



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX**

**75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
October 2, 2009**

Ms. Patricia Montanio
National Marine Fisheries Service
Office of Habitat Conservation
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Subject: EPA Comments on the Adoption of the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, Restored Tidal Marsh, Managed Ponds, Flood Control Measures and Public Access Features, Don Edward San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Alameda, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, California (CEQ #20090305)

Dear Ms. Montanio:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Federal Register Notice published on September 4, 2009, describing National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's intent to adopt the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Final PEIS) for the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project (CEQ #20070539). Our comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

Because your agency is adopting the Final PEIS that EPA previously reviewed and commented on, we would like to highlight the remaining concern shared with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service upon completion of that document. At that time, EPA identified concerns related to the likely future non-attainment status for the San Francisco Bay area for the 24-hour standard for particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 microns or less (PM_{2.5}). We have enclosed EPA's entire January 28, 2008 comment letter for your reference and consideration in your adoption of the Final PEIS.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to comment on the adoption of the Final PEIS. Once the Record of Decision is signed, please send a copy to the address above (mail code: CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact me, at 415-972-3521, or Susan Sturges, the lead reviewer for this project. Susan can be reached at 415-947-4188 or sturges.susan@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Connell Dunning for

Kathleen M. Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Office (CED-2)

Enclosure:

EPA's January 28, 2008 comment letter on the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project