## 2010-2011 NORTH RICHMOND MITIGATION FEE

## **FUNDING REQUEST APPLICATION**

June 13, 2011

## SECTION I – ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

## **Applicant Contact Information:**

Name of Organization: Golden Gate Audubon Society (GGAS)

**Organization Address:** 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702

**Executive Director Name:** Mark Welther

Project Manager Name (name of person applying for the grant for a specific project):

Anthony DeCicco

**Title:** Environmental Education Programs Manager

Phone Number: 510-843-2222 Fax Number:

Email Address: adecicco@goldengateaudubon.org

## **Background Information:**

a. Provide a description of your organization's mission statement.

Golden Gate Audubon's mission is to protect, enjoy, and share information about Bay Area birds and other wildlife.

b. State the length of time your organization has been in operation.

Golden Gate Audubon was founded in 1917 and has been in business continuously since then.

- c. List the services that your organization provides to the North Richmond neighborhood.
  - ➤ Environmental education and stewardship programs in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes at Verde Elementary School, Bayview Elementary School and Lake Elementary School in North Richmond. These programs are based on our award-winning, state-

certified curriculum and offered to students and their families (40% of students in these schools live in North Richmond).

- Ongoing work to create a conservation vision for the North Richmond Shoreline, to preserve natural values and free recreational and health-enhancing outdoor areas for all residents of North Richmond, working with a coalition of organizations which include the Community Health Initiative, the Parchester Village Neighborhood Council, the Urban Creeks Council, West County Toxics Coalition), the North Richmond Shoreline Open Space Alliance, the Natural Heritage Institute, and local community members.
- Inclusion of North Richmond community members in developing a needs assessment that has allowed us to create a program for schools in the North Richmond vicinity that now successfully reach 150 students and an estimated 300-500 family members each year. This has also allowed us to establish the groundwork for successful expansion of this environmental education and stewardship program, increasing our outreach to many more families, improving academic achievement of these students, introducing children to accessible local resources, and teaching students to value and enjoy their natural surroundings and protect birds and wildlife from litter and other damage.
- Additional work protecting and restoring shoreline habitat and ecosystems.

## **SECTION II – PROJECT OVERVIEW**

## **Project Description and Concept**

a. Describe the project your organization is proposing to implement with mitigation funds (include list of activities, proposed location(s) for programs, community involvement, etc.). State if this is a new project or a continuing one.

Golden Gate Audubon's Eco-Richmond Program is a year-round, watershed-wide program for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and their family members living in the North Richmond vicinity. The program fosters community-based environmental stewardship of bay, marine, coastal and watershed environments by providing multiple opportunities for hands-on learning, community clean-up events, habitat restoration, and the protection of San Francisco Bay and local watersheds.

This program, which operates currently at Lake Elementary and Bayview Elementary, and began this spring at Verde Elementary, reaches 150 students and 300-500 family members per year. As a current recipient of North Richmond Mitigation Fee funding, we have been able to:

Create a partnership with Verde Elementary by providing two (2) fifth-grade classes with in-class watershed health presentations and field trips to Wildcat Creek in Alvarado Park. Each field trip involved activities to assess the attributes of a healthy creek habitat.

- Strengthen partnerships with The Watershed Project to complement classroom outreach at Verde Elementary.
- Build partnerships with North Richmond community groups.
- Provide partial funding for two (2) fourth-grade classes at Lake Elementary and two
   (2) classes at Bayview Elementary.

## Eco-Richmond Program Background

Since 1999, Golden Gate Audubon's Eco-Oakland Program, our first community-based school environmental stewardship program in the region, has served more than 10,000 students and community members in the East Oakland community.

In 2007, we conducted a community needs assessment and received input from the North Richmond community about ways to most effectively provide culturally relevant programming. We then implemented a successful pilot program, and have now increased our programming to reach Lake, Bayview and Verde Elementary Schools. As a result of the program's success, we now plan to continue expanding at Verde Elementary in the remainder of 2011.

Since nearly a third of North Richmond community members and Eco-Richmond participants are native Spanish speakers, providing culturally competent and linguistically appropriate education is at the very core of our outreach. We strive to engage culturally appropriate staff and volunteers and provide our participants with Spanish/English instruction and materials.

Our organization has also played an active role in the formation of the North Richmond Shoreline Academy, a network of community and conservation groups working to protect the area's open spaces in order to expand and protect outdoor opportunities for community residents.

<u>Funding Request:</u> To continue expanding and strengthening our award-winning environmental stewardship program at Verde Elementary School in North Richmond, we respectfully request a grant of \$23,644 from the North Richmond Mitigation Fee Fund to ensure that residents and students in the area have the opportunity to benefit from the curriculum. Students and their family members will explore and learn to protect Wildcat Creek Marsh and Landfill Loop via in-class presentations, school and family field trips and poster sessions to develop informational signage to protect the Marsh and Landfill Loop.

b. Identify the issue or need your project seeks to address. Describe how your proposed project is anticipated to address anti-littering, environmental stewardship, blight reduction, beautification and/or other improvements that contribute to the quality of life in the specified Mitigation Funding Area.

North Richmond is a critically important area of the San Francisco Bay watershed, yet the community has few resources to protect the local environment and connect with open spaces—through public schools or otherwise. Local schools have suffered drastic budget cuts in recent years and lack science materials, transportation, environmental education

teachers, and relevant curricula. Language and cultural barriers often restrict efforts to engage youth and adults in environmental protection. Overworked teachers are typically unfamiliar with existing environmental education opportunities and have neither the time nor the expertise to develop environmental curricula themselves. Moreover, many of the families participating in our program have had limited or no access to nature and the outdoors.

"There is nothing like this program in the whole district! If you are planning to offer classroom programs, field trips and family programs within a multi-disciplinary approach, there is nothing similar. It's not only needed in this community, it's very much needed in all of West Contra Costa County School District," said Sherry Nolan, the science curriculum developer for the West Contra Costa County School District during an interview for the Eco-Richmond Program needs assessment we conducted in 2007.

Golden Gate Audubon seeks to connect the North Richmond community with the local environment in ways that foster community conservation. People are most likely to invest in protecting their environment when they see it as part of their permanent home, and our program offers families a rare opportunity to explore and engage in protecting their local watershed as a family unit. Our Eco-Richmond program not only provides them with this experience but stresses the connection between the local watershed and the ocean and illustrates how urban run-off pollution, specifically non-degradable litter, affects the broader marine environment, including underwater creatures, as well as sea and shorebirds.

The mounting problem of marine debris in the Pacific has gained international attention. The "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" in the North Pacific Subtropical Convergence zone is responsible for the annual death of countless creatures. The majority of this trash originates from the streets of cities on the west coast of the United States. In the Eco-Richmond Program, we strive to heighten participants' awareness of such environmental issues, empower them with practical strategies for reducing pollution and motivate them to take action to protect their shared environment.

Our program will initiate trash clean-ups during school visits, and weekday and weekend family field trips to Wildcat Creek Marsh and Landfill Loop. For each clean-up event we implement numerous activities for students and family members that illustrate how litter is not only unsightly but potentially harms wildlife, establishing a sense of consequences. Additionally, we plan to organize a community-focused informational signage to protect the Marsh and Landfill Loop and post around the area. The net impact of our program makes litter cleanup more than a series of rules for children and instills emotional reasons for caring when children are young.

## c. Describe the goals and objectives of the proposed project.

A grant of \$23,644 for the remainder of 2011 will provide funding to reach an estimated 100-150 new children and 300-450 new family members through initiation of environmental stewardship classes and programs at Verde Elementary in the North Richmond mitigation area.

## Our goals are to:

- 1) Foster community-based engagement in environmental stewardship through handson activities;
- 2) Provide opportunities for children, youth, and parents and grandparents to work together to protect local wildlife and habitat;
- 3) Counter the shortage of place-based environmental education and science learning opportunities; and
- 4) Improve students' academic achievement in science, math, and literacy.

Our new program launch-point will target the racially diverse and underserved North Richmond community, and engage students, their families, and community members in innovative environmental education activities. The program will engage students, working with them in the classroom and schoolyard, at local creeks and wetlands. Utilizing our current successful model, we will provide opportunities for students to improve academic achievement by engaging them in hands-on, place-based activities, which protect and enhance their local environment. Through the program's clean up activities, students and their family and community members also take an active role in conserving some of the Bay Area's most critical natural resources, and in this case, their own marvelous "backyard" of Wildcat Creek Marsh and Landfill Loop.

Since nearly a third of North Richmond community members and Eco-Richmond participants are native Spanish speakers, providing culturally competent and linguistically appropriate education is at the very core of our outreach. We strive to engage culturally appropriate staff and volunteers and provide our participants with Spanish/English instruction and materials.

d. Describe the steps you will follow to accomplish your objectives (plan of action, staff/volunteer roles and responsibilities, etc.).

### Plan of action

Each participating class at Verde Elementary will receive:

- In-class presentations (2): Wildcat Creek Watershed Health and Environmental Impacts of Land-Based Litter, which includes community trash assessment.
- Weekday field trips (2) to the Wildcat Creek Marsh and Landfill Loop. Each trip includes wildlife observation, food webs study, and trash clean up.
- Weekend family field trips (2) to the Wildcat Creek Marsh and Landfill Loop. Each trip includes wildlife observation, games, watershed awareness activities and environmental stewardship building activities.
- Poster competition to create pro-environmental educational signage (Spanish and English and other prevalent languages) around the community.

## Numbers reached:

- Four (4) to six (6) fourth and fifth grade classes
- 100- 150 students
- 300 450 community members

## Staff/volunteers roles and responsibilities

The Eco-Richmond Program Manager, Eco-Richmond Program Coordinator, volunteers and classroom teachers work together to provide a curriculum that uses the local environment as an integrating context for students' academic studies. The program includes a suite of two (2) class visits, two (2) student field trips, at least two (2) family field trips for each participating class, as well as a poster session.

Step by step, the students learn how their lives connect with and rely upon local habitats and ecosystems, starting with the most familiar habitats and then expanding. Students begin by assessing the ecological health of their schoolyard habitats and learn how storm drains connect their community to the natural systems within the San Francisco Bay and their neighborhood watershed. The second classroom lesson highlights the entire range of potential stormwater contaminants as students are taught the health and environmental problems this can pose. Students then visit Wildcat Creek Marsh and Landfill Loop and engage in trash removal and invasive plant removal and study food webs.

Educators visit the classroom to discuss how the effects of human actions have impacted the health of the San Francisco Bay, their local watershed, as well as its human population. Then students work collaboratively to study and interact with a watershed model in class and review reduction strategies for each potential pollutant. Students then go on a field trip to determine the health of a local creek and engage in habitat cleanup. The program culminates in a family field trip where participants learn strategies to prevent litter accumulation that becomes wildlife debris, and where they engage in clean-ups to bring the point home.

# e. How, if at all, does your organization propose to sustain this program after mitigation funding is expended?

We are in the process of identifying additional environmental education grants, corporate underwriters, and donor gifts that will support this expanded effort. We believe, based upon funders' response to date for both the Eco-Richmond and the Eco-Oakland program, and our own experience, that our plans are realistic.

## **Project Schedule**

# f. Provide a timeline for project implementation, including start and completion dates.

<u>July through August</u>: Enter and analyze previous student survey data in order to enable us to report on results of pre- and post-evaluation surveys; conduct program planning, which includes streamlining current curricula and making curriculum and program revisions based on evaluations.

<u>Late August - September</u>: Schedule programming; volunteer recruitment and training; high school mentor recruitment and training; administer new pre-program surveys.

<u>September - October</u>: In-class presentation, *Wildcat Creek Watershed Health*.

October - November: Each class takes a field trip to the Wildcat Creek Marsh and Landfill Loop. Each trip includes wildlife observation, food webs study, and trash clean-up.

October – December: Two (2) weekend family trips to the Wildcat Creek Marsh and Landfill Loop. Each trip includes wildlife observation, games, watershed awareness activities and environmental stewardship building activities.

<u>November - December</u>: In class presentation, *Environmental Impacts of Land-Based Litter*. Includes a community trash assessment and clean-up and Wildcat Creek Clean-up.

<u>December:</u> Poster competition to create pro-environmental educational signage (Spanish and English and other prevalent languages) around the community.

## **Project Outcomes, Evaluation and Accountability**

g. Describe how your organization will measure and evaluate your success in meeting your identified goals and objectives.

