



HAYWARD AREA SHORELINE PLANNING AGENCY

February 24, 2026

US EPA Region 9 (WTR-2-2)
Attn: Luisa Valiela
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Attn: FY 2026 San Francisco Bay Geographic Program Office Proposal Review Committee

Subject: Support from HASPA for BACWA's Clean Water Together proposal

Dear San Francisco Bay Geographic Program Office Proposal Reviewer,

On behalf of the **Hayward Area Shoreline Planning Agency (HASPA)**, I am writing to express our strong support of the proposal titled "Clean Water Together – A Coalition Proposal for Regional Nutrient Solutions" submitted by the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA) with multiple partners, including San Francisco Estuary Partnership and East Bay Dischargers Authority, 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 produce scalable wastewater nutrient management strategies for the region and nationwide. We respectfully request your support for this important initiative.

In particular, the "First Mile" Horizontal Levee Project (included in this funding request) will show how nature-based solutions can deliver nutrient polishing, habitat gains, and flood resilience. The First Mile Horizontal Levee Project has long been a cornerstone of regional collaborative planning efforts, and is a key project identified in HASPA's Hayward Regional Shoreline Adaptation Master Plan. The Master Plan envisioned a number of critical projects important for the area's long-term resilience, including the First Mile Horizontal Levee Project, and we are happy to see this project included as one of the solutions being advanced in the Clean Water Together proposal.

HASPA has been working closely with the East Bay Dischargers Authority and other partners since the project's inception, and we strongly support this proposal to help bring that multi-benefit project to fruition. The project will provide flood protection and recreational opportunities for a community that has not historically had access to the shoreline. At the same time, through innovative wastewater treatment features, it will reduce nutrient loads to the Bay, decreasing the likelihood and severity of



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future harmful algal blooms. These types of projects that meet multiple objectives are exactly what we need right now to stretch limited public funds.

HASPA advances collaborative climate adaptation planning to protect people, public health, infrastructure, the environment, and shoreline access. HASPA supports this collaborative effort to protect our Estuary. 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 aharris@rgs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Harris
Manager, Hayward Area Shoreline Planning Agency (HASPA)

cc: HASPA Board of Trustees
Chair Eric Hentschke (ACMAD),
Francisco Zermeno (City of Hayward),
Dennis Waespi (EBRPD), &
Louis Andrade (HARD)