decades, rice farmers in the Suisun Marsh area would BURN their rice fields after harvest. Apparently the smoke generated by the burning caused some alarm re air quality. Within the past few years, farmers have been prohibited from burning and forced to flood their fields after harvest. Flooded rice fields work like a magnet for migratory waterfowl. I submit the flooded rice fields do a dis-service to migratory birds. They result in wild birds becoming dependent upon artificial feed put out by humans. Moreover, they cause large number of migratory birds to occupy relatively small areas of flooded land for long periods of time. This increases the risk that disease will spread. In a natural fresh water marsh, birds forage for natural food. They do not crowd into small areas and remain there for extended periods of time. We all know that when wild birds are drawn to feeders or concentrated areas covered with seeds provided by humans, disease becomes a problem. The freshwater rsh areas of the Suisun Marsh must be enhanced and cultivated. Migratory birds must be couraged to visit and rest in natural settings. The flooded rice fields are attractive o migratory birds, but constitute a threat to their health.

Please encourage and support the property owners and property managers of the Suisun Marsh

and Grizzly Island who work to maintain the highest quality freshwater marsh for migratory waterfowl and other creatures. When our State Government realizes the important service performed by the property managers, and enacts regulations that support their efforts, the wildlife will thrive.

THANK YOU.

B.C. SMITH

Proposed Habitat Management, Preservation, And Restoration Program for the Suisun Marsh NEPA/CEQA Scoping Comment Form

Name: Steve Wall

Mailing Address: 645 Front Street #317
San Diego CA 92101

Telephone No. (optional): (619) 699-2469

e-mail (optional):

Comments/Issues/Alternatives:

As a land owner in the Marsh, the most important goal that we all need to work for is the protection of our levees and the Marsh itself. This means that we must have a reasonable dredging program to provide the rocks and dirt to rebuild our levees. We can work together. But we have to protect the levees or it won't happen.

Please use the other side of the sheet if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED BY 2/8/04) TO:

MS. LAURIE BRIDEN
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
4001 N. WILSON WAY • STOCKTON, CA 95205

Phone: 209/948-7347 Fax: 209/946-6355 *or* lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov

Formal Presentation before the members of the Habitat Management, Preservation and Restoration Plan Study Session, 11/25/03.

Hello Ms. Laurie Briden Chairperson and Members.

My name is Leonard Stefanelli, representing the Volanti Duck Club, # 219, Joice Island, Suisun Marsh and reside at 2960- 22nd Avenue, San Francisco, CA.

Let me begin by expressing my gratitude for this opportunity and I come before you today to express only one (emphasis added) of many concerns and needs of owners of managed wetland properties in the Suisun Marsh.

Levee maintenance, especially those of us who have extensive levee systems to maintain and preserve managed wetland integrity , is an ongoing and ever increasing expensive process. As property owners we have committed our financial resources to continue with the never ending expense.

However, in recent times, the unrealistic rules and regulations that have been adopted in to protect a "theoretical endangered species" (the Delta Smelt), that have not only made standard maintenance of these fragile levees expensive, but in some cases, physically and/or legally impossible, regardless of cost.

Let me respectfully bring to your attention of some of the more recent changes in the regulatory guidelines, rules and regulations that will effect on how we will operate our clubs, especially regarding the maintenance of levees and how the Delta Smelt and the Clapper Rail has devastated that need.

- We can no longer use dredge soils from "outside" of our levee system to cap and maintain them, a practice that has been in existence for over a 100 years.
- This traditional means of have access to the only "renewable resource" of material has been denied us, because of the Clapper Rail and Delta Smelt, being on the "Endangered Species" List.
- I use the term, "renewable resource" because the cavity created by the excavation when capping the levee, is typically refilled by normal tidal actions over a several year period.
- This means that the only immediate resource, is material from "inside" the levee and once you have used this "NON renewable" resource, we will have to seek material else off site.
- As you are aware, once you have used the materials from the inside the levee, you not only have used your last source of material on site, you have severely weakened your levee's integrity, created by the huge void "inside" the levee and subject to the water pressure from the rising tides, causing the levee to lean inward, accelerating a fact that we have all experienced.
- To compound the problem, and future importation of earth material to be maintain levees, must be "environmentally compatible" to existing soil conditions. Can you imagine the cost of complying with that rule, especially of we have to import soils by barge or truck, the latter, on already fragile levees.
- I have been advised that we no longer can use "rip rap" to maintain levees system. This rock material is an absolute necessity to maintain levees because of the ever increasing boat traffic that are the primary reason of excessive erosion, because the shallow waters found near the levee are the alleged breeding areas of the Delta Smelt and "rip rap" could damage these areas.

- Then there is the issue of the "Clapper Rail" a mystery bird, who allegedly makes love in the marsh yet no one has seen. Some claim they have "heard" the bird, but no one has seemed "seen" one. Nonetheless it has been added to the infamous "Endangered Species" list and prohibits many of us from doing any work on our levees from February 1, thru August 30, which of course is during the period of time that the ponds are dry and work can be completed still another grossly unreasonable restriction that inhibits or worse yet, terminates the landowners ability to maintain their respective levee systems at the only time it can be accomplished.

- In my case alone, our inability to maintain our levee systems these restrictions imposed upon us, is the result of an "assumed" breeding area of the Clapper Rail, a purported "endangered species" it cost our club in excess of a $ 100,000.00 over a period of two years because of inability to legally provide the needed maintenance during this critical time.

- During the El Nino storms (five years ago) where virtually every landowner in the Suisun Marsh experienced varying degrees of levee damage, emergency repairs were an absolute necessity to preserve the integrity of their levees.

- Our property experienced such damage during this period of time and emergency works was required at a cost of more than 30,000.00.

- If we did not contract this work, severe breaching would have certainly occurred, resulting in the loss of almost 3500 acres of management wetlands, including some 4000 acres of California's Fish and Game Refuge and other private property owners, resulting in not only substantial environmental and financial losses, but the likelihood of law suits for failure to take corrective actions to stop the breaching if nothing was done.

- To add insult to injury, a complaint was filed against us for violation of the "Endangered Species" act, by the US F&G for the wanton destruction of the breed habitat of the Delta Smelt.

SUMMATION:

This is a brief history of only one of the many problems facing we the property owners and I know that I speak for all the vast majority of them, that we all support the long term goals of your organization to preserve the marsh, its environmental quality and pledge continue to work with you in that regard.

However and as you know, the plan for the Suisun Marsh now under study, is in reality, a "long range" program, taking considerable years to become reality, but the fact remains, we, the property owners are experiencing the significant problems TODAY and as outlined in this memo.

As also noted, these levee "problems" are the result of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife placing on the Endangered Species list, the Delta Smelt and the California Clapper Rail.

Because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, California Fish and Game, United States Department of the Interior and the United States Department Army Engineers are all participants in the study, that are seeking the participation of the property owners, I would respectfully suggest that in the spirit of cooperation, that the following policies be adopted to help preserve and protect the existing Marsh areas from further destruction.

- Recent court decisions have suggested that the Delta Smelt is no longer a "Endangered Species" therefore rules and regulations adopted to "protect it, should be at least "relaxed" to some degree. to allow the use of rip rap to reduce erosion on the levees because of the significantly increase in boat traffic in the sloughs in the past ten years, substantially increasing the erosion of levees as compared to years gone by.

- Such easing of the rules, should also allow the use of historical "renewable" materials found "outside" the levee systems, thus allowing the property owner to maintain their levee system in the manner that they have done for more than 100 years.

- Because the California Fish and Game has yet to find and/or confirm the existence of any Clapper Rail in certain areas that are purported breeding habitat for a three year period, it would be extremely helpful and reasonable to allow work on these levees commencing July 1, of the year, rather than an out right prohibition between February 1 and August 31 of each year, thus allowing needed field and levee work to be commence and be completed in a physically and efficient manner.

In closing, it is again emphasized that we as property owners are committed to work with your Commission in achieving the long term goals to the preservation of the irreplaceable Suisun Marsh and the environmental resources that it represents, but as noted, they are "long term" goals.