The Eco-Richmond Program Logic Model (attached) is the framework for the program and illustrates how each stakeholder and activity contributes to the immediate and long-term outcomes. Based on the aggregated results of our evaluation process, the Eco-Richmond Program Manager updates the program model annually to ensure our efforts promote environmental stewardship through culturally relevant best-practices.

Each year, we seek to evaluate and refine our environmental education programs and work with a professional evaluation consultancy, Mountain Light Consulting. We employ both quantitative and qualitative data analysis.

Pre- and post-program surveys are administered to a sample of at least 75 students at the beginning and end of each school year to assess how their attitudes and behaviors toward their community and environment may have changed. Based on our most recent survey results, these are the goals we would like to achieve and measure in the 2010-2011 academic year:

- At least 80% of Eco-Education Program participants (both students and family members) will know how trash travels and contaminants flow from their neighborhood to the wetlands, Bay, and Pacific Ocean, and how these affect water quality and fish populations;
- At least 90% of students will be able to explain ways in which they have helped animals, plants, and their habitats in the previous year; and
- At least 80% of participants (both students and family members) will claim that the Eco-Richmond Program increased their environmental stewardship skills and motivated them to take action to protect the environment.

Survey data is collected at the beginning and end of the school year, while an advisory group gives feedback during the middle of the school year. All feedback will be formally compiled and analyzed by the Program Manager during the summer months and will be used to determine needs of the target audience, improve our curriculum and program design, and guide our judgments about the impact and value of the Eco-Richmond Program.

The advisory group consists of people who live or work in the North Richmond communities, including parents, community organizations, teachers, school administrators, and volunteers. The Eco-Richmond Program Manager works with staff and advisory group members to integrate this feedback into future programming, curriculum development, and restoration efforts.

## **Organizational Capacity**

h. List the staff members responsible for the implementation of project-related tasks; include their qualifications and any prior relevant experience (resumes may be attached).

Anthony DeCicco, Eco-Oakland Program Manager, organizes and implements classroom and field trip programs, and establishes and maintains relationships with the program partners and advisors, including working collaboratively with East Oakland and North Richmond community members. Prior to joining Golden Gate Audubon in September 2006, Anthony was a program coordinator and environmental educator at KIDS for the BAY, where he implemented their signature Watershed Action Program. Anthony is fluent in Spanish, and holds a bachelor's degree in applied linguistics from the University of California-Santa Cruz and a master's degree in education, with a focus on curriculum development in environmental education, from California State University-East Bay.

Mark Welther, Executive Director, oversees the organization's projects and finances. Mark began serving Golden Gate Audubon on April 20, 2009. For the previous two-and-a-half years, Mark served as founding Executive Director of the Spaulding Wooden Boat Center in Sausalito. At SWBC, he created a nonprofit maritime museum and educational center from a historic boat yard. In the process, he launched new youth education programs and introduced Marin City and other Marin County youth to the art and craft of woodworking and sailing, developed a youth and senior public sailing program staffed with volunteers, worked with the board of directors to raise funds, and increased the organization's visibility through national and local media coverage and public speaking. Prior to that position, Mark worked for nine years managing membership and major donor fundraising programs for the California League of Conservation Voters (CLCV), one of the state's largest and oldest environmental organizations.

Marissa Ortega-Welch, Environmental Education Program Coordinator, joined Golden Gate Audubon in November 2010. Marissa returned to the Bay Area after living in Washington for four years. She taught environmental education at the Olympic Park Institute, as well as conducted bird surveys in northwest National Parks for the Institute for Bird Populations. Prior to that, she taught bicycle-based environmental education for

Cycles of Change here in the East Bay. Marissa is from San Diego. She loves to share her passion for the outdoors and is committed to empowering youth to work towards positive change.

i. Describe the organization's financial management system used to maintain control over current operations and to ensure budgets are monitored and complied with?

The Golden Gate Audubon Society (GGAS) follows accounting best-practices with oversight provided by a contracted and licensed CPA. With her assistance, we produce monthly financial reports and an annual audit. The Board Finance Committee, which includes skilled financial investment and accounting professionals, and the Executive Director, oversee the yearly budget, review monthly income statements and balance sheets, and ensure compliance with financial reporting requirements and expense and cash flow management.

j. Provide one (1) letter of recommendation or letter of support from community members or other organizations and one (1) letter from a past funder regarding your organization and/or project.

