



EasyGrantsID: 61745

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – San Francisco Bay Estuary Conservation Fund 2018, Full Proposal

Title: Enhancing Public Use and Restoring Habitats at Belden’s Landing, the Gateway to Suisun Marsh

Organization: Solano County, Parks and Recreation Division

Grant Information

Title of Project

Enhancing Public Use and Restoring Habitats at Belden’s Landing, the Gateway to Suisun Marsh

Total Amount Requested	\$ 92,915.65
Matching Contributions Proposed	\$49,545.00
Proposed Grant Period	04/01/ 2019 - 03/31/ 2022

Project Description

The San Francisco estuary is highly urbanized, and appropriate public use requires careful consideration of sensitivity of natural resources values. In Suisun Marsh, the largest brackish wetland in California, there are limited opportunities for public access, because much of the area is under private ownership. Belden’s Landing, located in the heart of the marsh, is the primary boat access. Belden’s is used by both the local community including underserved areas of south Fairfield and visitors from across the Bay Area. However, it suffers from minor crime and vandalism, offers limited recreational offerings, and encompasses a degraded tidal marsh. In this project, we propose to improve the area to be a more diversified family-friendly destination by restoring the marsh, initiating development of a boardwalk interpretive trail, and improving existing facilities. Our project will include participation of local students to encourage stewardship of the area wetlands.

Project Abstract

San Francisco Bay is one of the nation’s most urbanized estuaries, and appropriate public use requires consideration of sensitive natural resources. Upstream of Carquinez Strait, Suisun Marsh comprises the largest contiguous brackish wetland remaining in California, but public access is limited because much is under private ownership. Belden’s Landing, located 5.5 miles south of SR12 along a scenic drive, is the primary boat launch in the heart of Suisun Marsh. Belden’s is used by the local community including low-income areas of south Fairfield and by visitors from across the Bay Area. However, Belden’s has frequent minor crime and vandalism, provides limited recreational opportunities, and contains a degraded tidal wetland. This project will improve the area as a regional destination by providing diversified, family-friendly uses. It will restore the degraded marsh removing invasives and planting natives, develop a site vision and boardwalk plan with the community, and improve existing facilities. A non-motorized launch will be added to reduce user conflicts as a Bay Area Water Trail trailhead. We will encourage respect for private land ownerships and wetlands through interpretive signage and online maps. The community will be involved in planning and restoration, and local students will participate and monitor success. The project will be a unique partnership of the Solano County Parks, Suisun Resource Conservation District, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Organization and Primary Contact Information

Organization	Solano County, Parks and Recreation Division
Organization Type	State or Local Government
City, State, Country	„



NFWF

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Organization: Solano County, Parks and Recreation Division

Region (if international)

Primary Contact

Chris Drake

Position/Title

Phone and E-mail

707-784-3118 x ; crdrake@solanocounty.com

Additional Contacts

Role	Name



NFWF

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Project Location Information

Project Location Description	3186 Grizzly Island Rd, Suisun City, CA 94585
Project Country(ies)	North America - United States
Project State(s)	California
Project Congressional District(s)	District 5 (CA)

Permits and Approvals

Permits/Approvals Description:	CEQA Notice of Exemption: this project will constitute a minor modification of existing park facilities and anticipated to be exempt from CEQA
Permits/Approvals Status:	Intend to Apply
Permits/Approvals Agency-Contact Person:	Chris Drake
Permits/Approvals Submittal-Approval Date:	11/01/2018

Permits/Approvals Description:	Building permit: we do anticipate needing a building permit for the proposed modifications that would require posts or attachments only.
Permits/Approvals Status:	Completed
Permits/Approvals Agency-Contact Person:	Chris Drake
Permits/Approvals Submittal-Approval Date:	10/01/2018



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Biddet Narrative

Biddet Narrative

1. Personnel

Personnel - Salary costs for project management and implementation of Objectives 1-3: 1) invasive plant removal and native plantings from greenhouse starts, 2) assistance with boardwalk, landscape and signage plan, and 3) facilities improvements including kayak launch, bait table and fish waste compost

2. Travel

- Domestic Airfare - Per Flight - _____
- International Airfare - Per Flight - _____
- Train - Per Ticket - _____
- Rental Car - Per Day - _____
- Taxis - Per Trip - _____
- Mileage - Per Mile - _____
- Gasoline - Per Gallon - _____
- Per Diem (M&IE) - Per Day - _____
- Lodging - Per Night - _____
- Meals (No M&IE) - Per Meal - _____



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4. Equipment

Equipment -

4. Materials and Supplies

Materials and Supplies -

5. Contractual Services

Subcontract/Contract - Per
Agreement -
Subgrant - Per Agreement -

6. Other Direct Costs

Other Direct Costs -

7. Indirect Costs



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Indirect Costs -



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Matching Contributions

Matching Contribution Amount:	\$18,000.00
Type:	In-kind
Status:	Intend to Apply
Source:	Solano County Parks
Source Type:	Non-Federal
Description:	Support for time to implement the project and maintain the park facilities

Matching Contribution Amount:	\$9,000.00
Type:	In-kind
Status:	Intend to Apply
Source:	Suisun Resource Conservation District
Source Type:	Non-Federal
Description:	Support for project implementation and permitting.

Matching Contribution Amount:	\$22,545.00
Type:	In-kind
Status:	Intend to Apply
Source:	Solano Community College
Source Type:	Non-Federal
Description:	Coordination and assistance with project invasive control, native plantings, and biomonitoring by volunteers and students

Total Amount of Matching Contributions:	\$49,545.00
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The following pages contain the uploaded documents, in the order shown below, as provided by the applicant:

Upload Type	File Name	Uploaded By	Uploaded Date
SF Bay Proposal Narrative	BeldensLandingProjectforNFWFSanFranciscoFundv6.pdf	Paradis, Diana	02/22/2019
Project Map	beldens proposal map 2.pdf	Paradis, Diana	07/18/2018
Letters of Support	2018-07-18_Solano Support letter.pdf	Paradis, Diana	07/18/2018
Letters of Support	WaterTrail_BeldensLanding-SanFranciscoFund_LetterofSupport.pdf	Paradis, Diana	07/18/2018
Letters of Support	SolanoCommunityCollegeLetter_of_Support.pdf	Paradis, Diana	07/18/2018
Letters of Support	SRCDBeldensLandingNFWFletter.pdf	Paradis, Diana	07/18/2018
Letters of Support	RM BLWAF Grant Support Letter.pdf	Paradis, Diana	07/18/2018
Conceptual Plans	beldens proposal Figures.pdf	Paradis, Diana	07/18/2018
Resumes	ProjectStaff.pdf	Paradis, Diana	07/18/2018
Certificate of Good Standing	Certificate of Good Standing.docx	Paradis, Diana	07/16/2018
Certificate of Insurance	Certificate of Insurance.docx	Paradis, Diana	07/16/2018
Board of Trustees, Directors, or equivalent	SolanoCountyBoardofSupervisors.docx	Paradis, Diana	07/12/2018
Statement of Litigation	StatementofLitigation.doc	Paradis, Diana	07/18/2018
Conflict of Interest Disclosure	conflict of interest disclosure.docx	Paradis, Diana	07/16/2018



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The following uploads do not have the same headers and footers as the previous sections of this document in order to preserve the integrity of the actual files uploaded.



Instructions: Save this document on your computer and complete the narrative in the format provided. The final narrative should not exceed eight (8) pages; do not delete the text provided below. Once complete, upload this document into the on-line application as instructed. For additional guidance on how to complete the narrative, reference the Application Information section of the RFP.

1. **Invitation:** Provide the name and contact information (phone number and email) for the representative of NFWF or the State or Federal agency that invited you to submit this proposal.
 - Sarah Estrella, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, 209-645-1445, sarah.estrella@wildlife.ca.gov
 - Anne Butterfield, NFWF, 415-778-0999, anne.butterfield@nfwf.org
2. **Project Goals and Objectives:** Elaborate on the project goals and objectives summarized previously in the application;

San Francisco Bay is one of the nation's most urbanized estuaries (Nichols et al. 1986) with nearly 8 million residents now inhabiting communities along its shores. Appropriate public access requires consideration of the natural resources values and sensitivity of the area. One area of public use is Belden's Landing, the primary boat launch in the heart of Suisun Marsh that is heavily used by recreationalists. Suisun Marsh is the largest brackish wetland in California, but much of the area is under private ownership which increases the importance of improving existing public access. Located 5.5 miles along a scenic drive south of State Highway 12 in Suisun City, Belden's Landing is a gateway to Suisun Marsh that historically supported a ferry terminal and restaurant with access to the southern half of Suisun Marsh and Grizzly Island Wildlife Area. The Montezuma Slough Bridge was completed in the 1960s, and the area was acquired by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in the 1980s with improvements to the boat launch and fishing pier. This area is now called the Belden's Landing Water Access Facility, a regional park managed by Solano County Parks with a boat-launch ramp, fishing pier, restrooms, and parking.

Belden's Landing is used by both the local community, including the underserved, low-income area of southern Fairfield (AB1550), and by visitors from across the Bay Area. Solano County Parks and their partners are proposing a project to restore the habitats and to improve the area as a regional destination for visitors. The goal will be to provide diversified, family-friendly uses including birdwatching, education, fishing, picnicking, kayaking, and wetland appreciation. Security at this relatively remote site is critical, and improvements to the area would be completed with participation by community members and stakeholders in the planning and implementation. The area also will provide a chance for students from a local community college and schools to appreciate and encourage stewardship of the diverse and sensitive wetland habitats, as this is one of the more accessible sites in the region.

This proposed project will improve the degraded tidal wetland habitat by removing invasive species and planting native species, develop a vision and plan for supporting access and education with walkway and interpretive displays, and improve non-motorized boating access and fishing services. Support for non-motorized boating will include trailhead designation under the Bay Area Water Trail (Assembly Bill 1296, 2005; see Letter of Support) with an improved kayak launch system to reduce user conflicts at the launch. Interpretive signage and electronic maps will provide guidelines for "paddling lightly on the marsh waters" while maintaining respect for the private land ownerships and sensitive wildlife

species. The project will be undertaken by a unique partnership including the Solano County Parks, Suisun Resource Conservation District, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The primary objectives of this project are to develop planning to:

1. Restore the habitat quality of the tidal marsh through removal of invasive plants and planting of native species monitoring results with local college students.
 2. Support access and environmental education for a boardwalk, native landscaping, and interpretive signs.
 3. Improve clean boating and fishing through installation of a kayak dock, fish and bait table, and interpretive signage.
3. **Scope of Work:** Elaborate on the primary tasks and activities that will be employed through the project.
- i. Provide a comprehensive narrative statement that describes the methodology that will be used to complete the Scope of Work and explains how the primary activities are expected to lead to the outcome(s).
 - ii. Describe how these activities relate to established plans (management, conservation, recovery, etc.) and priority

Procedures for Objective 1. Restore the habitat quality of the tidal marsh through removal of invasive plants and planting of native species monitoring results with local college students.

Belden's Landing is adjacent to Grizzly Island Road at the base of the Montezuma Slough bridge 5.5 miles from the State Highway 12 junction in Suisun City (Fig. 1A: Site Map). The fishing access and parking lot are immediately adjacent to the road (Fig. 1A), while the boat launch (Fig. 1B) and fishing pier (Fig. 1C) are located to the east. The wetland at the site consists of a 5-acre tidal marsh parcel east of the boat launch (Fig. 1A). The area is protected as mitigation for the parking lot installation, but it has been degraded by invasive plants including extensive coverage of Phragmites (Fig. 1D) and other plants such as invasive pepperweed. First, we would close fence openings on the west side of the tidal marsh (Fig. 1E) to preclude access of dogs to the tidal marsh plain to reduce potential disturbance to sensitive species. Second, we propose to use fall application by a certified applicator with glyphosate herbicide during low tides and biomass removal with summer mowing and hand removal through funding participation of the California Conservation Corps (Napa Office) following recommendations of our collaborator, Phragmites expert Dr. Karin Kettenring (Utah State University; see Kettenring et al. 2016). Third, active revegetation will be used to more quickly recover native species and limit Phragmites reinvasion, and irrigation will be used in upland areas to promote rapid growth (Fig. 1F). We will work with volunteers including local Solano Community College students (Fig. 1G; instructor Michelle Smith; see Letter of Support) to conduct and monitor the restoration (see Turner et al. 2012, <http://www.tidalmarshmonitoring.org>; Takekawa et al. 2011), and we will encourage involvement of local school groups through non-profits, including groups such as the Solano Land Trust, California Waterfowl Association, and Napa-Solano Audubon. Native plants would be purchased locally from suppliers such as Hedgerow Farms in Winters, CA.

Procedures for Objective 2. Support access and environmental education for a boardwalk, native landscaping, and interpretive signs.

The current layout (Fig. 1A) consists of a large trailer parking lot along Grizzly Island Road to the west with step-risers and three picnic tables fronting Montezuma Slough. The boat launch and dock are located on the east side of the lot and a sidewalk extends from it following the marsh edge and turning east past a second smaller lot to the fishing pier access. Currently, the only signage is a small, 3-panel kiosk located near the boat launch (Fig. 2A). We propose to work with a landscape architect to develop a detailed plan (Fig 2B. Example Site Plan) for native plant landscaping and a boardwalk extending along the north side of the wetland, possibly including a loop through the marsh (dashed line: Fig. 1A). Interpretive signs will be spaced along the length of the existing walkway and proposed boardwalk. We would host two community meetings to involve stakeholders in the design (Fig. 2C) and develop interpretative information with the Solano Community College.

Procedures for Objective 3. Improve clean boating and fishing through installation of a kayak dock, fish compost and bait station, and interpretive signage.

The boat ramp is heavily used for launching motorboats from trailers, but it does not provide easy access for non-motorized watercraft such as kayaks and stand-up paddleboards (SUP). The use of this area by kayaks is increasing, and rather than wait for conflicts to arise, we propose providing a separate launch and maps, both on signage and on websites, that identify potential conflicts and direct users to seasonally appropriate water trails (Fig. 3A). We would add a floating section to the current dock separate from the motored boat launch area for safely launching non-motorized craft (Fig. 3B). We would institute this as an official trailhead of the Bay Area Water Trail (<http://sfbaywatertrail.org/>) with seasonal interpretive maps to avoid conflicts with Suisun Marsh private landowners and other recreational users. The dock would include the interpretive sign suggested water trail routes for appropriate seasons. For example, non-motorized craft would be directed away from hunting areas and private ownerships sensitive to disturbance during the hunting season. The routes would be shown on an interpretive sign and accessed with a QR code or URL from the Solano County Parks, Suisun Resource Conservation District, and Bay Area Water Trail websites.

Also, we would address a long-standing problem for anglers at the site by providing a bait table and fish waste compost system. Currently, fish are supposed to be cleaned before visitors leave the vicinity to prevent potential spread of invasive species (California Department of Boating and Waterways 2018), but this often results in waste disposal in several areas as well as damage to tables or benches. Anglers place entrails in the dumpsters which results in decomposing tissue, flies and maggots, and nuisance odors at the site. We propose to install a cutting table (Fig. 3C) and adjacent compost system (Fig. 3D) that anglers may use for bait cutting and fish cleaning. The design would not include a formal fish-cleaning station, because the site lacks a source of potable fresh water would be prohibitively expensive to install at this time. Instead, a table would be provided to focus the cleaning tasks that are the responsibility of the anglers. The compost system would follow designs reported for other areas (Harris et al. 1989, Carney et al. 2000) which would allow more environmentally sound disposal of wastes as compost and reduction of odors (Lopez-Mosquera et al. 2011).

4. **Project Schedule:** Detail the project schedule and describe the primary tasks, deliverables, and milestones, as well as the planned project completion date.

This project will be initiated on 1 April 2019 and continue through 31 March 2022. The primary tasks will include (1) closing the openings in the fence protecting the tidal marsh in the winter of 2019/2020; (2) removing invasive plants with spraying in the fall of 2019 and 2020 and mowing and biomass removal during the winter and summer of 2020-2022, (3) revegetating the tidal marsh with the cooperation of students and community volunteers during the winter and spring of 2020-2022, (4) hiring a landscape architect during the spring of 2020 through 2021 to develop a design for the native plant landscaping, boardwalk, and interpretive

signs with stakeholder participation through 2 local public meetings with separate funding sources pursued for the construction, (5) fall 2019 installation of a new kayak launch with interpretive signage for water trail maps and online access, and (6) spring 2020 installation of a bait table and fish composting system.

- 5. Project Monitoring and Tracking Metrics:** Describe the means of measuring, as appropriate, the effectiveness of the project. Indicate how the project will monitor/assess progress on the metrics selected previously in the application. Please note any challenges or limitations anticipated with tracking the metrics.

Project monitoring and tracking will follow measurable metrics to determine if the goal of improved site use and conditions has been achieved. The metrics will include:

Extent of Invasives and Area Removed: we will use National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP) and aerial imagery to visually determine the area of phragmites and other invasives before (2018) and after (2020) treatment associated with ongoing work (NASA, DWR, U. S. Geological Survey). We also will include imagery from unmanned aerial systems (UAS) if available from collaborating partners (NASA, U. S. Geological Survey).

Native Plants Installed: we will record the number of native plants installed on the site in each year from 2019-2021.

Wetland Monitoring: the wetland has been surveyed for vegetation since 2006, and Solano Community College (Michelle Smith, instructor) has been conducting surveys of the marsh vegetation with students as part of classes in biology for the past several years. We will support continuing of that monitoring and engage the students in the ongoing work. CDFW will lead small mammal trapping (animals per trap night) including endangered salt marsh harvest mouse to examine response to restoration.

Volunteer Participation: we will record the number of volunteers assisting in tidal marsh restoration efforts.

Attendance at two Stakeholder Meetings: we will use attendance at two local stakeholder meetings to measure our success at engaging the public. We would target 20-30 participants at these community efforts to achieve successful involvement.

Completion of a Site Plan: we will show success by developing a final plan for a boardwalk, native landscaping, and interpretive signs that includes community input.

Installation of a Kayak Launch: the completion of a kayak launch will be used to show success for part of Objective 3.

Maps and Trails: an interpretive display will be completed with a map of seasonal water trails and accessibility through Solano County, SRCD, and Bay Area Water Trail webpages.

Bait and Fish Table: a table will be installed to provide a location for visitors to deal with bait and fish waste.

Fish Waste Compost System: a fish compost system will be installed to process wastes that reduces odors and pests.

Visitation and Use: we will work with the Park Ranger and Solano Community College to survey use before and after the work is completed.

- 6. Research / Management Implications:** Describe how the project results will be used to help protect, enhance or restore natural resources in the Fund Area.

This project will restore degraded tidal marsh habitat in the Fund Area at Belden's Landing. It will reduce invasive species through control actions at the wetland and reduce risks of transport of invasives in fish waste with improved disposal and composting systems. It will provide a destination site for education and stewardship for the local area which supports an underserved, low-income community.

- 7. Dissemination/Community Involvement:** Describe your strategy for communicating project results.

Results will be shared in three ways: through direct interactions with volunteers, students, and visitors to the site; public meetings; and presentations. The public meetings will be organized with stakeholders and held at the Rush Ranch unit of the Solano Land Trust located two miles north of Belden's Landing. Updates on the project will be provided on the SCP and SRCD webpages and in the SRCD quarterly newsletter. A presentation on the results will be provided for a regional conference such as the State of the Estuary or Bay-Delta Science Conference. Users will be included through a survey of willing participants at the site.

8. **Project Team:** List key individuals and describe their qualifications relevant for project implementation.

Laureen Barthman-Thompson, Environmental Scientist, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bay-Delta Region: Suisun Marsh biologist, salt marsh harvest mouse expert, expert in tidal marsh monitoring

Steve Chappell, Executive Director, Suisun Resource Conservation District: 22-year background in Suisun Marsh, supports permitting for landowners including state agencies such as at Belden's Landing.

Chris Drake (Primary Contact), Parks Service Manager, Solano County Parks: in charge of county parks, led most recent renovation at Belden's Landing.

Sarah Estrella, Environmental Scientist, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Suisun Marsh: Suisun Marsh expert in native and invasive plants and removal.

Diana Paradis, Park Ranger, Belden's Landing: more than 40 years experience in natural resource management, manages and coordinates activities at Belden's Landing and has best knowledge of area use community.

Orlando Rocha, Environmental Scientist, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Grizzly Island Wildlife Area: manager for the Belden's Landing parcel of CDFW.

John Takekawa, PhD, Operations Manager, Suisun Resource Conservation District: more than 30 years of experience in Bay Area wetlands restoration and monitoring projects.

9. **Partnerships:** If the project is a cooperative effort with other agencies or organizations, identify the other partners and describe their role in the project.

This project will be a cooperative effort of Solano County Parks (SCP) with the Suisun Resource Conservation District (SRCD) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). SCP (Chris Drake, Parks Manager) will handle the administration for the project, while SCP and SRCD will share in the responsibility of completing the tasks. CDFW will provide logistical support, coordination, and monitoring support with the activities taking place on their lands managed by Solano County Parks. Collaborations will occur with the California Conservation Corp (Napa Office), Solano Community College (Instructor Michelle Smith), Solano Land Trust (Nicole Braddock, Executive Director), The Bay Water Trail (Ben Botkin, planner), Utah State University (Dr. Karin Kettenring, professor), USGS (Dr. Karen Thorne, ecologist), and NASA (Dr. Chris Potter, remote sensing).

10. **Other (Optional):** Provide any further information important for the review of this proposal.

Our project is consistent with the goals of Solano County (RS.I-31) to seek funding for public recreation and access to Suisun Marsh, including fishing, boat launching, nature study, education purposes where consistent with protection of wildlife resources as well as for signage and waste disposal (RS.I-32). It is in line with the BCDC Shoreline Spaces Public Access Design Guidelines (2005) for site planning and public use and with the BCDC Shoreline Signs (2005) guidance. The proposed restoration will support improving tidal marsh habitats

under the Recovery Plan for Tidal Marshes (USFWS 2013). SRCD handles environmental permitting for landowners of Suisun Marsh and maintains the Regional General Permit (#3) for the area. It directly addresses public use under the Enhanced Bay Area Water Trail Plan (2011; see Letter of Support).

The project is consistent with AB-1471 objectives for restoration of species and wetlands; creating a more resilient and sustainably managed ecosystem; reducing impact of climate change through native plantings and refugia planning for sea-level rise (79732.2; and see Thorne et al. 2017); reducing pollution and improving water quality (11); and assisting in recovery of endangered species (12). It supports the California Water Action Plan to protect and restore important marsh species and habitats through native plantings and removal of trash. The project is in step with the Delta Plan to follow science-based adaptive management and monitoring; restoring endangered species habitat; improving water conditions; and increasing visitor knowledge. It is consistent with the Delta Conservancy's 2017 Strategic Plan with a focus on wetland and species rehabilitation (Mandate #1); best science to protect species, habitats, and water quality (Mandate #6); promote Delta tourism, increased education, and stewardship (Mandates #3 & #12), and it protects and enhances cultural, recreational, and natural resource values under the goals of the Delta Stewardship Council (CA Water Code §85054).

Literature Cited

- California Department of Boating and Waterways. 2018. Clean, drain, and dry boat cleaning procedures. Aquatic Invasive Species Program. http://dbw.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28993
- Carney, W., T. Lawson, G. Breitenbeck, and D. Schellinger. 2000. Composting: a disposal method for fish waste. Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service. Publication No. 2793.
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- Lopez-Mosquera, M. E. Fernandez-Lema, R. Villares, R. Corral, B. Alonso, and C. Blanco. 2011. Composting fish waste and seaweed to produce a fertilizer for use in organic agriculture. *Procedia Environmental Sciences* 9:113-117.
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- Smith, M.L. 2018. Beldens' Landing tidal marsh monitoring: conducted by BIO-003 students. Unpublished Report. Solano Community College. 13pp.
- Takekawa, J. Y., I. Woo, R. Gardiner, M. Casazza, J.T. Ackerman, N. Nur, L. Liu, and H. Spautz. 2011. Avian communities in tidal salt marshes of San Francisco Bay: A review of functional groups by foraging guild and habitat association. *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science*, 9:1-24.

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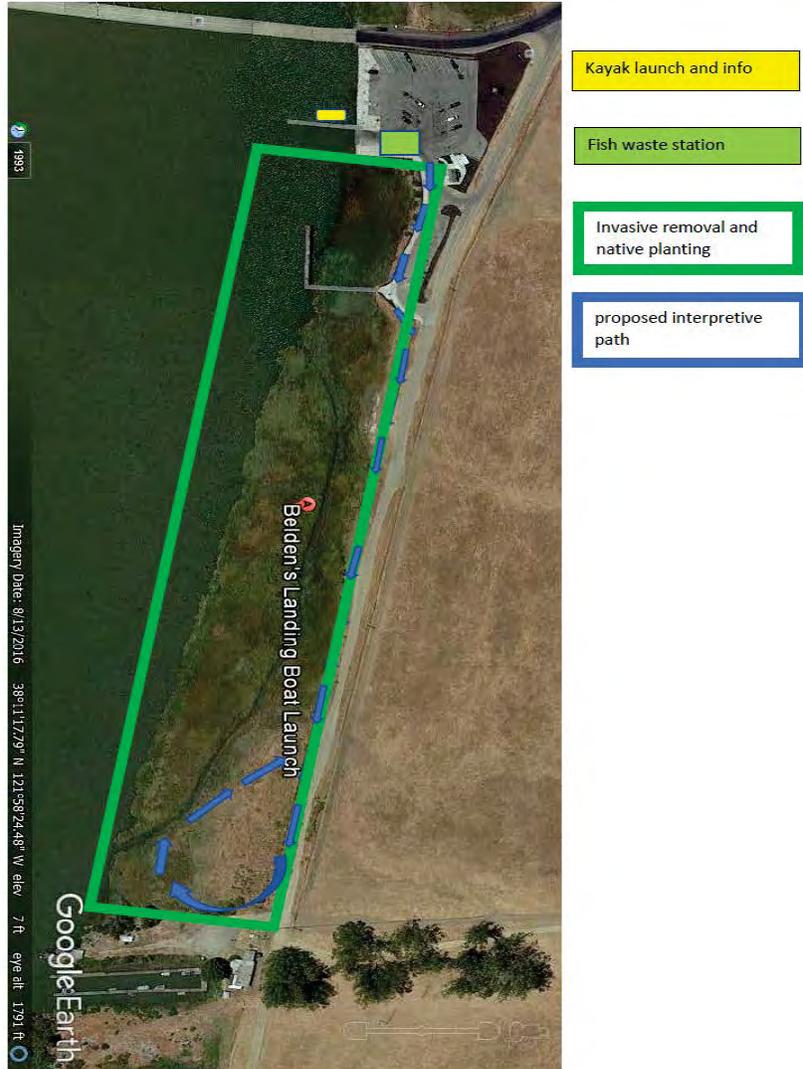
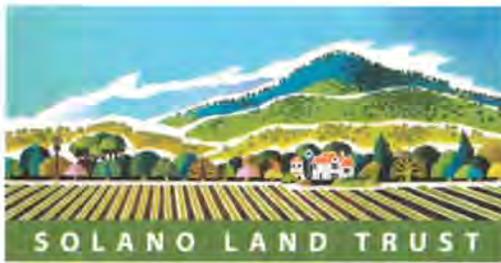


Fig. 1A. Site Map for the Belden’s Landing Water Access Facility on lands managed by California Department of Fish and Wildlife and managed by the Solano County Parks. Detail includes Obj. 1) the tidal marsh area of invasive removal and planting of native species (green line); Obj. 2) proposed interpretive boardwalk path that will include native landscaping and signage (blue line) with possible boardwalk section over the marsh plain (dashed blue line), and Obj. 3) proposed kayak launch and information (yellow square) and bait table and fish compost station (green square).



13 July 2018

Ms. Anne Butterfield, Senior Manager
Impact-Directed Environmental Accounts (IDEA)
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
90 New Montgomery Street, Suite 1010
San Francisco, CA 94105

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Secretary

Directors

Ian Anderson
Jim Campbell
John Currey
David Eimerl
Deborah Durr Ferras
Terry Huffman
Paul Lum
Curtis Stocking
John Vasquez

Dear Ms. Butterfield:

I am writing this letter in support of the Solano County Parks proposal entitled “Enhancing Public Use and Restoring Habitats at Belding’s Landing, the Gateway to Suisun Marsh” submitted to the San Francisco Bay Grant Program. Solano Land Trust supports public use of the San Francisco estuary where appropriate access is provided with consideration of the natural resources values and sensitivity of an area. Solano Land Trust owns and operates the nearby Rush Ranch, a protected 2,000-acre ranch that provides public access seven days per week. We do not have infrastructure for the public to access the marsh and appreciate the boat launch and other facilities at Belding’s Landing which is heavily used by recreationalists from the local community and the Bay Area.

We are pleased that Solano County Parks and their partners are proposing a project that involves the community, including stewards, in the restoration of habitat and improvement of the area as a regional destination for visitors. The goal will be to provide diversified, family-friendly uses including birdwatching, education, fishing, picnicking, kayaking, and wetland appreciation.

We are excited that the project will include a trailhead designation under the Bay Area Water Trail while maintaining respect for private land ownerships and sensitive wildlife species. The project will be undertaken by a partnership including the Solano County Parks, Suisun Resource Conservation District, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Solano Land Trust whole-heartedly endorses this project and we encourage your support. Please contact me if I can provide further information about our support for this proposal and project.

Sincerely yours,

Nicole Braddock
Executive Director



July 17, 2018

Ms. Anne Butterfield, Senior Manager
Impact-Directed Environmental Accounts (IDEA)
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
90 New Montgomery Street, Suite 1010
San Francisco, CA 94105



Dear Ms. Butterfield:

On behalf of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail (Water Trail), we strongly support of the Solano County Parks proposal entitled “Enhancing Public Use and Restoring Habitats at Belden’s Landing, the Gateway to Suisun Marsh” submitted to the San Francisco Bay Grant Program.

The Water Trail is a growing network of designated launching and landing sites, or “trailheads,” around San Francisco Bay Estuary. The Water Trail program supports well-planned public access to the waters of the San Francisco Bay Estuary with consideration of the natural resources values and sensitivity of an area. We strongly believe that with appropriate access and education, the public becomes better informed and inspired to protect and enhance important places like Suisun Marsh and the greater the San Francisco Bay Estuary.

