



City of San Leandro
Civic Center, 835 E. 14th Street
San Leandro, California 94577 - www.SanLeandro.org

February 25, 2026

US EPA Region 9 (WTR-2-2)

Attn: Luisa Valiela
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: Support from City of San Leandro for BACWA's Clean Water Together proposal

Dear San Francisco Bay Geographic Program Office Proposal Reviewer,

On behalf of the City of San Leandro, I am writing to express our strong support of the proposal titled "Clean Water Together - A Coalition Proposal for Regional Nutrient Solutions" submitted by BACWA, with partners at the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Central Contra Costa Sanitation District, East Bay Dischargers Authority, Dublin San Ramon Services District, the City of South San Francisco, Mt. View Sanitary District, Sanitation Agency of Southern Marin, City of Burlingame, in response to the EPA's Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-R9-SFBay-26-0. As a region, we are at a critical juncture in protecting the San Francisco Bay, and this collaborative effort represents a viable and timely path toward sustainable nutrient management.

Through on-the-ground implementation, targeted research, regional collaboration, and the development of a nutrient trading program, this work will enable publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) to leverage site-specific opportunities while contributing to broader, system-wide nutrient and contaminant management strategies. We believe this collaboration will generate valuable, transferable insights beyond the immediate project areas and inform practical, scalable approaches to wastewater nutrient management across the Bay Area and nationally. We respectfully request your support for this important initiative.

San Leandro is a member agency of the East Bay Dischargers Authority which Dublin San Ramon Services District is a partner agency to. San Leandro and DSRSD share the same discharge outfall to the San Francisco Bay and the responsibility of protecting water quality in the Bay. Meeting these very low nutrient limits requires collaboration among the agencies and participating partners to achieve a combined 40% total inorganic nitrogen (TIN) reduction from 2022 TIN loads. San Leandro supports Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) MABR

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pilot project as an innovative, and cost-effective solutions. MABR technology offers a proven method for simultaneous nitrification and denitrification with lower energy use and operational costs compared to conventional systems. By piloting this technology, DSRSD will demonstrate a scalable solution that complements its recycled water operations, minimizes financial impacts on ratepayers and helps San Leandro and sister agencies to stay below the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Board's 2034 TIN limit. Information from this pilot will be useful as San Leandro continues to evaluate and implement nutrient reduction upgrades.

We are particularly supportive of the diverse approaches outlined in the proposal, which include:

- **Process Intensification:** Piloting advanced technologies like Membrane Aerated Bioreactors (MABR) and Densified Activated Sludge (DAS) to reduce nutrients within existing plant footprints, achieving nutrient reductions more efficiently and more quickly than would otherwise be possible without this funding.
- **Nature-Based Solutions (NBS):** Advancing projects like the "First Mile" Horizontal Levee and floating wetland islands to provide nutrient polishing alongside habitat enhancement and flood resilience.
- **Market-Based Solutions:** Developing a regional nutrient trading program that leverages site-specific opportunities to achieve aggregate load reductions more efficiently

The City of San Leandro recognizes BACWA's long-standing history of successful regional coordination and fiscal responsibility. Their collaboration with the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) ensures robust administrative oversight and effective technology transfer across the region. We are confident that this coalition will deliver high-impact results that serve as a national model for watershed-scale nutrient management.

The City of San Leandro fully supports this collaborative effort to protect our Estuary while practicing economic efficiency with the co-benefits of drought and flooding resilience. We urge the EPA to fund this proposal and support the regional collaboration necessary for a sustainable San Francisco Bay. If you have any questions, please contact me at hmorehouse@sanleandro.org or (510) 577-3437.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hayes Morehouse".

Hayes Morehouse
Water Pollution Control Manager, City of San Leandro
(510) 577-3437
hmorehouse@sanleandro.org

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(District 2 Vacant), Victor Aguilar, Jr., Fred Simon, Xouhoa Bowen, Dylan Boldt