## Attached:

- Rich Walkling
- Whitney Dotson
- Claire Thorpe

## Other

k. Provide any additional information that your organization believes will assist the Committee in considering the merits of your proposal.

In June 2011, Golden Gate Audubon finished production on a DVD, which shows the entire Eco-Education Program in action. Copies of this video are available upon request.

In 2009, our Eco-Education Programs received the Outstanding Local Organization Award from the North American Association for Environmental Education, the largest and most prestigious environmental education association in the U.S. In addition to national recognition, the Eco-Education Programs also received a significant statewide honor, the 2008 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award.

On January 29, 2009 Bay Area NBC aired a story about our Eco-Richmond Program. Two of our participating classes found 400 shotgun shells on the beach during the field trip to Point Pinole. The students and teachers were so outraged that they initiated a letter-writing campaign to the California Department of Fish and Game asking them to stop this kind of activity and wildlife disruption in their own community. The principal and teachers were particularly pleased to receive such uplifting exposure for the school, located in a community that often faces harsh challenges. Their news segment can be found on Golden Gate Audubon's website at:

http://www.goldengateaudubon.org/html/enviro\_edu/ecooakland.htm

## **SECTION III – BUDGET INFORMATION**

## **Financial Viability**

**Total Amount of Grant Requested:** \$23,644

Complete Table 1 with your organization's budget for the proposed project. Items that can be included in the budget should fall under the following expense categories: staff costs, equipment, supplies/materials and project-related administration/overhead. Please itemize total proposed funding requested for each expense category and provide as much detail as possible, including the number of units (e.g. staff hours, equipment quantities, etc.) and per unit costs (e.g. hourly rates for staff or stipends, price of equipment, etc.). Add additional rows or use additional pages if needed. Please note stipends included in prior Community-Based Projects proposals selected for funding were all required to pay at least \$10/hour.

## Table 1

Item	Cost	<b>Funding Request</b>
Staff Time & Stipends		
Eco-Richmond Program	\$19.23/hr x 520 hrs	\$10,000
Coordinator		
2. Eco-Richmond Program	\$25/hr x 180 hrs	\$4,500
Manager		
3. Stipends for 5 High School	\$10/hr x 100 hrs	\$0.00
Interns	(20 hrs per intern)	\$0.00
Equipment		
4. Bus leases for students and	\$400/trip x 8 trips	\$3,200
family trips to Wildcat Creek		
Marsh and the Landfill Loop		
Supplies/Materials		
5. Curriculum copying	\$200/class x 6 classes	\$1,200
6. Educational displays, signage		\$1,000
and handouts		
7. Trash grabbers	\$15 x 20	\$300
8. Reusable cloth bags (for trash	\$2 x 30	\$60
collection)		
9. Gloves	\$10 x 30	\$300
Administration/Overhead		
10. Management & General 15%		\$3,084
TOTAL		\$23,644

## Table 1 notes:

*Item 1:* Increased funding from this grant cycle will allow the Eco-Richmond Program Coordinator to provide more outreach and stronger collaborations within the North Richmond Mitigation Fund area as well as in the adjacent communities covered by our Eco-Richmond Program.

*Item 3:* Note that funds for the high school interns will be provided through the first grant that Golden Gate Audubon received from the North Richmond Mitigation Fund. Two (2) interns worked with the program during the 2010-11 academic year, and the remaining funds will support three (3) interns from the North Richmond Mitigation area during this second phase of implementation.

*Item 5:* Note that we are only requesting for six (6) classes, because five (5) classes will be provided through the first grant that Golden Gate Audubon received from the North Richmond Mitigation Fund.

## **Total Project Budget**

If the requested amount does not fully cover the cost of the proposed project, then please complete the following table to show all funds anticipated to be received by your organization for this proposed project.

