

## 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**David Ivester**, President  
*Briscoe Ivester & Bazel LLP*

**Richard Sinkoff**, Vice President  
*Port of Oakland*

**William H. Butler**, Treasurer  
*Lind Marine, Inc.*

**Amy Breckenridge**, Secretary  
*ERM*

**William Adams**  
*International Longshore  
& Warehouse Union*

**Scott Bodensteiner**  
*Haley & Aldrich*

**Paul Campos**  
*Building Industry Association  
of the Bay Area*

**Leonard Cardoza**  
*URS Corporation*

**Peter Dailey**  
*Port of San Francisco*

**Grant Davis**  
*Sonoma County Water Agency*

**Ane Deister**  
*Parsons Corporation*

**JoAnne Dunec**  
*Miller Starr Regalia*

**Bill T. Dutra**  
*The Dutra Group*

**Chris Elias**  
*Santa Clara Valley Water District*

**Michael Giari**  
*Port of Redwood City*

**Greg Gibeson**  
*Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association*

**Walton Gill**  
*Chevron Products Company*

**Josh Gravenmier**  
*ARCADIS*

**Tom Guarino**  
*Pacific Gas & Electric*

**William H. Hanson**  
*Great Lakes Dredge & Dock, Inc.*

**Eric Hinzl**  
*AMEC*

**Laura Kennedy**  
*Kennedy/Jenks Consultants*

**Phillip Lebednik**  
*Weston Solutions, Inc.*

**Gary M. Levin**  
*Levin-Richmond Terminal Corp.*

**James D. Levine**  
*Montezuma Wetlands LLC*

**Pat Mapelli**  
*Cargill*

**Christian Marsh**  
*Downey Brand LLP*

**James C. Matzorkis**  
*Port of Richmond*

**James McNally**  
*Manson Construction Company*

**Gary Oates**  
*Environmental Science Associates*

**Richard M. Rhoads**  
*Moffatt & Nichol*

**Captain John Schneider**  
*Tesorero*

**Phil Tagami**  
*California Capital & Investment Group*

**Dilip Trivedi**  
*Moffatt & Nichol*

**Ellis A. Wallenberg III**  
*Weiss Associates*

**Scott Warner**  
*ENVIRON International Corp.*

**Jeff Wingfield**  
*Port of Stockton*

March 19, 2015

The Honorable Thomas James Vilsack  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Room 200-A  
Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Shaun L.S. Donovan  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
Room 252  
Eisenhower Executive Office Building  
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

**Subject: Funding for Area-Wide Pest Management under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in the Fiscal Year 2016**

Dear Secretary Vilsack and Director Donovan:

We are writing to encourage you to request adequate funding for Area-Wide Pest Management under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in the Fiscal Year 2016 Agriculture President's Budget Request. Among other critically important projects nationwide that are being supported by the ARS through its Area-Wide Pest Management Program, ARS has launched a pilot collaboration with other federal and state partners that seeks to coordinate and support the management, control, and eradication of invasive species of weeds threatening the health of California's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta).

The Delta is an important and fragile ecosystem that serves as a critical water source for millions of Californians and millions of acres of highly productive farms, a crucial inland port, rearing and migratory habitat for endangered and threatened species, and a recreational hub for people throughout the state. All of these attributes of the Delta are now being threatened by the rapid growth of the highly invasive water hyacinth, *Egeria*, and other noxious aquatic weeds.

These weeds are the source of increasing economic burdens and adverse socioeconomic impacts in the Delta region, and are causing significant ecological damage to the ecosystem and aquatic habitat. Water movement in the Delta is being clogged, international commerce at the Port of Stockton is being hindered, recreational boating has been obstructed, dissolved oxygen-depleted "dead zones" are degrading habitat for endangered and threatened species of fish – all due to the accelerated, unabated growth of these invasive weeds.

The Delta also provides a breeding ground for mosquitos that carry the West Nile Virus and other diseases. Effective control over these mosquitos has been significantly hindered due to the presence of these nuisance aquatic weeds. All of these chronic problems have been exacerbated by the historic drought conditions in California.

**2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**David Ivester**, President  
*Briscoe Ivester & Bazel LLP*

**Richard Sinkoff**, Vice President  
*Port of Oakland*

**William H. Butler**, Treasurer  
*Lind Marine, Inc.*

**Amy Breckenridge**, Secretary  
*ERM*

**William Adams**  
*International Longshore  
& Warehouse Union*

**Scott Bodensteiner**  
*Haley & Aldrich*

**Paul Campos**  
*Building Industry Association  
of the Bay Area*

**Leonard Cardoza**  
*URS Corporation*

**Peter Dailey**  
*Port of San Francisco*

**Grant Davis**  
*Sonoma County Water Agency*

**Ane Deister**  
*Parsons Corporation*

**JoAnne Dunec**  
*Miller Starr Regalia*

**Bill T. Dutra**  
*The Dutra Group*

**Chris Elias**  
*Santa Clara Valley Water District*

**Michael Giari**  
*Port of Redwood City*

**Greg Gibeson**  
*Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association*

**Walton Gill**  
*Chevron Products Company*

**Josh Gravenmier**  
*ARCADIS*

**Tom Guarino**  
*Pacific Gas & Electric*

**William H. Hanson**  
*Great Lakes Dredge & Dock, Inc.*

**Eric Hinzl**  
*AMEC*

**Laura Kennedy**  
*Kennedy/Jenks Consultants*

**Phillip Lebednik**  
*Weston Solutions, Inc.*

**Gary M. Levin**  
*Levin-Richmond Terminal Corp.*

**James D. Levine**  
*Montezuma Wetlands LLC*

**Pat Mapelli**  
*Cargill*

**Christian Marsh**  
*Downey Brand LLP*

**James C. Matzorkis**  
*Port of Richmond*

**James McNally**  
*Manson Construction Company*

**Gary Oates**  
*Environmental Science Associates*

**Richard M. Rhoads**  
*Moffatt & Nichol*

**Captain John Schneider**  
*Tesoro*

**Phil Tagami**  
*California Capital & Investment Group*

**Dilip Trivedi**  
*Moffatt & Nichol*

**Ellis A. Wallenberg III**  
*Weiss Associates*

**Scott Warner**  
*ENVIRON International Corp.*

**Jeff Wingfield**  
*Port of Stockton*

ARS funding levels in the FY 2014 Agriculture Appropriations bill created an opportunity for ARS to fund several Area-Wide Pest Management projects, including providing \$750,000 to support a scope of work submitted by the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force, which includes the participation of not only the ARS Exotic and Invasive Weeds Research Unit, but the California Division of Boating and Waterways, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Ames Research Center, the University of California, Davis, and several local mosquito abatement districts. To achieve the goal of better managing aquatic weeds through the use of innovative biological controls and other means, this initiative will need on-going support from ARS in the years ahead.

Local and regional stakeholders, as well as participating state and federal agencies, are all devoting significant time and money to abate these weeds and manage Delta mosquitos, water movement, fisheries, port traffic, and boating, and recreation. These efforts are already benefitting from the coordination that the ARS brings to the situation and, if continued, will lead to an effective regional Integrated pest management program that leverages federal, state and local investments.

As you conclude your work on the FY 2016 budget request, we urge you to request adequate funding for Area-Wide Pest Management under ARS. Such funds are crucial in providing the necessary research and technical assistance that can be used in eradicating these invasive weeds that are disrupting Delta commerce, recreation, mosquito control, and water supply. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



John A. Coleman  
Chief Executive Officer  
Bay Planning Coalition