The reality of life is, that there are immediate needs that must be addressed today, to minimize the continual erosion of these fragile levees and what I have suggested in this response, is what I strongly believe to be a reasonable and equitable sharing of those responsibilities, that will be the foundation of the ultimate goals of your commission, which is the ultimate preservation of the marsh.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard D. Stefanelli, Managing Partner,
Volanti Duck Club, # 219.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

DIVISION OF
LAND RESOURCE
PROTECTION

801 K STREET
SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA
95814

PHONE
916/324-0850

FAX
916/327-3430

INTERNET
consrv.ca.gov

ARNOLD
SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

December 5, 2003

Ms. Laurie Briden
California Department of Fish and Game
4001 N. Wilson Way
Stockton, CA 95205

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Report (DPEIS/R) for the Habitat Management. Preservation, and Restoration Plan for the Suisun Marsh, Solano County, California

Dear Ms. Briden:

The California Department of Fish and Game is acting as co-lead agency with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Fish and Wildlife Service in preparation of the programmatic document cited above. The Suisun Marsh Plan is being developed to address balancing the goals and objectives of the California Bay Delta Authority Program (f.k.a CALFED), the Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement and other associated management and restoration programs. The PEIS/R will analyze the effects of the proposed Plan that would identify actions necessary to preserve and enhance the seasonal wetlands, protect ecosystem and drinking water quality, and implement a program that enhances levee protection.

The Department of Conservation's Division of Land Resource Protection (Division) monitors farmland conversion on a statewide basis and administers the California Land Conservation (Williamson) Act, California Farmland Conservancy Program, and other agricultural land conservation programs. We ask that our comments be incorporated into the draft document, and that we receive a copy of the PEIS/R for our review and comment.

Our comments follow:

The DEIS/R should provide a detailed discussion pertaining how implementation of any component of the proposed Plan may impact agricultural resources, especially if there may be a conversion of acreage from agriculture to another use. Much of the land surrounding the Suisun Marsh is in agricultural use, and some of this is under Williamson Act

contract. We have electronically sent a map depicting Williamson Act contracted lands in the surrounding area to Laurie Briden of California Department of Fish and Game (December 4, 2003). The document should clearly indicate whether the acreage that would be converted or impacted is under Williamson Act contract. Requirements for contract cancellation are in the statute under Article 5, and a copy of the Act is attached for your perusal. Also, we suggest that the lead agency utilize the Department's Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) model to determine the level of significance. The LESA model can be found on our website: www.consrv.dlrp.ca.gov.

As this is a project under the California Bay-Delta Authority Program, we encourage the lead agencies to tier off the Programmatic CALFED EIS/R. Also, if there is a potential significant impact to agricultural resources associated with implementation of the proposed project, we ask that mitigation measures identified in the Record of Decision be identified and implemented as appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this Notice of Preparation. If you have any questions regarding these comments please contact Jeannie Blakeslee at (916) 323-4943. We would be pleased to meet with you to provide assistance and answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. O'Bryant
Acting Assistant Director

Attachment

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—THE RESOURCES AGENCY

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION
[illegible]15 RIVER ROAD
[illegible]BOX 530
[illegible]NUT GROVE, CA 95690
Phone (916) 776-2290
FAX (916) 776-2293
E-Mail: dpc@citlink.net Home Page: www.delta.ca.gov

December 2, 2003

Lee Laurence
Bureau of Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, Ca 95825-1898

Subject: Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan for the Suisun Marsh, Solano County

Dear Ms Laurence:

The Delta Protection Commission has received notice of initiation of the planning process for the Suisun Marsh and its accompanying Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Report (PEIS/PEIR) regarding potential environmental benefits and impacts resulting from various action necessary in the Suisun Marsh to preserve and enhance managed seasonal wetlands, implement a comprehensive levee protection/improvement program, and protect ecosystem and drinking water quality, while restoring habitat for tidal marsh-dependent sensitive species, consistent with the California Bay-Delta Program's strategic goals and objectives.

The study area shown in your November 2003 notice is not precise about what areas are included in the project study area. However, portions of the areas shown on the map are in the Legal Delta, as defined in Water Code Section 12220, including areas in the Primary Zone which is in the Commission's jurisdiction. The PEIS/PEIR should more specifically identify the areas to be included in the Suisun Marsh Plan. In addition, the Plan should identify the boundary of the Legal Delta and the Primary Zone of the Delta. The Plan should identify the Commission's Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta as a relevant State planning document for the lands in the Primary Zone.