Table 2

Total Budget	Funding Amo	unt Requested	% of Project Budget
\$64,364 (including In-Kind)	Requested:	\$23,644	36.7%
	Cash sources:	\$28,750	44.7%
	In-Kind:	\$12,000	18.6%

In Table 3, include other grants, federal/state funds, individual and corporate donations, volunteer and in-kind services, etc. which will provide the necessary funding to cover the full cost of your proposed project. For example, if Table 2 states that your organization is requesting 25% of the project budget from the Mitigation Fees then Table 3 should provide information about the remaining 75% of funds. When completing the table, indicate the status of the funding sources as follows: P = Proposed; S = Application Submitted; and A = Approved. Add additional rows or use additional pages if needed.

Table 3

<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	Status	Amount (\$)	Date Funds are Available
National Fish and Wildlife     Foundation	S	\$12,500	Summer 2011
North Richmond Mitigation Fee Fund	A	\$1,750	July 2011
3. Contra Costa Watershed Fund	A	\$7,000	
4. East Bay Community Foundation	A	\$15,000	June 2011
5. David B. Gold	Α	\$5,000	March 2011
Subtotal Cash Sources		\$28,750	
6. East Bay Regional Park District	In-Kind	\$3,000	When requested
7. Golden Gate Audubon volunteers	In-Kind	\$7,000	When requested
8. West Contra County Unified	In-Kind	\$2,000	When requested
School District teacher and school			
official			
Subtotal In-Kind		\$12,000	
TOTAL		\$40,750	

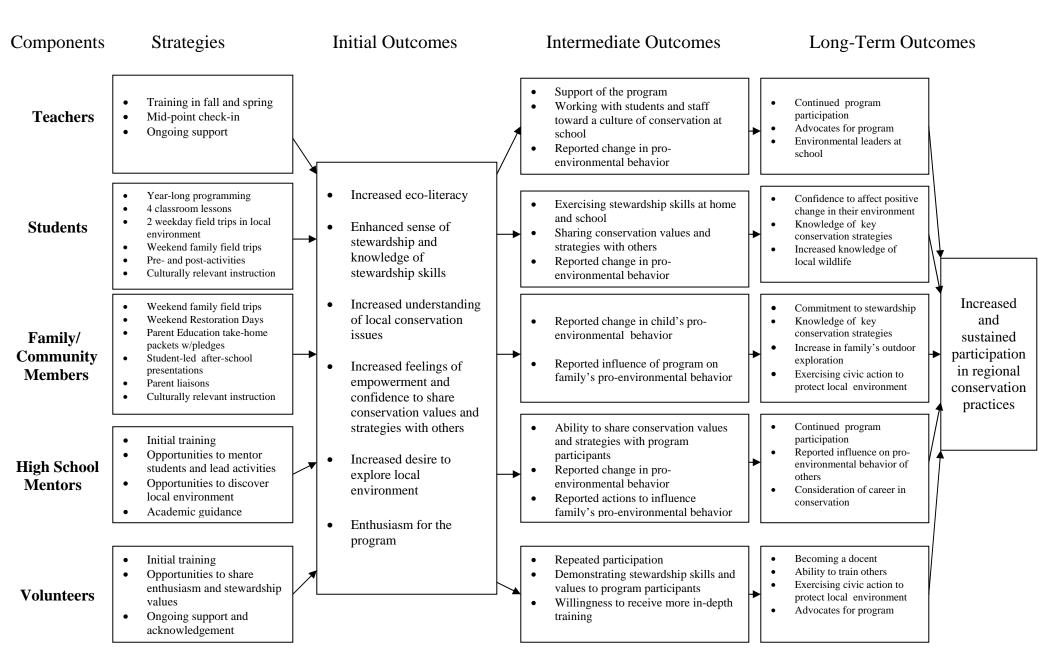
## Table 3 notes:

*Item 1*. Amount not considered in Table 3 total, since funds have been requested but not confirmed.

*Item 2*. This represents the balance of the first grant Golden Gate Audubon received from the North Richmond Mitigation Fee Fund (total, \$8,000), which will be spent from July – December 2011.



## **Logic Model for the Eco-Richmond Program**



External factors: Program partners provide opportunities for promoting conservation values and pro-environmental behavior.



