

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

SAN DIEGO DISTRICT OFFICE
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W8b

6-22-0491 (UCSD Kendall-Frost Field Station and Learning Center)

December 14, 2022

CORRESPONDENCE



HEATHER J. HENTER, PH.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NATURAL RESERVE SYSTEM
TELEPHONE: (858) 534-8494
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OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH
9500 GILMAN DRIVE
MAIL CODE 0116
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92093-0116

16 March, 2022

California Coastal Commission

Attn: Stephanie Leach

Coastal Program Analyst
7575 Metropolitan Drive,
Suite 103 California Coastal Commission
San Diego, CA 92108

Honorable Commissioners and California Coastal Commission staff:

Please find enclosed several letters in support of the Coastal Development Permit application for the Kendall-Frost Marsh Field Station and Learning Center. These letters are from our city councilmember, local educators, a planning group, and non-profit organizations. Included is the ReWild Coalition, an alliance of over 60 diverse groups all of which support the education, research, and public service mission of the proposed Field Station and Learning Center.

The theme throughout all of these letters is the importance of a functioning facility at the marsh for real public access to the coast. Access includes engagement - learning about the wetlands and their important cultural and ecological role. This type of engagement is coast dependent. Students, citizens and researchers all need to experience the marsh, whether that is a young student seeing a great blue heron for the first time, a researcher collecting carbon data for the city's climate resiliency planning, or a member of the Kumeyaay Nation reconnecting with their heritage. The new building, with its classroom, work space, and accessible restroom will facilitate that engagement.

Thank you,

Heather Henter
UC San Diego NRS Executive Director
<https://nrs.ucsd.edu>



**COUNCILMEMBER JOE LACAVAL
FIRST COUNCIL DISTRICT**

March 3, 2022

California Coastal Commission
7575 Metropolitan Drive
Suite 103, California Coastal Commission
San Diego, CA 92108

Attention: Ms. Stephanie Leach, Coastal Program Analyst

Reference/Subject: Coastal Development Application, Kendall-Frost Mission Bay Marsh Reserve Field Station and Learning Center

Honorable Commissioners and California Coastal Commission staff:

On behalf of the City of San Diego's Council District 1, and soon to be councilmember of the Kendall Marsh area, I am pleased to submit this letter in support of the coastal development application for the Kendall Frost Mission Bay Marsh Reserve Field Station and Learning Center proposed by UCSD Natural Reserve System. UCSD has an incredible vision to transform an existing trailer into a state of the art educational and training facility that will be a regional and statewide asset.

The new center will be uniquely situated to facilitate cutting edge research and encourage students and residents from across the San Diego region to explore topics such as carbon sequestration, water quality, habitat restoration, and the cultural heritage of the wetlands. The existing trailer is over 50 years old and no longer meets the needs of UCSD researchers, students, or the San Diego community at large, today or looking ahead.

The new 1,440 square foot building will be the base of operations for coastal-dependent wetlands research, education, and outreach. It will house visiting researchers such as the University of Idaho scientists that spent two months last summer studying the endangered Ridgeway's rail bird species throughout coastal San Diego.

The new building will comply with current ADA and fire safety requirements. The new building will have a multipurpose room to seat at least 30 people and accommodate classes, from kindergarten to university level. Classes could include, for example, Mission Bay High School ninth graders who are focusing their project-based learning curriculum on the marsh. The building includes an outdoor deck to expand the multipurpose room and provide a spectacular

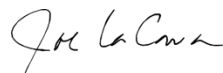
Page 2
Ms. Stephanie Leach
March 3, 2022

meeting location for community groups as they work on topics related to the marsh. The new building will be the center for organizing UCSD's annual outreach event, Love Your Wetlands Day, which attracts over 500 people every February to learn about and engage with coastal wetlands, including their rich ancestral heritage as inhabited by the Kumeyaay.

For all of these reasons, I enthusiastically support the coastal development application for the Kendall-Frost Mission Bay Marsh Reserve Field Station and Learning Center proposed by the UCSD Natural Reserve System.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe LaCava". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe LaCava

Wetland Training Institute
P. O. Box 351
Stevens Point, WI 54481-0351
9877-792-6482
www.wetlandtraining.com

March 6, 2022

California Coastal Commission
Attn: Stephanie Leach
Coastal Program Analyst
7575 Metropolitan Drive
Suite 103 California Coastal Commission
San Diego, CA 92108

Honorable Commissioners and California Coastal Commission staff:

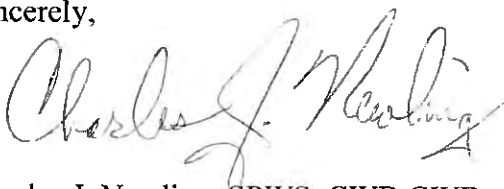
This letter is in support of a proposal by the Kendall-Frost Mission Bay Marsh Reserve, part of the University of California Natural Reserve System, to replace their onsite research field station housed in a deteriorating mobile home with a new, more efficient modular building. The new facility would be somewhat larger and placed on the same location as the mobile home which is in the least environmentally sensitive location on their property. The new field station would substantially improve conditions for those conducting environmental research at the field station and include greatly improved instructing spaces.

This facility is, indeed, a natural gem in an otherwise urban environment. In addition to the research conducted at the field station, including work benefitting rare and threatened animal and plant species, the Kendall-Frost staff have used their facility powerfully to advance public education about wetlands and the environment in general. For example, their annually hosted "Love Your Wetlands Day" provides to people of all ages interesting and inspiring information on wetland ecology. I and some of my associates have personally participated in the very event.

Thanks, to the hospitality of the Kendall-Frost staff, annually for over a decade, my organization, the Wetland Training Institute, has conducted field exercises at Kendall-Frost as part of some of our wetland related short courses. I have been one of the instructors in all of those courses. Our "students", usually a score or more of them each year, all have degrees in biology or some aspect of environmental science and work full time for consulting companies or government agencies. They all are involved in either enforcing laws and regulations governing wetlands and other water-related resources or helping people stay in compliance with those rules. Use of the Kendall-Frost facility and habitat has greatly aided in their understanding of the resources and their ability to do their jobs.

In closing, I support the effort to improve the field station at Kendall-Frost and urge you to look favorably on that endeavor.

Sincerely,



Charles J. Newling, SPWS, CWB, CWD
Senior Vice-President

CHARLES J. NEWLING, PWS, CWB
Senior Vice President



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Briggsville, WI 53920
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charlienewling@wetlandtraining.com
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Wetland Training Institute, Inc.
Business Office • P.O. Box 351 • Stevens Point, WI 54481-0351
Corporate Office • P.O. Box 1022 • Poolesville, MD 20837-1022 • (301) 972-8112



March 7, 2022

California Coastal Commission

Attn: Stephanie Leach

Coastal Program Analyst
7575 Metropolitan Drive,
Suite 103 California Coastal Commission
San Diego, CA 92108

Honorable Commissioners and California Coastal Commission staff:

The Kendall-Frost Marsh Reserve is an important asset to Pacific Beach and the wider San Diego community. As a local nonprofit advocating for sustainability and equity in Pacific Beach, we support infrastructure that can help connect our residents and visitors more closely to the marsh, and increase understanding of its critical role for the people, plants, and animals in our region.

The proposed replacement building at the marsh will provide much-needed space for learning and community activities related to our local environment and heritage. The updated building will provide new opportunities for hand-on learning for young people in Pacific Beach, facilitate local events that promote environmental appreciation, and allow access for people of all ages and abilities to the marsh area.

We look forward to having this new space available in Pacific Beach, and encourage your commission to approve this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Katie Matchett'.

Katie Matchett
President, beautifulPB



March 9, 2022

SUBJECT: Support for Kendall-Frost Mission Bay Marsh Reserve Field Station and Learning Center

Dear Commission Staff,

I am writing to express the Coastal Conservancy's support for the replacement of the old trailer at the Kendall-Frost Marsh Reserve (Reserve) with a new modular building, the Kendall-Frost Mission Bay Marsh Reserve Field Station and Learning Center. The current trailer, which is over 50 years old, no longer meets the needs of our researchers, students, or public.

