

CALENDAR ITEM

89

A	Statewide	09/01/11
S	Statewide	G. Kato

**CONSIDER A RESOLUTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAVE THE BAY
AND TO COMMEND THEIR SERVICE AND COMMITMENT
TO PROTECTING AND ENHANCING
THE RESOURCES OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY**

Since its creation in 1961, Save The Bay has played a leading role in the preservation and restoration of submerged and wetland habitat areas in the San Francisco Bay (Bay) region. Its founding members, three East Bay women, initially came together in an effort to stop the then proposed filling of the Bay to expand the city of Berkeley. The founding members succeeded in their efforts to prevent the Bay filling and would go on to support the creation of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) through 1965 legislation known as the McAteer-Petris Act, which, in part, emphasizes the elimination of unnecessary placement of fill in the Bay. Some of Save The Bay's major achievements during its half-century of existence include: aiding the establishment of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge and most recently working with the city of San Jose to pass a landmark ban on single use plastic bags, thereby reducing plastic pollution in the Bay.

This year, Save The Bay will celebrate 50 years of successful public education and outreach that has resulted in greatly reducing bayfill and pollution and aiding in stopping unnecessary shoreline development. As one of the largest organizations working to protect, restore and celebrate the San Francisco Bay, Save The Bay has inspired more than 25,000 supporters and thousands of students to participate annually in special community events and restoration field trips geared toward educating future Bay stewards. With the ultimate goal of re-establishing 100,000 acres of tidal marsh around the Bay, Save The Bay promotes policies to "green the Bay" and relies heavily on volunteers and general public support to meet its goal.

San Francisco Bay is the largest Pacific Ocean estuary in North and South America, with approximately forty percent of California's water flowing in from the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. Historians estimate that from the mid-19th century through the late 20th century, approximately one-third of the original Bay was filled and

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approximately 90 percent of the Bay's wetlands were destroyed by urban development and agriculture. The Bay and surrounding wetlands serve as one of California's most important ecological habitats, supporting endangered species such as the Green Sturgeon, California least tern, and the California clapper rail -- in addition to sustaining hundreds of other fish and wildlife species. The Bay and surrounding wetlands also serve the public with uses such as recreational boating, fishing, and bird watching.

Without the assistance of Save The Bay, the Bay, as we know it, may have been filled to nothing more than a narrow waterway. Organizations such as Save The Bay are essential for the protection and promotion of public trust uses of our natural environment for the benefit of the public and future generations. At the direction of the Lieutenant Governor, staff has prepared a resolution to acknowledge Save The Bay on its 50th Anniversary for its contributions in protecting and preserving the environmental integrity of the San Francisco Bay.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. The San Francisco Bay includes granted and ungranted sovereign lands subject to the protections of the Common Law Public Trust and under the jurisdiction of the Commission.
2. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines [Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15060(c)(3)], the staff has determined that this activity is not subject to the provisions of CEQA because it is not a "project" as defined by CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines.

Authority: Public Resources Code Section 21065 and Title 14, California Code of Regulations, sections 15060(c)(3) and 15378.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is Recommended that the Commission:

1. Find that the activity is exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15060(c)(3) because the activity is not a project as defined by Public Resources Code section 21065 and Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15378.
2. Adopt the resolution attached hereto being Exhibit A.

PROPOSED BY STAFF

THE CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION ACKNOWLEDGES THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAVE THE BAY AND RECOGNIZES ITS SERVICE AND COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE RESOURCES OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY

WHEREAS, Save The Bay is a grass roots environmental organization in the San Francisco Bay area established in 1961 to protect San Francisco Bay and associated wetlands (Bay) from unnecessary fill and pollution, as well as opening up the Bay shoreline to public access; and

WHEREAS, Save The Bay is one of the oldest and largest regional organizations working to protect, restore, and celebrate the Bay through advocacy and public education and outreach; and

WHEREAS, the Bay is the largest estuary on the Pacific Coast and serves as one of California's important ecological habitats supporting endangered species as well as sustaining hundreds of aquatic and wildlife species; and

WHEREAS, the Bay is known worldwide for its natural beauty, sweeping vistas and public water-related recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, the Bay is home to several commercial ports, including but not limited to, the ports of San Francisco, Oakland, Redwood City and Richmond, which are integral to the economic vitality of the region, State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as Save The Bay are essential for the protection, promotion, and enhancement of public trust resources, such as the Bay, for the benefit of current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, this year, Save The Bay celebrates its 50th Anniversary and five decades of achievements and accomplishments in protecting and preserving the environmental integrity of the San Francisco Bay; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the California State Lands Commission, that it congratulates Save The Bay on its 50th Anniversary and commends its service and commitment to protecting, promoting and enhancing the public trust resources of the San Francisco Bay.