

March 30, 2026

Dr. Jennifer Norris, Executive Director
Wildlife Conservation Board
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Re: Letter of Support for Jersey Island Project

Dear Executive Director Norris:

I am writing to express the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation's strong support for the State of California's funding of the acquisition and restoration of Jersey Island in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This project is a top priority for our Conservation Portfolio, as the protection and restoration of Jersey Island directly advances our conservation objectives. This letter includes data and information about the potential jointly-funded project.

The Delta is a globally significant estuary that provides critical habitat for native fish and migratory birds, plays an essential role in California's statewide water delivery system, and has the potential to achieve significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

Jersey Island represents a rare opportunity to advance a science-based restoration project at a scale that can meaningfully improve resilience and ecological function in the Delta. This acquisition and subsequent restoration will contribute to a mosaic of wetland restoration projects underway on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta islands. These projects are aligned with science-based statewide and regional priorities for land, wildlife, and water such as the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy's Strategic Plan, and the California Water Resilience Portfolio. Part of the Pacific Flyway, Jersey Island is a stopping point for thousands of migratory birds. The island is part of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, one of the largest estuaries in North America, providing habitat for approximately 500 plant and animal species, including about 50 species of fish.

This project also aligns with a growing body of science demonstrating the importance of nature-based solutions to addressing climate change. Converting subsided agricultural land in the Delta to wetlands advances both climate mitigation and climate adaptation objectives. Wetlands halt greenhouse gas emissions by stopping soil oxidation while also rebuilding soil, which reduces risk of levee failure from sea level rise. These outcomes are consistent with the Foundation's commitment to advancing solutions that are grounded in science and deliver measurable, long-term benefits.

Jersey Island offers the rare opportunity to advance a landscape-scale project. Large projects are vital to reversing long-term habitat loss and fragmentation that have contributed to declines in native wildlife populations. State investments of this kind help to catalyze broader, system-wide improvements and set the stage for future restoration efforts across the region.

Thank you for your consideration of support from the Wildlife Conservation Board Grant Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Daniel Winterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dan Winterson
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
dan.winterson@moore.org

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 Cabaldon
Senator McNerney, Delta Caucus Co-chair
Assemblymember Wilson, Delta Caucus Co-chair
Natural Resources Agency Secretary Crowfoot
Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Executive Officer Ingram