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May 16, 2011

Lynn Nakashima
Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94710

Subject: Year 5 Monitoring Report for the Western Stege Marsh Restoration Project, Response to DTSC Comments, University of California, Berkeley, Richmond Field Station, Richmond, California

Dear Ms Nakashima:

Thank you for your comments on the Year 5 Monitoring Report for the Western Stege Marsh Restoration Project, dated September 20, 2010. The University of California at Berkeley (UC Berkeley) agrees with Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC) comment that monitoring efforts have substantially met the requirements outlined in the report of establishing a functional ecosystem capable of supporting the California clapper rail. UC Berkeley also recognizes that certain metals have been found in storm water and sediment that exceed screening levels commonly used as regulatory thresholds. UC Berkeley intends to continue monitoring marsh sediment as part of the annual sediment sampling recommended in the 2010 Public Health Assessment, published by the California Department of Public Health.

UC Berkeley also intends use the data collected during the Marsh Monitoring effort to help guide further characterization of the marsh as part of the Field Sampling Workplan. UC Berkeley does not propose to continue the semi-annual sampling, as described in the marsh monitoring annual reports. The specifics of the future sampling, including metals concentrations in sediment and storm water runoff, have not yet been determined. The Field Sampling Workplan was intended as a phased approach to characterize the field station and address data gaps as identified in the

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2008 Current Conditions Report. Future sampling in the marsh will be proposed to DTSC as part of one of the upcoming phases of investigation for review and approval.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this submittal, please call me at (510) 642-4848.

Sincerely,



Greg Haet
EH&S Associate Director
Environmental Protection

Attachment: Response to Comments

Year 5 Monitoring Report for the Western Stege Marsh Restoration Project

University of California, Richmond Field Station

September 30, 2010

Response to Comments

Department of Toxic Substances Control, November 19, 2010

May 16, 2011

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UC Berkeley Ref. No.	Page/ Sect No.	DTSC Comment	UC Berkeley Response
1	Page ES-1, Executive Summary	The report states "Overall, based on data obtained Years 1 through 5, the WSMRP site is progressing toward providing the functions of a tidal marsh typical of San Francisco Bay. Based on this trajectory and evaluation against the project targets, no further remediation or monitoring activities are recommended in the WSMRP (Western Stege Marsh Restoration Project) area." Please rectify this statement with the following statement "Some sample concentrations exceeded some federal and state screening criteria for protection of aquatic life, including some criteria that are within the range of ambient Bay Area concentrations; however, more sampling is necessary to assess the significance of these results" found on page 30, in section 6.0 Conclusions and Recommendations, Project Target 2. Please clarify if the university is intending to continue sediment and/or surface water sampling.	UC Berkeley intends to continue monitoring marsh sediment as part of the annual sediment sampling recommended in the 2010 Public Health Assessment, published by the California Department of Public Health. UC Berkeley also intends use the data collected during the Marsh Monitoring effort to help guide further characterization sampling of the marsh as part of the Field Sampling Workplan. UC Berkeley does not propose to continue the semi-annual sampling, as described in the marsh monitoring annual reports.
2	Page 21, Section 4.2.3	Mercury continues to be detected in sediment at concentrations above the ER-M but concentrations do not seem to be increasing with time. In ERAS' comments to the 4- year monitoring report, it was requested that the report include a graph showing mercury concentrations plotted over time. That was again not provided in the 5-year monitoring report. Nevertheless, given the information provided in the report, it does appear that sediment mercury concentrations have not significantly increased during the last 5-years.	Mercury concentrations in marsh sediment will continue to be monitored through the annual Public Health Assessment sampling and as part of the FSW.
3	Page 32, Section 6.0	Based on the evidence provided in the report, ERAS believes that a compositionally and structurally diverse ecosystem has been developed in West Stege Marsh and that measured concentrations of Chemicals of Potential Ecological Concern in site media do not appear to be impeding this development.	UC Berkeley agrees that the marsh is progressing toward providing the functions of a tidal marsh typical of San Francisco Bay. Based on this trajectory and evaluation against the project targets, no further remediation or monitoring activities are recommended as part of the Marsh Monitoring Restoration effort.