#### NATIONAL FISH and WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

#### SOUTHWESTERN PARTNERSHIP OFFICE

90 New Montgomery Street Suite 1010 San Francisco, CA 94105 P 415-778-0999 F 415-778-0998 nfwf.org

Richmond City Hall
Attn: Lori Reese-Brown
North Richmond Mitigation Funding Request Proposals
450 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804

June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011

RE: Golden Gate Audubon Society Application for Funding

Dear Ms. Wilson,

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the Golden Gate Audubon Society's request for funding to continue their environmental education and stewardship activities which benefit the San Francisco Bay Estuary and local communities.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has been providing support for the Golden Gate Audubon Society since 1999 for their outreach, education, and restoration activities including their activities at the Alameda National Wildlife Refuge and Oakland's Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline Park. Last year NFWF awarded the fourth in a series of grants to the organization to support their Eco-Oakland and Eco-Richmond Program. This program does an outstanding job of connecting local youth, families, and community residents with their watershed and provides opportunities for direct action including trash removal, control and removal of invasive non-native plants, and revegetation with natives to improve habitat and water quality.

Golden Gate Audubon has used NFWF funding to work with two Richmond schools, 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades at Bayview and Lake Elementary, in the classroom and in the field providing hands-on experiential education. As part of this work, they were able to build key partnerships within the Mitigation Fund area, most notably at Verde Elementary. Additional funding support will enable them to build their programming at Verde, including in-class presentations, student field trips to Wildcat Creek and Marsh and Landfill Loop, and weekend family trips to Wildcat Creek Marsh and Landfill Loop.

As a NFWF grantee, Golden Gate Audubon has performed at the highest level to deliver multiple benefits for the natural resources and human population. It is my pleasure to provide unqualified support for their request for funding which, if awarded, will enable them to expand their outreach and collaboration with Richmond schools and district park staff. Please feel free to contact me if you would like additional information. I can be reached at <a href="mailto:Claire.thorp@nfwf.org">Claire.thorp@nfwf.org</a> and (415) 243-3104.

Sincerely,

**Assistant Director** 

Southwestern Partnership Office National Fish and Wildlife Foundation



5 June 2011

Richmond City Hall Attn: Lori Reese-Brown North Richmond Mitigation Funding Request Proposals 450 Civic Center Plaza Richmond, CA 94804

RE: Eco-Richmond Environmental Education Program

Dear Ms. Reese-Brown and North Richmond Waste and Recovery Mitigation Fee Committee:

I am writing to encourage you to fund Golden Gate Audubon's Eco-Richmond Environmental Education Program, which connects community members in West Contra Costa County with their local environment and empowers them to protect it. I am the shoreline coordinator for the North Richmond Shoreline (funded by a Department of Conservation grant) and have seen the benefits of this program to the shoreline and the community.

The Eco-Richmond Environmental Education Program targets the racially diverse and underserved North Richmond community, engages students, their families, and community members in innovative environmental education activities. It reaches students year-round, working with them in the classroom and schoolyard, at local creeks and wetlands, and at the ocean. The program provides opportunities for students to improve academic achievement by engaging them in hands-on, place-based activities which protect and enhance their local environment. Through the program's restoration projects, students and their family and community members take an active role in conserving some of the Bay Area's most critical natural resources.

Golden Gate Audubon has used the funds from the first grant to support the program at two West Contra Costa County elementary schools. Importantly, with support from the first grant, GGA was able to build some key partnerships within the Mitigation Fund area--most notably at Verde Elementary. This round of funding will help build GGA's programming at Verde, including in-class presentations, student field trips to Wildcat Creek Marsh and Landfill Loop, and weekend family trips to Wildcat Creek Marsh and Landfill Loop.

Every year, Bay Area residents contribute more oil to coastal waters than do oil tankers. Golden Gate Audubon's Eco-Richmond Environmental Education Program educates and empowers students to prevent trash and pollution from entering our waterways, and trains our next generation of environmental leaders.

Sincerely,

Restoration Design Group, LLC

2612b Eighth Street Berkeley, CA 94710

0 Rich Walkling

T 510.644.2798 F 510.644.2799

Whitney Dotson 4109 Jenkins Way Richmond, CA 94806

June 9, 2011

## To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to you in support of Golden Gate Audubon's proposal to the North Richmond Mitigation Fee Fund. Golden Gate Audubon is requesting your support to expand their environmental education program into North Richmond.

