



December 18, 2015

Gary Kremen, Chair  
Board of Directors  
Santa Clara Valley Water District  
5750 Almaden Expressway  
San Jose, CA 95118-3686

**RE: Agenda Item 7.1, December 22, 2015 (support)**

Dear Chairman Kremen and Directors:

On behalf of Save The Bay and our 50,000 supporters throughout the region, I recommend your approval of Item 7.1, parts A and B, on your Board Agenda for Tuesday, December 22, 2015.

This item would authorize the Santa Clara Valley Water District's CEO to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, and provide the Authority with operating funds in the amount of \$1.5 million. Those funds would help the Authority to place a \$12 per year, 20-year parcel tax on the June 2016 ballot in all nine Bay Area counties, which would raise approximately \$500 million for Bay wetlands restoration and shoreline protection.

As detailed in the staff memorandum, a minimum of approximately \$60 million of the funds raised by this parcel tax would be allocated by geography to Santa Clara County projects for flood protection and wetlands restoration efforts. Additional funds above that amount would be available to Santa Clara County projects from the proceeds of the parcel tax, via grants from the Authority.

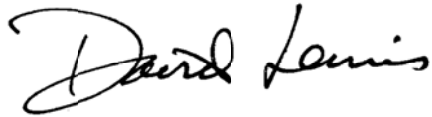
Based upon current projections, these Authority funds would provide the District the full remaining local share of funding needed to complete Phase I of its flood protection project along the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline. As you know, the District's shoreline project would provide the highest quality flood risk management for the urban area north of San Jose, including the community of Alviso and the San Jose-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility, facilitating restoration of 3,000 acres of salt ponds to crucial tidal marsh habitat.

The District has been central to the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration and Flood Protection project, the largest tidal wetland restoration project on the West Coast, and its leaders have been central to the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority's formation and efforts to generate new public funding – all of that work has been essential to creating the June 2016 parcel tax.

As the *San Jose Mercury News* editorialized on October 23, 2015, "the region is running out of time to protect one of its greatest resources – the San Francisco Bay – against the ravages of climate change," and "San Francisco Bay wetlands need to be restored now," for the health of the Bay and for the security of shoreline communities, businesses, and the regional economy.

Consistent with the District's foresighted leadership to date, and in support of its long held goals, we ask that you approve Item 7.1, parts A and B, and facilitate the Authority moving forward to the June 2016 ballot with its prospective \$12 per year, twenty-year parcel tax.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

David Lewis  
Executive Director