

Mar 23, 2026

Dear Assemblymember Wilson and Senator Cabaldon,

Greenbelt Alliance wishes to express our strong support for the State funding necessary to acquire and restore Jersey Island in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta. This project should be considered a core component of the state’s broader efforts to advance climate resilience, protect natural and agricultural landscapes, and ensure a more sustainable future for the Bay Area and beyond.

For more than 60 years, Greenbelt Alliance has worked to protect open spaces, support climate-smart land uses, and strengthen the resilience of Bay Area communities. Jersey Island represents a rare opportunity to advance all of these goals, by transforming a vulnerable island into a restored wetland that delivers lasting environmental and community benefits.

The restoration of Jersey Island will help safeguard the integrity of the Bay-Delta estuary, which is vital to California’s water system. As climate change accelerates sea level rise and increases pressure on our state’s aging levees, it is essential to invest in nature-based solutions that increase resilience.

Protecting and restoring Jersey Island also aligns with Greenbelt Alliance’s commitment to preserving open space and preventing the loss of natural and working lands. This investment by the state will ensure that Jersey Island will be managed for long-term ecological value and public benefit, rather than facing an uncertain future that could further degrade the health of the Delta.

This project also offers important benefits for equitable access to nature. The creation of trails and a campground will expand opportunities for Bay Area residents to experience the uniqueness of the Delta, particularly those in nearby communities that have been historically underserved.

Finally, this project contributes to California’s climate goals by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting long-term carbon sequestration through wetland restoration.

We urge you to help advance this important investment for the future of the Delta, the Bay Area, and the entire state.

Sincerely,

Zoe Siegel

CC:

Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee Chairman Laird
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee Chairwoman Gomez Reyes
Assembly Budget Committee Chairman Gabriel
Assembly Budget Subcommittee Chairman Bennett
Senator McNerney, Delta Caucus Co-chair
Natural Resources Agency Secretary Crowfoot
Wildlife Conservation Board Executive Director Norris
Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Executive Officer Ingram