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SAN DIEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY

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November 15, 1992

Thomas W. Gwyn
Chairman, California Coastal Commission
c/o Ellen Lirely
California Coastal Commission
311 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 200
San Diego, California 92108

Dear Chairman Gwyn,

The San Diego Chapter of the National Audubon Society strongly supports the request of the City of San Diego to purchase the Frost Property on Mission Bay using funds from the Sludge Bed Mitigation Fund. We urge that the Coastal Commission authorize this purchase.

This purchase will prevent high density residential development on the property that would have reduced public access and reduced the wildlife support value of the adjacent Kendall-Frost Preserve. The layout of the Preserve has made it difficult for visitors to Mission Bay Park to observe the wildlife of the Preserve. The purchase will provide for non-intrusive visitor viewing, passive nature-oriented recreation, and a suitable buffer between the surrounding neighborhood and the Preserve. It can also provide a site for much-needed interpretive and educational facilities.

This purchase will also allow an appropriate salt marsh to upland vegetation transition zone, restoration of some filled salt marsh area, control runoff water quality, quantity, seasonal distribution, and spatial distribution into the marsh, and control of pet and feral animal access to the marsh. This will benefit the broad diversity of species and the large population of wildlife that uses the preserve as well as the visitors and residents that enjoy this wildlife presence. It also will contribute to the survival of the many endangered and threatened species that reside in the marsh.

This purchase is completely consistent with the Draft Mission Bay Master Plan Update that is proposing enlargement and enhancement of the salt marsh and supporting uplands in this part of the bay and non-intrusive visitor access and passive recreation. This addition to Mission Bay Park will provide a big step toward allowing wildlife observation and environmental recreation and education to become a major attraction of Mission Bay Park.

Please address any questions or comments to me at my home address, 2776 Nipoma Street, San Diego, CA 92106, or call me at 224-4591.

Sincerely

James A. Peugh

James A. Peugh
Vice President

cc:
Ron Roberts, Deputy Mayor, City of San Diego