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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS  
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AND WORKFORCE  
RANKING MEMBER,  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

February 24, 2026

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

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

Dear Program Lead Luisa Valiela,

I am writing in strong support of the proposal titled "Clean Water Together – A Coalition Proposal for Regional Nutrient Solutions" submitted by Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (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, and 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 seeks to provide 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, I'm told 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. As I understand it, 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.

Additionally, my understanding is that this proposal includes diverse approaches, like:

- **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

As I understand it, BACWA has a long-standing history of successful regional coordination and fiscal responsibility. I'm told their collaboration with the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) ensures robust administrative oversight and effective technology transfer across the region. It's my understanding that this coalition will deliver high-impact results that serve as a national model for watershed-scale nutrient management.

I'm also told this collaborative effort would protect our Estuary while practicing economic efficiency with the co-benefits of drought and flooding resilience and this funding would help support the regional collaboration necessary for a sustainable San Francisco Bay.

I respectfully request this application be given your full and fair consideration. Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MARK DeSaulnier". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress