

Board of Trustees

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Legal Counsel

RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 830
Jersey Island, CA

March 27, 2026

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for State Funding for Jersey Island Restoration

Dear Senator Cabaldon and Assembly Member Wilson,

On behalf of Reclamation District No. 830, I am writing to express our strong support for State funding for Jersey Island restoration, as requested by Diablo Water District.

The island lies between Oakley and Bethel Island on the San Joaquin River in Contra Costa County, in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta region. The 3,520-acre island is bound to the west by the San Joaquin River, on the north by False River, on the northeast by Piper Slough, on the east by Taylor Slough, and on the south by Dutch Slough.

Reclamation District 830 (RD 830) is responsible for the operation and maintenance of Jersey Island's 16 miles of levee system and its primary internal water management infrastructure. RD 830's mission is to protect the island from flooding, manage water levels, and maintain the infrastructure that supports current and future uses. Through this work, we have a direct, practical understanding of the challenges of managing a deeply subsided Delta island.

Over time, subsidence has significantly increased the strain on Jersey Island's levees, with parts of the island now more than 18 feet below sea level. As land elevations have dropped, hydraulic pressure on the levee system has increased, requiring ongoing, expensive maintenance to ensure stability. These conditions are not unique to Jersey Island, but they represent a long-term challenge for the District.

The proposed transition of Jersey Island to wetlands offers a fundamentally different approach to managing these risks. Reestablishing higher internal water levels reduces the differential pressure on the levees, thereby slowly stabilizing conditions over time. Building back soil through natural wetland processes will lessen the long-term costs to both the District and the State.

From RD 830's perspective, this project represents an opportunity to adopt a model that is more manageable and less costly in the long term. Investments that reduce risk and improve system performance are essential to fulfilling the District's and the State's responsibilities in the Delta.

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This letter of support was presented and approved by the Board of Trustees at a Special Board meeting on March 27, 2026.

We appreciate your leadership and commitment to practical, forward-looking solutions in the Delta.

Sincerely,



Jean-Marc H. Petit
Chair of the Board of Trustees

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
Diablo Water District, Oakley, California, Dan Muelrath, General Manager
RD-830 Board Secretary Cianfichi
Ironhouse Sanitary District, Board President Lowrey