

RICHARDSON BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

April 26, 2023

Dr. Katharyn Boyer
Interim Executive Director
Estuary & Ocean Science Center
San Francisco State University
3150 Paradise Drive
Tiburon, CA 94920

Dear Dr. Boyer,

We are pleased to support your research project entitled “Accelerating nature-based coastal climate solutions using San Francisco Bay as a model for California.” Specifically, Richardson Bay Regional Agency (RBRA) will commit \$320,000 in matching federal funds towards your proposed UC Climate Action Research Initiative (UCCARI) project.

These matching funds are from a new grant RBRA will be receiving from the US Environmental Protection Agency’s San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund for the project entitled “Collaboratively Restoring Eelgrass in Richardson Bay to Improve Water Quality and Climate Resilience.” Please note that if for any reason these EPA funds are not available, RBRA will not be able to provide match for your proposed project. However, RBRA has been notified by EPA staff that the project was selected for funding, all paperwork is currently in process, and we expect the agreement to be in place this spring, well before the start of the UCCARI project period. We expect to execute the project’s subaward to San Francisco State University shortly thereafter.

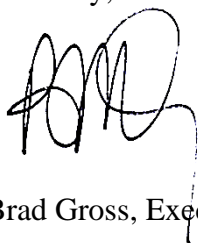
The goal of the funding from EPA to RBRA and partners is to support restoration of eelgrass in Richardson Bay, southwest of the SFSU Estuary & Ocean Science Center, where impacts from anchors, chains, and other boating ground tackle has damaged one of the largest eelgrass beds in San Francisco Bay, leaving anchor scars up to an acre in size. The EPA grant to RBRA will support your lab’s pioneering work on eelgrass restoration, includes restoring at least 15 acres of eelgrass over four years, and will share scalable best-practices for eelgrass restoration in areas of anchor scour. Our match commitment for your UCCARI proposal will support restoration of 6 acres of eelgrass in Richardson Bay during the period of time that the two grants overlap.

RBRA’s work to remove derelict and abandoned vessels from Richardson Bay and the implementation of a No Anchor Area/Eelgrass Protection Zone has created this opportunity for restoration, which is particularly urgent in the face of sea level rise, increasing ocean temperatures, and other threats from a changing climate. Eelgrass is a nature-based solution to these threats – eelgrass beds improve water quality, reduce coastal erosion (by stabilizing sediment and reducing wave energy), sequester carbon, reduce ocean acidification, and provide nursery habitat for commercially, recreationally, and ecologically important marine life (e.g., Pacific herring and Dungeness crab).

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We are pleased for the opportunity to help the state of California meet its ambitious climate goals. Nature-based solutions, such as the ones proposed in this research project, have been noted through many state policy documents as a key to building a climate resilient California. Additionally, and importantly, your proposed project will consult with local communities and develop the much needed workforce that is more representative of California's diversity, a goal that RBRA also shares and is actively pursuing through the EPA-funded project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BG', with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.

Brad Gross, Executive Director