Although the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act of 1977 (Public Resources Code Sections 29000-29612) provides that continued State planning and management of the Marsh is the responsibility of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the Delta Protection Commission would like to be kept apprised of the planning process and any technical and planning documents that might address areas within the Legal Delta. The Commission would also like to be apprised of planning or coordination meetings held on the Suisun Marsh planning process.

Thank you for notifying the Commission of the planning process. Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information about the Commission and its authority.

Sincerely,

Margit Aramburu
Executive Director

Cc: Chairman Patrick N. McCarty
Supervisor Ruth Forney
Mayor Marci Coglianese
Banky Curtis, Department of Fish and Game
Laurie Briden, Department of Fish and Game
Harry Englebright, Solano County Planning Department
Jeff Blanchfield, BCDC

Proposed Habitat Management, Preservation, And Restoration Program for the Suisun Marsh NEPA/CEQA Scoping Comment Form

Name:	R.T. MARKS
Mailing Address:	BOX 830
	DANVILLE CA 94526
Telephone No. (optional):	925 9376350
e-mail (optional):	

Comments/Issues/Alternatives:

① I am confused between the dictomy of volunteering to relinquish property to mandated tidal rehabilitation. Are funds available to mitigate the above and do you honestly feel property owners who have managed levees, controlled non native vegetation/wild life and established habitat etc at great personal cost will exhibit an eleemosynary gesture and donate property to satisfy rehabilitation as determined by a plethora of individuals & agencies, many of whom have not experienced mud on their shoes and dirt under fingernails in management as have property owners?

② Will rehabilitation mandates become so intrusive (even tho agencies profess to the contrary) ~~but~~ that property owners simply give up? Who will remunerate said property owners and where are the funds?

③ Your plan is ambitious yet I have never

Please use the other side of the sheet if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED BY 2/8/04) TO:

MS. LAURIE BRIDEN
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
4001 N. WILSON WAY • STOCKTON, CA 95205

Phone: 209/948-7347 Fax: 209/946-6355 *or* lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov

witnessed co-operation and streamlining of inter-agency regulations not to mention the simplification of the permitting process in efforts to benefit that which is regulated. Factually, bureaucracies are established to perpetuate their existence; so it stands to reason processes will not be simplified but enhanced. I know your intentions are noble and I sincerely hope efforts will be positive - however the past speaks for itself as does the present. The scoping session was informative but many questions were not answered directly (e) where are base lines? how far will rehabilitation go? is there a definite time limit involved? where are funds? will property owner input be seriously considered? (in the past agencies gave lip service to property owners listening but not hearing) will loss of hunting/fishing/waterfowl habitat be mitigated? will there be written guarantees & assurances reflecting agreements that have been mutually established among all agencies and property owners involved and will these guarantees & assurances be such that some obscure agency, individual, group, environmental impact mandate etc will not be able to change without mutual agreement to all.

(4) An interesting comment was made at the Benicia meeting re the salt marsh mouse whereby no one had any idea of the numbers of this species habitating the marsh but in other parts of the S.F. bay the species is listed. As a result the Suisun marsh is impacted thru no fault of its own. This is highly discriminatory - just because X Y Z area has seriously diminished numbers of a certain species due to mis-management, it does not mean that ABC area is similar, yet ABC area is unjustly regulated by agencies who many times have no idea of reality. Will the above be corrected thru serious, realistic and meaningful investigation on a site by site study? Where will the funds come to achieve this?

Proposed Habitat Management, Preservation, And Restoration Program for the Suisun Marsh NEPA/CEQA Scoping Comment Form

Name:	Richard Nola
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 339
	Vacaville CA 95696
Telephone No. (optional):	707-448-5292
e-mail (optional):	

Comments/Issues/Alternatives:

I feel:

This committee / Alliance should consider the influx of stormwater / runoff from upstream development in regards to the context of what is in the water. I.E. - oil / gas runoff, fertilizers from landscapes, antifreeze spills, as well as erosion loads from hillsides & construction sites.

