

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 8, 2017

Douglas Lamont
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
U.S. Department of the Army
108 Army Pentagon, Room 3E446
Washington, DC 22202

Lieutenant General Semonite
Chief of Engineers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20226

Dear Mr. Lamont and Lieutenant General Semonite:

We write to inform you of our strong interest and support for Section 1122 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act and to request that you include the San Francisco Bay in the beneficial use pilot program provided for in the Act. We are also requesting that you select leadership from the California State Coastal Conservancy, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board for the Regional Beneficial Use Team in our area.


Sec. 1122 established a 10-location pilot program to maximize the amount of material dredged by the Corps of Engineers (Corps) to be transported to nearby sites that need sediment. The material would be used to reduce potential storm damage, protect public safety, protect/restore/create wetlands, enhance shorelines, or for other purposes that fulfill public objectives. We believe that the Bay Area meets the goals and objectives of the beneficial use pilot program at the highest levels.

There is no place better suited to demonstrate the multiple benefits of beneficial use than the San Francisco Bay. The Corps currently has a significant operation and maintenance dredging program at the Ports of Oakland, Richmond, and Redwood City within the San Francisco Bay and the need for the dredged material is tremendous in the region. Our area offers a mix of opportunities to beneficially use dredged material, and a host of partners from state and local government, and private sector interests that are ready to work closely with the Corps. Besides the will, we have the means to cost-share with the important passage of a nine-county parcel tax this last summer to fund shoreline restoration projects.

We are looking forward to learning about your Implementation Guidance for Sec. 1122 and stand ready to assist in any way we can. We also want to work with you to ensure that your Operations and Maintenance budget is fully funded in order to allow for the beneficial use of sediment.

We thank you for your consideration of our requests and we are pleased to partner with you on what we believe will be a very successful program.

Sincerely,



JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress



DIANNE FEINSTEIN
United States Senator



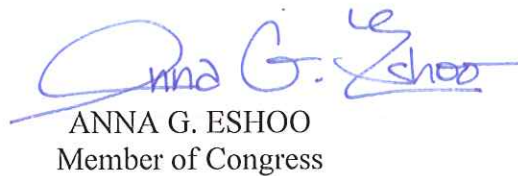
JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress



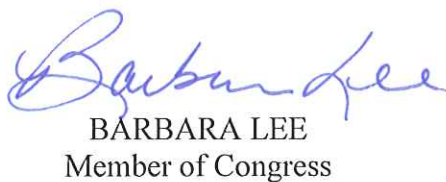
JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress



MARK DESAULNIER
Member of Congress



ANNA G. ESHOO
Member of Congress



BARBARA LEE
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RO KHANNA
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