

June 27, 2008

Dear Friends of Bolinas Lagoon:

The Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study depends on continued federal funding to move forward. Late last year, the County of Marin requested an appropriation of \$600,000 that would enable the Corps of Engineers to continue its work on the project.

Earlier this week the County learned that the House of Representatives' version of the Fiscal Year 2009 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill did not include an appropriation for Bolinas Lagoon. The Senate is currently in the process of preparing its own version of the bill.

Senator Barbara Boxer has steadfastly supported funding for the project. If you wish to write to Senator Boxer and ask her to support an appropriation for Bolinas Lagoon, a sample letter is provided below. Key points to include in your letter are:

- Thank Senator Boxer for her previous support of the Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study
- Request the Senator to fund the project.
- Mention the project's current status. (New project focus; new Locally Preferred Plan; public support for the LPP; new partnership between the County of Marin, Corps of Engineers and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary)
- State the consequences if the project is not funded

If you would like more information about the Bolinas Lagoon Project, go back to the project's home page, then click on the link entitled "Project Brochure".

If your letter is to have an effect, it should be sent **immediately**. ***Your letter will reach the right people in the quickest way if you send it to me by fax (415-499-3795) or E-mail (rmiska@co.marin.ca.us).***

Sincerely,

Ronald Miska
Deputy Director
Marin County Department of Parks and Open Space

SAMPLE LETTER

Honorable Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Boxer:

Thank you for your past support for the Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Project. Your efforts have been instrumental in getting us to the point where we now have a community-supported plan that was developed collaboratively among scientists and local community members with the leadership of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and assistance from the County of Marin and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

I recently heard that neither the President's budget nor the House version of the Fiscal Year 2009 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill includes the County of Marin's \$600,000 appropriations request to enable continued work by the Corps of Engineers on the Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study.

Please restore funding for this project. Bolinas Lagoon is a Wetland of International Importance. New life has been breathed into the project by the historic partnership between the Farallones Marine Sanctuary, the County and the Corps. A new "Locally Preferred Plan" for the restoration of Bolinas Lagoon was well received when presented at a recent public meeting. There is a renewed sense of trust in the project and its process. We must not lose the momentum that so many public agencies, private organizations and community members have worked so long and so hard to rebuild. Please support a \$600,000 appropriation in the Senate's Energy and Water Appropriations Bill for the Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study, and urge your Senate colleagues to do the same.

Sincerely,