Please use the other side of the sheet if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED BY 2/8/04) TO:

MS. LAURIE BRIDEN
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
4001 N. WILSON WAY • STOCKTON, CA 95205

Phone: 209/948-7347 Fax: 209/946-6355 *or* lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov

Proposed Habitat Management, Preservation, And Restoration Program for the Suisun Marsh
NEPA/CEQA Scoping Comment Form

Name: STANLEY E GEARY PRES. DIST # 2130

Mailing Address: 1046 SUNNYBROOK DR
LAFAYETTE CA 94549

Telephone No. (optional): 925 283 5576

e-mail (optional): LAGEARY@AOL.COM

Comments/Issues/Alternatives:

Ms Briden

After attending many meetings regarding the Suisun Marsh, as a landowner, it is clear to me that the Marsh needs action on the levee system. The twelve mile section of levees ~~board~~ bordering the Sacramento river along Honker Bay to Grizzly Bay have been studied and it was determined to be critical to water quality. Tidal land in this area of the Suisun Marsh just does not make sense. AB 360 set aside money needed to repair this critical section of levee. The California Bay Delta Authority talks about AB 360 as part of the Delta, not the levees it was set aside for. If this money, when available, is not used for the levees in the Suisun Marsh, we will lose it, and who knows when we can expect more. Study the levee system in the rest of the Marsh and the (6)

Please use the other side of the sheet if necessary. over

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED BY 2/8/04) TO:

MS. LAURIE BRIDEN
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
4001 N. WILSON WAY • STOCKTON, CA 95205

Phone: 209/948-7347 Fax: 209/946-6355 *or* lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov

Place
Stamp
Here

Ms. Laurie Briden
California Department of Fish & Game
4001 N. Wilson Way
Stockton, CA 95205

preliminary goals, but act now on the critical levees to protect water quality and habitat. I hope someone can convince Mr. Tom Zuckerman (Cal Fed BDPAC levee subcommittee) that repairs of levees on Van Sickle and Wheeler Island is in the best interest of Southern California and Contra Costa, water users.

Thank you for your time, if you have any question please call me.

Stanley E Geary

Proposed Habitat Management, Preservation, And Restoration Program for the Suisun Marsh NEPA/CEQA Scoping Comment Form

Name: Julian Meister, Solano Land Trust

Mailing Address: PO Box 115 Fairfield CA 94533

Telephone No. (optional): 707-432-0150

e-mail (optional): julian@solanolandtrust.org

Comments/Issues/Alternatives:

Following the Nov. 25 meeting, I came up with an additional comment. Given the number of people who spoke about levee rebuilding + protection, I think it is essential to consider the effects of sea level rise. This is likely to increase the frequency of levee breaches; reduce the existing area of tidal marsh; influence water quality, habitats, ecological processes; etc.

Sea level rise is usually ignored in the planning process but should not be if the plan is to truly work over the long term. Effects may be seen in 30 yrs.

I think each of the program goals should take sea level rise into account + assess potential effects.

Please use the other side of the sheet if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED BY 2/8/04) TO:

MS. LAURIE BRIDEN
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
4001 N. WILSON WAY • STOCKTON, CA 95205

Phone: 209/948-7347 Fax: 209/946-6355 *or* lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov

Proposed Habitat Management, Preservation, And Restoration Program for the Suisun Marsh
NEPA/CEQA Scoping Comment Form

Name: ROBERT BEAN (ISLAND CLUB #501)

Mailing Address: 10 ESCALON DR
MILL VALLEY CA 94941

Telephone No. (optional): 415-389-0938

e-mail (optional): DUKIBOB@AOL.COM

Comments/Issues/Alternatives:

I would encourage this group to endorse the effort of SRCD to move ahead on the levee initiative - absolutely necessary should we have another emergency such as 1998. The levee issue should not await the complete deliberations of this group.

