

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 1, 2006

TO: Bolinas Lagoon Technical Advisory Committee

FROM: Ronald Miska, Assistant General Manager
Bill Carmen, Project Manager

SUBJECT: **RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MARIN COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT REGARDING COMPLETION OF THE BOLINAS LAGOON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION FEASIBILITY STUDY**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Concur with the recommendation of the Executive Committee to the Board of Directors of the Marin County Open Space District regarding completion of the Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study.

SUMMARY: At a meeting on November 13, 2006, the Executive Committee for the Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study recommended that the Board of Directors of the Marin Open Space District:

- 1) Continue the Feasibility Study and EIR/S to examine actions that would reduce, and possibly reverse, sediment accumulation and habitat shifts caused by human impacts.
 - A. Approve the following project goal to reflect our new understanding of how the lagoon functions and evolves:
“Ameliorate the adverse human impacts to Bolinas Lagoon, thereby promoting the natural, dynamic processes of this internationally-recognized estuarine environment.”
 - B. Expand the County-ACOE partnership to include other resource agencies and scientists in a collaborative approach with the public to determine the need for and feasibility of restoration measures.
 - C. Focus on measures that ameliorate the impacts from human disturbance to the lagoon and its watershed.

- D. Focus on measures that promote the natural dynamic processes of the lagoon that suspend and flush sediment, rather than those that attempt to arrest the evolution of the lagoon or return the lagoon to an artificial steady-state.
- 2) Design an Adaptive Management Plan to continually assess and evaluate the condition of the lagoon and the efficacy on any intervention measures.
 - 3) Design and implement, concurrently with completing the Feasibility Study, a monitoring program for Bolinas Lagoon to test and refine the model and 50-year projection of the lagoon's ecological and hydrological evolution.

In support of this recommendation, the Executive Committee found that:

- Bolinas Lagoon is a unique, internationally recognized resource that provides habitat for shorebirds, waterfowl, fish, invertebrates and numerous special status plants and animals.
- Human impacts have and continue to alter the lagoon's evolutionary trajectory that will result in significant loss of tidal prism and a shift towards shallower mudflat and tidal marsh habitats.
- There is wide public support to ameliorate these human induced impacts to retain the ecological, social and cultural values of the lagoon, but also to insure that any measures should be done with utmost care to avoid unnecessary disturbance to the numerous habitats the lagoon supports.