



February 18, 2026

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

Attn: San Francisco Bay Geographic Program Office Proposal Review Committee

RE: Support from Save The Bay for BACWA's Clean Water Together proposal

Dear San Francisco Bay Geographic Program Office Proposal Reviewer,

On behalf of Save The Bay, the largest regional organization working to protect and restore the San Francisco Bay, 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 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 for protecting the San Francisco Bay, and this collaborative effort represents a viable and timely path toward sustainable nutrient management.

Nutrient discharges into San Francisco Bay are becoming an increasing risk to the Bay's health. These discharges can contribute to harmful algae blooms, such as the one that the Bay experienced in 2022. Following the devastating impact of that event which killed thousands of marine species, the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted new permit requirements directing wastewater plant managers to reduce the amount of nutrient loading from treatment plants around the Bay Area. The current, more restrictive limitations will require significant investment in new technology and nature-based approaches to treat wastewater and protect the Bay.

BACWA's Clean Water Together proposal is an innovative and urgently needed approach that will advance nutrient reduction strategies at wastewater treatment facilities across the region. Crucially, this proposal will advance the Hayward First Mile Horizontal Levee, a multi-benefit project that combines nutrient reduction alongside

improved flood resilience, habitat protection, and public access to the shoreline. This is an example of an efficient use of public resources to address related needs that should be a model for investment from programs like the EPA's San Francisco Bay Program.

In addition to this important project, Clean Water Together will advance a range of nutrient reduction solutions including a regional credit trading program, additional nature-based nutrient reduction strategies, and new technologies and operational approaches to improve water quality discharges into San Francisco Bay.

Save The Bay is proud to support this collaborative effort among wastewater operators and the San Francisco Estuary Partnership to study and advance projects that will benefit the health of the Bay, our region's economy, and the quality of life for the more than 7 million people who call the Bay Area home. If you have any questions, please contact me at 510-463-6808.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J Quigley".

Josh Quigley
Sn. Policy Manager
Save The Bay