



CENTRAL VALLEY JOINT VENTURE

Conserving Bird Habitat in California's Central Valley

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March 26, 2026

Senator Christopher Cabaldon
1021 O Street, Room 7320
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Jersey Island project letter of support

Dear Senator Cabaldon,

On behalf of the Central Valley Joint Venture (CVJV), I am writing to express our strong support for state funding for Jersey Island restoration. We respectfully urge you to champion this investment as a meaningful step toward advancing regional and continental bird conservation goals.

The CVJV is a partnership of 20 public and private entities comprised of government agencies, science and conservation organizations, and one regulated utility provider. Our mission is to work collaboratively to protect, restore, and enhance habitats for birds, in accordance with conservation actions identified in the 2020 CVJV Implementation Plan (Plan). This Plan provides a cohesive vision for bird conservation in the Central Valley within the context of the entire Pacific Flyway and sets quantitative habitat objectives based on best available science to ensure sustainable populations of migrant and resident birds in California's Central Valley. In addition to habitat objectives, the Plan sets goals and priorities to address human dimensions including outdoor recreation, environmental education and multiple benefit projects that conserve bird populations and help meet the needs of people. This project represents an opportunity to contribute to the CVJV objectives on a meaningful scale by restoring 2,000 acres of wetlands and 210 acres of riparian habitat, creating over 1,000 acres of winter-flooded rice and corn, and establishing a public camping area.

The Delta plays an essential role within the Pacific Flyway, providing habitat for millions of migratory and resident birds each year. However, historic wetland loss has greatly reduced the availability of suitable habitat. Restoring Jersey Island would help to address this gap by creating a large, contiguous expanse of diverse habitats capable of supporting many species groups, including waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, and others. Projects of this scale are especially valuable because they can deliver habitat that meets multiple wildlife needs, including foraging, breeding, and roosting while strengthening the connection of people and nature.

In addition to its direct habitat benefits, this project would enhance broader ecosystem functions that support bird populations, including improved food web productivity and landscape connectivity as well as providing economic opportunities. These outcomes are essential to sustaining healthy bird populations over the long term and are central to the mission of the CVJV and its many partners.

This project represents an important opportunity to make measurable progress toward our shared conservation goals while strengthening the ecological health of the Delta.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James Cogswell

CVJV Coordinator

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
Central Valley Joint Venture Board