

SOUTH BAY SALT WORKS

June 10, 2016

City Council of the City of Chula Vista and Development Services Department, City of Chula Vista
Project Manager: Steve Power
Chula Vista Civic Center
276 Fourth Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Via US Mail and email: spower@ci.chula-vista.ca.us

Re: Case#MPA-16-0005, Public comments by South Bay Salt Works

Dear Mr. Power and City Council:

South Bay Salt Works has reviewed the documents associated with the Natural Resources Management Plan MPA-16-0005, for the Chula Vista Bayfront. The Salt Works operated by South Bay Salt Works has been a part of the Bayfront for over 140 years. We continue to operate as a partner with the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS) under a Special Use Permit on lands that are part of their South San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Our salt making operations exist today because our series of evaporative ponds support habitat for both endangered species and numerous other migratory birds of interest to the USF&WS.

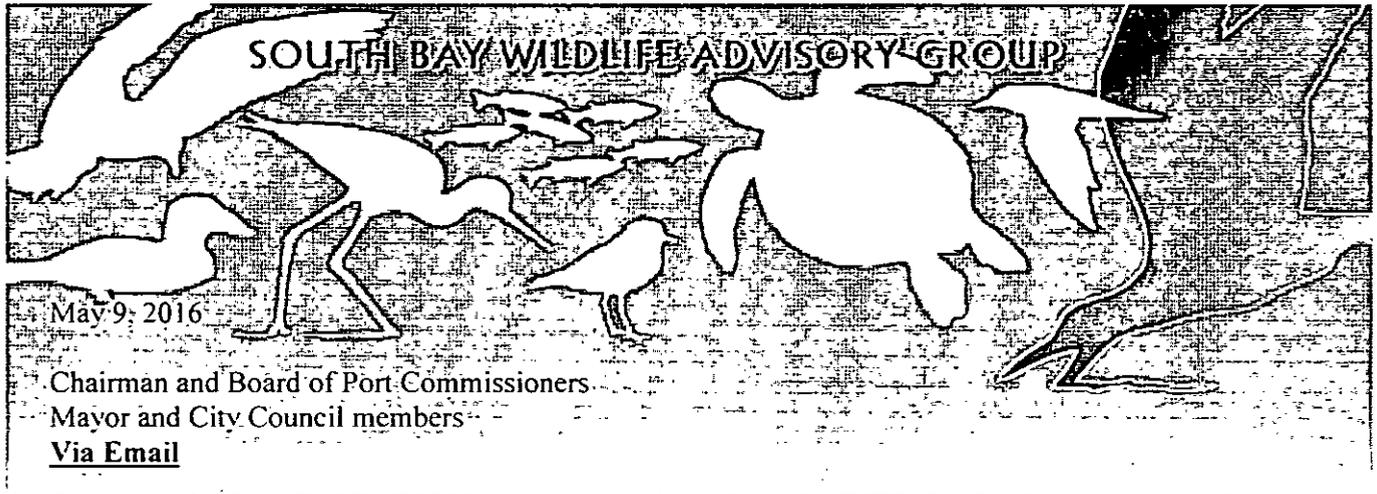
The evaporative ponds are a sequence of ponds, with increasing salinity, which provide numerous habitats as the salinity changes. One of the Ponds within the series of ponds is Pond 28, immediately adjacent to the "Otay" segment identified in the Chula Vista Bayfront planning area. As long as the USF&WS values the habitat creation we provide through our salt making operations, there is a need to protect the operations from development activities which will damage or slow our salt making, which as a consequence would hurt our ability to create and maintain critical habitat.

Any development projects should evaluate any potential impacts to hydrology and water quality in the series of evaporating ponds, which could negatively impact either the quantity or quality of salt produced in the series of ponds. Pond 28 is a critical piece in the series of evaporative ponds. Any development projects should describe how stormwater run-off would be managed on the proposed site to avoid flows into the evaporation ponds and identify mitigation measures to capture and discharge stormwater to existing stormwater utilities along the east side of Bay Boulevard.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments. Please contact me with any questions at 619 423-3388 x101

Thank you,

Tracy Strahl
Vice President
GGTW LLC dba South Bay Salt Works
tracy.strahl@southbaysaltworks.com



RE: South Bay Wildlife Advisory Group SUPPORT for Natural Resources Management Plan for the Chula Vista Bayfront.

Dear Port Commissioners and Chula Vista City Council Members:

We are pleased to report the members of the South Bay Wildlife Advisory Group (WAG) voted unanimously at our May 5, 2016 meeting to recommend adoption of the Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) as amended for the Chula Vista Bayfront.

This is the culmination of several years of dedicated effort by the members of the WAG, Port and City staff, and consultants. It represents a critically important milestone in the creation of a comprehensive plan for the Chula Vista Bayfront – a plan that allows for development while simultaneously ensuring protection of the natural resources that make the area so special.

As an adaptive management plan the NRMP is, by design, a 'living document' and the cornerstone of actions that will be taken in the future. In order for its goals to be effectively met, the continued active engagement and commitment of all parties as development plans move forward will be necessary.

We are looking forward to a continued collaborative approach that has been the hallmark of this project to date.

We urge your adoption of the NRMP so that implementation can begin. The tenets in this plan will ensure the successful completion of this landmark project and effort.

Thank you for your support and please contact either of us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Laura Hunter
Chair

Allison Rolfe
Vice-Chair