



November 29, 2018

Luisa Valiela
EPA Region 9, Watersheds Office (WTR-2-2)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Support for American Rivers' Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project and Application to the US Environmental Protection Agency San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund

Dear Ms. Valiela,

The Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed would like to express our support for American Rivers' grant application to the EPA's San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund for the Three Creeks Parkway Restoration Project to restore floodplain and riparian habitat along more than 4,000 linear feet of Marsh Creek, expand the creek channel to provide increased flood protection, and improve water quality in Marsh Creek and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed (FOMCW) is a nonprofit grassroots organization supported by the communities that surround Marsh Creek. It is our mission to protect, conserve, and restore Marsh Creek and its tributaries, and to inspire appreciation and conservation of the Marsh Creek Watershed. We have been working as a key community partner with American Rivers and other partners to find opportunities to restore Marsh Creek since our group was started in 2004, and have been working on helping to plan and implement the Three Creeks Project for over 14 years. This project provides an opportunity to restore wildlife habitat, improve water quality, improve flood control, and gives the community access to the creek as a laboratory. There are several schools within walking distance of this project that have programs that would benefit from the ability to interact with our creek to help teach kids about science and environmental stewardship. The Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed are interested in continuing to work with project partners to help identify what role we can play in the long-term maintenance and monitoring of the project to flood management and ecological success of the project.

FOMCW plans to support the Three Creeks project through the following ongoing programs:

- Plant Maintenance including hand watering, weeding and applying mulch.
- Trash removal at site on Marsh Creek and at Sand Creek and Deer Creek reaches. We plan to remove First Flush runoff trash from Storm Drain outfalls upstream from the project.

- Organize Fish and Bird observation walks for the public to enjoy the increased numbers and variety of wildlife at the restored Creek section.
- Promote a Creek Watch volunteer program to monitor the Three Creeks area for illegal dumping, fish kills, and record new bird and animal species using the restoration site.

Marsh Creek is an important natural resource that flows 30 miles from the eastern slope of Mt. Diablo through the communities of Brentwood and Oakley and into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the water supply for over 20 million people. Marsh Creek provides habitat for numerous sensitive aquatic species including Chinook salmon, red-legged frog, and western pond turtle.

We urge you to support this worthwhile project. Feel free to contact me at Barrymargesson@gmail.com or at 925-250-6826 if you have any questions or would like more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry Margesson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Barry Margesson
President, Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed