



June 20, 2023

Eileen White  
Executive Officer  
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

Re: Acceptance of Plant-Specific Findings for the Regional Evaluation of Potential Nutrient Discharge Reduction by Natural Systems

Dear Ms. White:

On behalf of the City of Hayward (Hayward), I have reviewed the Regional Evaluation of Potential Nutrient Discharge Reduction by Natural Systems (Evaluation). The Evaluation was prepared by the SFEI consulting team (Consultants) under a contract with the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA) in compliance with the 2019 Nutrient Watershed Permit (Order No. R2-2019-0017, NPDES No. CA0038873) on behalf of the Dischargers. A representative group of BACWA members (i.e., Contract Management Group) also directed the Consultants in preparing the individual plant reports and the overall summary for the Evaluation.

Hayward was contacted by the Consultants in 2021, and our facility was not recommended for inclusion in Phase 2 site-specific evaluations. My agency agrees with this recommendation for the purposes of the Evaluation. The reason that Hayward was not recommended for further evaluation as part of BACWA's process was that Hayward was already engaged in studies to further assess the feasibility of nature-based solutions (NbS) for nutrient reductions from the City's Water Pollution Control Facility. Since the time that the Evaluation was developed, the City has prepared a NbS Feasibility Study in collaboration with the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) under a Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) grant from USEPA Region IX. This report was published in 2022. Subsequently, the City engaged its nutrient management project design consultant, Brown & Caldwell, to evaluate how NbS could be integrated into the City's planned plant upgrade project. This study will be published soon. Finally, the City and SFEP recently kicked off a new WQIF grant that will explore permitting, engineering, and operations and maintenance issues identified in the prior studies. Therefore, while certain specific opportunities shown in the BACWA Evaluation are unlikely to move forward, Hayward is committed to exploring natural systems and is continuing to advance NbS planning.

In accordance with the Watershed Permit requirement for report certification, I certify, under penalty of law, that the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Ameri'.

Alex Ameri  
Director of Public Works