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July 28, 2015

Ms. Lisa Warr
Office for Coastal Management
1305 East-West Hwy,
N/OCM6,
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: BCDC and Coastal Conservancy Joint Application for NOAA Special Grant

Dear Ms. Warr:

The Bay Planning Coalition (BPC) writes to register its enthusiastic support for the vitally important body of work proposed by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) in partnership with the California State Coastal Conservancy (Coastal Conservancy) in response to NOAA's Regional Coastal Resilience Grants Program. BPC strongly believes that the work that BCDC and the Conservancy are engaging in will be instrumental in advancing the Bay Area's resiliency to climate impacts and provide best practices that can be adapted in California and throughout the United States.

As local cities and counties have begun to grapple with the very real threat of flooding and sea level rise along their shorelines, it has become quickly evident there is an important role that key regional partners can play to help convene stakeholders to organize around shared data and information, while developing strategies and approaches that deal with climate adaptation at the appropriate scales. The Building San Francisco Bay Resilient Shorelines project being proposed to NOAA by BCDC and the Conservancy project would convene regional adaptation practitioners of all types in a collaborative environment to advance and integrate BCDC's and NOAA's groundbreaking Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) Program and the Conservancy's Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Update. Combining work on these two regional initiatives will accelerate the Bay Area's efforts to achieve regional resilience for all of our human and natural communities by linking and integrating land and wetland planning. This project will greatly empower existing institutions and networks to make effective community-based decisions about green and gray infrastructure planning and implementation.

The Bay Area greatly benefits by having the expertise and leadership of BCDC and the Conservancy. Both agencies are uniquely suited, in very complimentary ways, to help the Bay Area as a region adapt to climate change. Becoming resilient to both episodic and chronic aspects of coastal flooding requires unprecedented cooperation among public, private, and nonprofit organizations at different and varying scales because land use patterns, transportation networks, and other place-based elements create almost countless interdependencies. This project will help the region tackle governance challenges and form the needed governance infrastructure so that the Bay Area can effectively adapt to rising sea level.

BCDC's ART Program continues to work collaboratively to develop a regional assessment of shoreline vulnerabilities and a planning process to identify and implement appropriate adaptation solutions, and the Conservancy's Bayland's Ecosystem Habitat

Goals Update (to be published in October) will provide a science based regional vision for tidal and transitional habitats in light of rising sea level. BCDC and the Conservancy, in essence, are joined at the hip to develop, with their partners, regional plans to create a far more resilient Bay shoreline. BPC ready and willing to help BCDC and the Conservancy in this critical endeavor and strongly encourages NOAA to support this proposal so that we can work together to create a more resilient Bay Area.

BPC encourages NOAA to award BCDC and the Costal Conservancy with its special grant, and thereby advance a critically important initiative for the Bay Area's resiliency and climate adaptation strategy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John A. Coleman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John A. Coleman
Chief Executive Officer