Golden Gate Audubon is an important partner in the North Richmond Shoreline Academy, a community-based effort to create a conservation plan for the North Richmond Shoreline and to provide environmental education to members of the North Richmond community. For the past three years, Golden Gate Audubon staff, board members and volunteers have worked with other organizations and individuals in our community to organize birding trips, watershed clean-up activities, and other educational projects that help build community knowledge about local birds, plants and natural resources. The North Richmond Shoreline also provides habitat for an abundance of birds and is extremely important to conserving these populations. Golden Gate Audubon is also organizing North Richmond residents to do a bird survey of the shoreline, which will help to shape our conservation plan for this area.

We are very supportive of Golden Gate Audubon's desire to expand their environmental education program to include North Richmond. The community is very much in need of a variety of environmental education opportunities, and the Audubon Society's proposed program is a way to begin to address some of these needs. I also believe that Golden Gate Audubon has a strong plan to coordinate closely with the community (including meetings with community members, teachers, parents, and other environmental education organizations) as they prepare to expand their excellent program in North Richmond. This coordination is very important, and it will help maximize benefits to the community and ensure that any new environmental education program meets community needs.

I am happy to lend my support to this proposal.

Sincerely,

Whitney Dotson, North Richmond

Internal Revenue Service

**Department of the Treasury** 

P. O. Box 2508 Cincinnati, OH 45201

Date: June 11, 2003

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G Berkeley, CA 94702-2000

Person to Contact:

Jeremy L. Vogelpohl 31-03888 Customer Service Representative

**Toll Free Telephone Number:** 

8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. EST 877-829-5500

Fax Number: 513-263-3756

Federal Identification Number:

94-6086896

Accounting Period Ends:

June 30

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is in response to your request of May 1, 2003 regarding your organization's tax exempt status.

In September 1952 we issued a determination letter that recognized your organization as exempt from federal income tax. Our records indicate that your organization is currently exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

We classified your organization as a publicly supported organization, and not a private foundation, because it is described in section 509(a)(2) of the Code. This classification was based on the assumption that your organization's operations would continue as stated in the application. If your organization's purposes, character, method of operations, or sources of support have changed, please let us know so we can consider the effect of the change on the organization's exempt status and foundation status.

Your organization is required to file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, only if its gross receipts each year are normally more than \$25,000. If a return is required, it must be filed by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of the organization's annual accounting period. The law imposes a penalty of \$20 a day, up to a maximum of \$10,000, when a return is filed late, unless there is reasonable cause for the delay.

As of January 1, 1984, your organization is liable for taxes under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (social security taxes) on remuneration of \$100 or more the organization pays to each of its employees during a calendar year. There is no liability for the tax imposed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

Organizations that are not private foundations are not subject to the excise taxes under Chapter 42 of the Code. However, these organizations are not automatically exempt from other federal excise taxes. If you have any questions about excise, employment, or other federal taxes, please let us know.

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. 94-6086896

Donors may deduct contributions to your organization as provided in section 170 of the Code.

Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to your organization or for its use are deductible for federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

Your organization is not required to file federal income tax returns unless it is subject to the tax on unrelated business income under section 511 of the Code. If your organization is subject to this tax, it must file an income tax return on Form 990-T, *Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return*. In this letter, we are not determining whether any of your organization's present or proposed activities are unrelated trade or business as defined in section 513 of the Code.

The law requires you to make your organization's annual return available for public inspection without charge for three years after the due date of the return. If your organization had a copy of its application for recognition of exemption on July 15, 1987, it is also required to make available for public inspection a copy of the exemption application, any supporting documents and the exemption letter to any individual who requests such documents in person or in writing. You can charge only a reasonable fee for reproduction and actual postage costs for the copied materials. The law does not require you to provide copies of public inspection documents that are widely available, such as by posting them on the Internet (World Wide Web). You may be liable for a penalty of \$20 a day for each day you do not make these documents available for public inspection (up to a maximum of \$10,000 in the case of an annual return).

Because this letter could help resolve any questions about your organization's exempt status and foundation status, you should keep it with the permanent records of the organization.

If you have questions, please call us at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely,

John E. Ricketts, Director, TE/GE Customer Account Services