In Suisun Marsh, the largest brackish wetland in California, much of the area is under private ownership which increases the importance of improving existing public access areas. One such area is Belden’s Landing, the primary boat launch in the heart of Suisun Marsh that is heavily used by recreationalists. Located 5.5 miles along a scenic drive south of State Highway 12 in Suisun City, Belden’s Landing historically supported a ferry terminal and restaurant with access to the southern half of Suisun Marsh and Grizzly Island Wildlife Area. The Montezuma Slough Bridge was completed in the 1960s, and the area was acquired by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in the 1980s with improvements to the boat launch and fishing pier completed nearly a decade ago. The area is now managed for public access by Solano County Parks.

Belden’s Landing is used by both the local community, including the underserved area of southern Fairfield, and by visitors from across the Bay Area. Solano County Parks and their partners are proposing a project to restore the habitats and to improve the area as a regional destination for visitors. The goal will be to provide diversified, family-friendly uses including birdwatching, education, fishing, picnicking, kayaking, and wetland appreciation. Improvements to the area would be completed with participation by community members and stakeholders, and it will provide a chance for students to appreciate and encourage stewardship of the diverse and sensitive wetland habitats.

This proposed project will develop a vision for the site and will improve the degraded tidal wetland habitat by removing invasive species and planting natives, supporting access and education with a

walkway and interpretive displays, and improving boating and fishing services. Support for non-motorized boating will include trailhead designation as an official Water Trail trailhead while maintaining respect for private land ownerships and sensitive wildlife species. The project will be undertaken by a partnership including the Solano County Parks, Suisun Resource Conservation District, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

I offer my highest endorsement in support of this project and would appreciate your strongest consideration to fund the proposal. Please contact me at (415) 820-7936 or bbotkin@bayareametro.gov if I can provide further information about our support for this proposal and project. I would also encourage you to view our Suisun Marsh Water Trail Map on our website at sfbaywatertrail.org/plan-your-trip/pdf-maps/.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Botkin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ben Botkin, *Planner*
San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail



July 13, 2018

Ms. Anne Butterfield, Senior Manager
Impact-Directed Environmental Accounts (IDEA)
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
90 New Montgomery Street, Suite 1010
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Ms. Butterfield:

I am writing this letter in support of the Solano County Parks proposal entitled “Enhancing Public Use and Restoring Habitats at Belden’s Landing, the Gateway to Suisun Marsh” submitted to the San Francisco Bay Grant Program. The Biology Department of Solano Community College supports public use of the San Francisco estuary where appropriate access is provided with consideration of the natural resources values and sensitivity of an area. In Suisun Marsh, the largest brackish wetland in California, much of the area is under private ownership which increases the importance of improving existing public access areas. One such area is Belden’s Landing, the primary boat launch in the heart of Suisun Marsh that is heavily used by recreationalists.

Located 5.5 miles along a scenic drive south of State Highway 12 in Suisun City, Belden’s Landing historically supported a ferry terminal and restaurant with access to the southern half of Suisun Marsh and Grizzly Island Wildlife Area. The Montezuma Slough Bridge was completed in the 1960s, and the area was acquired by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in the 1980s with improvements to the boat launch and fishing pier completed nearly a decade ago. The area is now managed for public access by Solano County Parks.

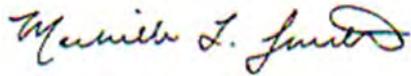
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project will be undertaken by a partnership including the Solano County Parks, Suisun Resource Conservation District, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

I offer my highest endorsement in support of this project and would appreciate your strongest consideration to fund the proposal. Please contact me if I can provide further information about our support for this proposal and project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michelle L. Smith". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and connected.

Michelle L. Smith, M.S.
Professor of Biology
Solano Community College
michelle.smith@solano.edu



9 July 2018

Ms. Anne Butterfield, Senior Manager
Impact-Directed Environmental Accounts (IDEA)
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
90 New Montgomery Street, Suite 1010
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Ms. Butterfield:

I am writing this letter in support of the Solano County Parks proposal entitled "Enhancing Public Use and Restoring Habitats at Belden's Landing, the Gateway to Suisun Marsh" submitted to the San Francisco Bay Grant Program. The Suisun Resource Conservation District supports public use of the San Francisco estuary where appropriate access is provided with consideration of the natural resources values and sensitivity of an area. In Suisun Marsh, the largest brackish wetland in California, much of the area is under private ownership which increases the importance of improving existing public access areas. One such area is Belden's Landing, the primary boat launch in the heart of Suisun Marsh that is heavily used by recreationalists.

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I offer my highest endorsement in support of this project and would appreciate your strongest consideration to fund the proposal. Please contact me if I can provide further information about our support for this proposal and project.

Sincerely yours,

Steve Chappell,
Executive Director

Directors
Tony Vaccarella, President
Terry Connolly
Arnold Lenk
Mike Lewis
Jim Waters

Associate Directors
Dennis Becker
Kurt Black
Bill Brush
H. Kent Hansen

Directors Emeritus
James Bancroft
Dr. William Coon
Paul Crapuchettes
Timothy Egan
Leland Lehman
Ray Lewis
Gregory Palamountain

Staff
Steven Chappell
Executive Director

John Takekawa
Operations Manager

Kelli Perez
Office Supervisor

Tim Edmunds
Water Manager/Biologist

Jeff Taylor
Water Manager/Biologist

Phelan McKinney
Water Manager/Biologist

Marque Mouton
LJI Resident Caretaker

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Assistant Director
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DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



SOLANO COUNTY

675 Texas Street, Suite 5500
Fairfield, CA 94533-6342
(707) 784-6765
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13 July 2018

Ms. Anne Butterfield, Senior Manager
Impact-Directed Environmental Accounts (IDEA)
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
90 New Montgomery Street, Suite 1010
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Ms. Butterfield:

I am writing this letter in support of the Solano County Parks proposal entitled "Enhancing Public Use and Restoring Habitats at Belden's Landing, the Gateway to Suisun Marsh" submitted to the San Francisco Bay Grant Program. Solano County Department of Resource Management supports public use of the San Francisco estuary where appropriate access is provided with consideration of the natural resources values and sensitivity of an area. In Suisun Marsh, the largest brackish wetland in California, much of the area is under private ownership which increases the importance of improving existing public access areas. One such area is Belden's Landing, the primary boat launch in the heart of Suisun Marsh that is heavily used by recreationalists.

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I offer my highest endorsement in support of this project and would appreciate your strongest consideration to fund the proposal. Please contact me if I can provide further information about our support for this proposal and project.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Emlen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Bill Emlen
Director of Resource Management



Fig. 1B. Heavily used boat launch at the Belden's Landing Water Access Facility. Note non-motorized craft must launch on busy ramp with motorized craft or off elevated dock



Fig. 1C. Fishing pier at the Belden's Landing Water Access Facility.



Fig. 1D. Extensive invasion of Phragmites in the degraded tidal marsh at the Belden's Landing Water Access Facility.



Fig. 1E. Openings in the fence that will be closed from the boat launch to the tidal marsh. Although dogs are not permitted off-leash, many boaters have dogs and let them run in the marsh before or after launching.



Fig. 1F. Temporary irrigation system installation and dibble stick for planting native species.



Fig. 1G. Solano Community College students at Belden's Landing reviewing monitoring data collected on the tidal marsh.



Fig. 2A. Beldens' Landing Water Access Facility only kiosk with three interpretative signs at the top of the dock.

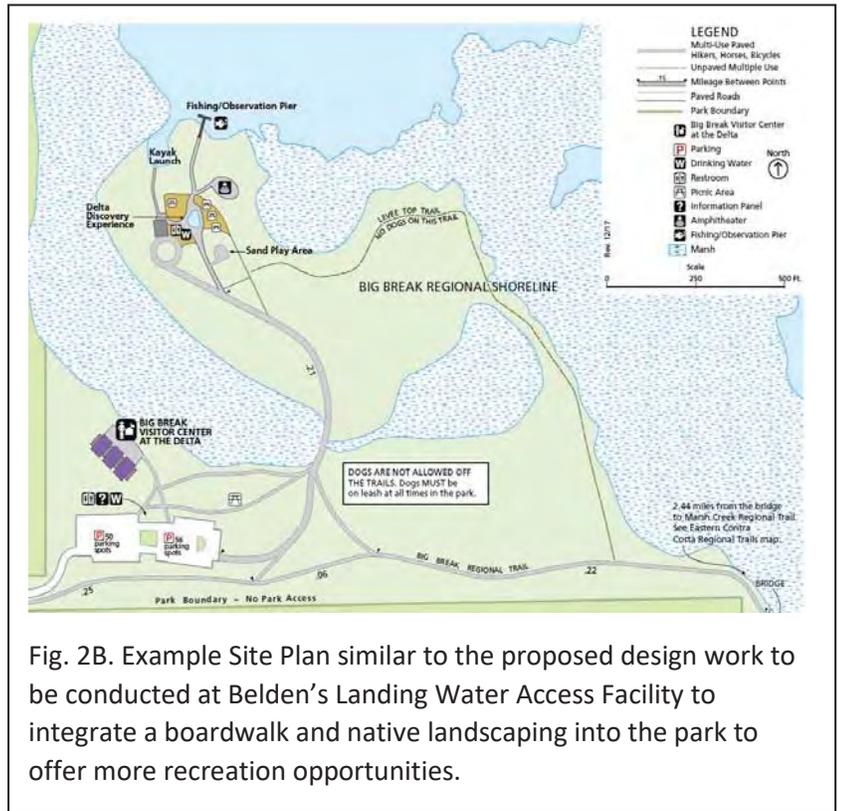


Fig. 2B. Example Site Plan similar to the proposed design work to be conducted at Belden's Landing Water Access Facility to integrate a boardwalk and native landscaping into the park to offer more recreation opportunities.



Fig. 2C. We will engage stakeholders and community members through two public meetings. We have led similar public meetings involving adaptation for sea-level rise on tidal marsh areas along the Pacific coast (Thorne et al. 2017).

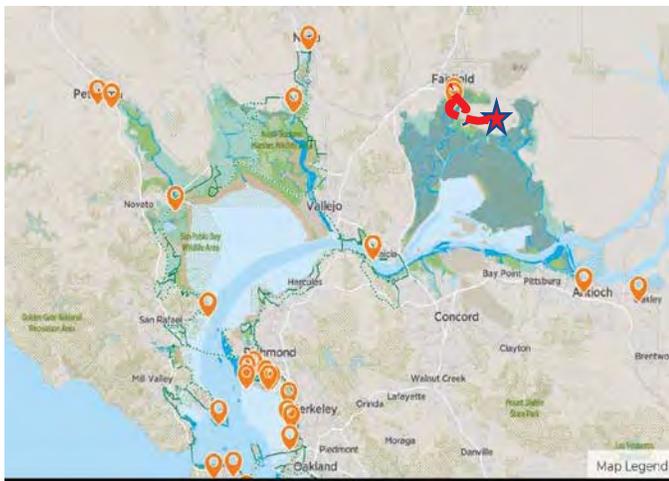


Fig. 3A. Water Trail map of trailheads, showing the few areas available in the northern part of the estuary. We would propose a trailhead at Belden's Landing (red star) and a possible trail between Belden's Landing with the nearest launch at Suisun City marina during appropriate seasons.



Fig. 3B. Proposed kayak launching facility for the Belden's Landing boat launch dock.



Fig. 3C. Fish and bait cutting table



Fig. 3D. Tumbling composter for use in improved disposal of fish waste.

Laureen Barthman-Thompson

Environmental Scientist
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bay Delta Region

My experience includes over 19 years of technical and practical experience with the identification, management and collection of ecological data associated with avian, mammal and fish species. I am skilled in performing terrestrial wildlife inventories, and my job experience includes working as a field biologist for the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the non-profit sector implementing wildlife surveys, inventories, and scientific research projects. I have been the co-lead for the multiagency working group on the endangered salt marsh harvest mouse and participated in numerous multi-agency workgroups for Suisun Marsh planning, permitting and monitoring. I have published 5 peer-reviewed papers, presented several professional talks, obtained 5 major grants, and contributed to several collaborations. I have a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology from U. C. Davis.

Steve Chappell

Executive Director
Suisun Resource Conservation District

I have worked in the Suisun Marsh for over 22 years assisting private landowner in wetland habitat management, wetland enhancement and protection. As the Executive Director of SRCD I oversee the daily duties of the District including grant administration, coordination with local landowners, Agencies, and stakeholder groups, and the implementation of monitoring and scientific studies. I have participated in numerous Suisun Marsh planning and regulatory programs including annual U.S. Army Corp's of Engineers wetland permitting activities, the Baylands Ecosystem Goals Project and the 2015 update for Climate Change, the Suisun Ecological Workshop, Suisun Marsh Environmental Coordination Advisory Team, and Delta Vision Process, and currently serves as a liaison adviser to the Delta Conservancy. I was a negotiator of the Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement and was an Agency Principal in preparation of the 30-year Suisun Marsh Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan (PEIR/ EIS). I have a B.S. in Biological Science with a minor in chemistry and concentration in zoology from California State University Stanislaus.

Sarah Estrella

Environmental Scientist
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bay Delta Region

I have conducted extensive work on native and invasive plants of Suisun Marsh as well as survey work on different taxa. I have established survey methods and conducted surveys on endangered California Ridgway's rails and California black rails, small mammal trapping including endangered salt marsh harvest mice, and conducted plant surveys including rare and invasive plants for several studies of Suisun Marsh. I have published six articles (four peer-reviewed) and have presented professional talks. My thesis work included control of invasive species with a focus on invasive pepperweed. I have a B.S. in Genetics from U. C. Davis and a B.S. and M.S. in Biological Conservation from California State University Sacramento.

Chris Drake

Parks Services Manager
Solano County, Parks and Recreation Division

I have over a decade of continual work restoring, building, protecting and interpreting natural resources ranging from high Sierra back country campsites to inter-coastal waterways. In those years I have participated in a wide variety of roles in the restoration of natural resources process including volunteer labor, project design and delivery, grant research and application, and grant facilitation. Grants I have participated in the successful completion of include; Nature Education Facilities grant from California Department of Parks and Recreation, Boat Launch Facility grant from California Division of Boating and Waterways, and a Boater and Fishing Access Improvement grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. I am also the staff facilitator for a local Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund grant which awards moneys from fish and wildlife citations and fees to local restoration and environmental education programs.

Diana Paradis

Park Ranger
Solano County, Parks and Recreation Division

I have 40 years of planning and implementing restoration projects in oak woodlands, chaparral, and riparian areas, working with Solano Conservation Resource District and Putah Creek Council. This includes growing sensitive native plants from seeds and cuttings and working with volunteers to restore sites. I have 30 years of building experience including design and implementation of extensive boardwalks in nature areas such as Rockville Hills Regional Park (Fairfield CA), bridges, and culvert/walkway installations. My 25 years of interpretive experience including conducting nature walks and talks, designing interpretive signs, and creating educational workbooks for grade school children. I have been in charge of use of Proposition funds at Lake Solano to acquire, design, and create educational displays for nature center and ADA walkway.

Orlando Rocha

Environmental Scientist
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Grizzly Island Wildlife Area

I am an Environmental Specialist and habitat biologist/manager for the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area that includes the Belden's Landing area. My background is in biology and management of wildlife resources, and I oversee the permitting, hunt programs, and wildlife surveys for the area. I was formerly a Scientific Aide with CDFW for two years and a Water Manager with the Suisun Resource Conservation District for 7 years. I have a B.S. in Wildlife Management and Conservation from California State University Humboldt.

John Takekawa, PhD

Operations Manager
Suisun Resource Conservation District

I worked for 33 years leading waterbird and wetland projects years as a supervisory research biologist of the U. S. Geological Survey and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service from 1986-2014. In 1995, I founded the USGS San Francisco Bay Estuary Field Station which focused on San Francisco Bay waterbirds and their habitats. I was responsible for developing the program that

grew to support 30 full-time staff as well as numerous graduate students. I also worked on avian conservation projects for the National Audubon Society from 2014-2017. I was inducted into the California Waterfowler's Hall of Fame in 2017, and I have coauthored more than 230 peer-reviewed papers (RG Score 40.05; h-index 34). My projects have ranged from the Pacific coast partnerships to international cooperative efforts. I have B.S. Forestry and Wildlife Science from the University of Washington (1979), an M.S. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Idaho (1982), and a Ph.D. in Animal Ecology from Iowa State University (1987).

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

San Francisco Bay Fund

Applicant: Solano County Parks

Title: Enhancing Public Use and Restoring Habitats at Belden's Landing, the Gateway to Suisun Marsh

The applicant is Solano County, a subdivision of the state of California, and a state government organization in good standing.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

San Francisco Bay Fund

Applicant: Solano County Parks

Title: Enhancing Public Use and Restoring Habitats at Belden's Landing, the Gateway to Suisun Marsh

Solano County is a state government organization that is self-insured.



Options

- Mission Statement
- Board Members ▶
- Board Member Assignments
- Boards, Committees & Commissions (Public Appointments)
- City County Coordinating Council
- Commission for Women and Girls
- Meeting Calendar
- Board Meeting Minutes & Agendas ▶
- District/Precinct Maps
- Forms
- Legislative Affairs
- Working to Create Jobs ▶
- Contact Us

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Erin Hannigan
Vice-Chairwoman
Supervisor District 1



Monica Brown
Supervisor District 2



Jim Spering
Supervisor District 3



John Vasquez
Chairman
Supervisor District 4



Skip Thomson
Supervisor District 5



ABOUT SSL CERTIFICATES



NFWF

Statement of Litigation

Instructions: Save this document on your computer and complete. The final narrative should not exceed two (2) pages; do not delete the text provided below. Once complete, upload this document into the on-line application as instructed.

Litigation: In the space provided below, state any litigation (including bankruptcies) involving your organization and either a federal, state, or local government agency as parties. This includes anticipated litigation, pending litigation, or litigation completed within the past twelve months. Federal, state, and local government applicants are not required to complete this section. If your organization is not involved in any litigation, please state below.

We are unaware of any litigation involving the Solano County Parks, a department of the state of California, relevant for this grant proposal application.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

San Francisco Bay Fund

Applicant: Solano County Parks

Title: Enhancing Public Use and Restoring Habitats at Belden's Landing, the Gateway to Suisun Marsh

Solano County Parks and the organizations associated with the applicant do not have any potential conflict of interest with respect to NFWF, the Scope of Work, or the subject matter of the RFP.