Please use the other side of the sheet if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED BY 2/8/04) TO:

MS. LAURIE BRIDEN
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
4001 N. WILSON WAY • STOCKTON, CA 95205

Phone: 209/948-7347 Fax: 209/946-6355 *or* lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov

Proposed Habitat Management, Preservation, And Restoration Program for the Suisun Marsh NEPA/CEQA Scoping Comment Form

Name: ROBERT "BOB" GRIFFITHS

Mailing Address: 3133 MORGAN TERRITORY RD., CLAYTON, CA. 94517

Telephone No. (optional): (925) 672-2390.

e-mail (optional):

Comments/Issues/Alternatives: I AM A MEMBER OF RICH IS. GUN CLUB (SIMMONS IS) & ALSO OWN & MANAGE 276 ACRES OF MANAGED WETLAND IN MERCED COUNTY. I HAVE HUNTED WATERFOWL ALL MY LIFE AS DID MY FATHER.

I ATTENDED THE 11/25 SCOPING MEETING ON THE "PLAN" FOR SUISUN MARSH. MY COMMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1) THE PRIMARY GOAL SHOULD BE TO PRESERVE THE MARSH. & THIS IS BEST DONE BY STRENGTHING THE EXISTING LEVEE SYSTEM.
2) DREDGING IS THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE WAY TO ACCOMPLISH 1).
3) A PRIORITY LIST SHOULD BE MADE UP USING SCIENCE & ENGINEERING TO IDENTIFY THOSE LEVY'S IN MOST NEED OF WORK.
4) A RESOURSE ESTABLISHED TO REPAIR LEVY'S IN AN EMERGENCY WITH PRE APPROVAL OF PERMITS AND STOCKPILED MATERIALS.

Please use the other side of the sheet if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED BY 2/8/04) TO:

MS. LAURIE BRIDEN
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
4001 N. WILSON WAY • STOCKTON, CA 95205

Phone: 209/948-7347 Fax: 209/946-6355 *or* lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov

EPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
O. BOX 23660
OAKLAND, CA 94623-0660
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FAX (510) 286-5559
TTY (800) 735-2929

Flex your power!
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November 20, 2003

SOL0000051
SCH 2003112039

Ms. Laurie Briden
Fish and Game Commission
4001 N. Wilson Way
Stockton, CA 94205

Dear Ms. Briden:

Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan for the Suisun Marsh, Solano County, California – Notice of Preparation

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation in the environmental review process for the proposed plan. We have examined the Notice of Preparation and do not have any comments to offer at this time. However, we look forward to reviewing the draft Environmental Impact Report for this plan when it becomes available, and expect to receive a copy from the State Clearinghouse.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please call Lisa Carboni of my staff at (510) 622-5491.

Sincerely,

Timothy C. Sable

TIMOTHY C. SABLE
District Branch Chief
IGR/CEQA

c: Scott Morgan (State Clearinghouse)

14 Nov 03

Re: Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan for the Suisun Marsh

When it is available, please send me a copy of the PEIS/EIR.
thank you.

Christian Spies

C.G. Spies
P.O. Box 171
Pequabuck, CT 06781-0171

Proposed Habitat Management, Preservation, And Restoration Program for the Suisun Marsh NEPA/CEQA Scoping Comment Form

Name: Alan Douglass

Mailing Address: 11 Sargent Lane

Atherton Calif. 94027

Telephone No. (optional): (650) 854-8198

e-mail (optional): DouglassCompany@AOL.com

Comments/Issues/Alternatives: Being a landowner in the marsh I have several questions and areas of concern.

(A) (Tidal Restoration): Will landowners be forced to sell their land for tidal restoration?

(2) Will the restoration of tidal wetlands be at the expense of losing our managed wetlands?

(B) (Public use of wetlands for waterfowling) Will there be public funding for the general public on private land under mandate?

(2) How can we insure this land to remain open to sportsman?

(C) (Levee maintenance):

(1) Who will pay for the maintenance of levees?

(2) We have real issues with the dredging

Please use the other side of the sheet if necessary. (over)

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS (POSTMARKED BY 2/8/04) TO:

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Phone: 209/948-7347 Fax: 209/946-6355 *or* lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov

Restrictions currently in place, will they be eased up or lifted?

(3) Will some kind of levee maintenance & Improvement program be created that we can all go by?

(D) In conclusion, you can see as a landowner that I have several areas of concern. Please keep me posted to all developments and I would like to hear from you in regards to my questions. Thank you —

Regards —

Alan Douglass