The Conservancy supports the Reserve's mission of facilitating research and community access, education and stewardship. The Conservancy has provided funds to support stewardship and habitat enhancement projects at the Reserve. The Reserve plays an important role in research, education, and outreach, and has been an invaluable partner in restoration planning as well. However, its programming is limited by the condition of the aging trailer that serves as its base of operations on site. The new building will greatly enhance the Reserve's ability to support important programming that will be enjoyed by multiple communities. It will house visiting researchers such as the University of Idaho scientists that spent 2 months last summer studying the endangered Ridgeway's rails throughout coastal San Diego. The new building will have a multipurpose room that seats at least 30 people and thus will accommodate classes, from kindergarten to university. This includes the Mission Bay High School 9th graders that are focusing their project-based learning curriculum on the marsh. The deck which expands out from the multipurpose room will be a spectacular location for community groups to meet as they work on topics related to the marsh. The new building will be the center for organizing our annual outreach event, Love Your Wetlands Day, which attracts over 500 people every February to learn about and engage with coastal wetlands. For example, at Love Your Wetlands Day 2022 Kumeyaay leaders that are working to reconnect Native Americans with the coast recruited community volunteers to repair traditional Kumeyaay tule boats. In sum, a functional building will not only facilitate cutting edge research but it will also encourage the participation of students and citizens alike in topics such as carbon sequestration, water quality, habitat restoration, and the cultural heritage of the wetlands. The new building will comply with current ADA and fire safety requirements. For all of these reasons, the new Field Station and Learning Center will increase public access to the coast.

1515 Clay St, 10th Floor
Oakland, California 94612-1401

510-286-1015 Fax: 510-286-0470

Thanks for your consideration of the Reserve's application.

Sincerely,

Amy Hutzel
Amy Hutzel
Executive Officer

1515 Clay St, 10th Floor
Oakland, California 94612-1401
510-286-1015 *Fax:* 510-286-0470



Eric Brown, Echo Jacoway
Principal, Science Teacher / Department Chair
P - 858-532-0536
ebrown3@sandi.net / ejacoway@sandi.net

March 9, 2022

California Coastal Commission
Attn: Stephanie Leach
Coastal Program Analysis
7575 Metropolitan Dr.
Ste 103, California Coastal Commission
San Diego, CA 92108

Honorable Commissioners and California Coastal Commission Staff:

Mission Bay High School would benefit greatly from the construction of a new Field Station and Learning Center facility at Kendall Frost Salt Marsh. Our interactions with UCSD and the Kendall Frost Salt Marsh are a partnership that benefits the majority of students from our school at different times during their 4 years. Currently all of our 9th graders focus on the marsh for an interdisciplinary project, with juniors and seniors building off of those experiences. We hope to develop this further for our upperclassmen, with opportunities to be community leaders and stewards of this important ecosystem and essential part of our community. Having a facility on site to access would be such a service to these endeavors. Therefore we fully support the new building of the field station and learning center, and sincerely hope that you approve their proposal, thus supporting the future leaders of San Diego, Mission Bay High School students and all others that would be able to use this facility.

Mission Bay High School sits in a unique location in San Diego, with Rose Creek running along its east side and Mission Bay being only a short distance away. Our ability to use that environment in our different classes as a valuable resource and teaching tool helps our students build a stronger understanding of their role in this community's ecology and of our world's climate. Being able to walk to and access the Kendall Frost Salt Marsh provides students with opportunities to interact with an intact ecosystem that plays such a vital role in our Earth's balance. Here students are able to do different types of fieldwork; from conducting experiments about water and soil quality to observing ecological interactions. They also learn to be environmental community stewards, gaining the knowledge necessary to share about the importance of this area to the locals, the city and beyond. Students build confidence in their

understanding and take on leadership roles, presenting their work at community days like Love Your Wetlands Day. These experiences are building our future generation, as these activities provide experiences outside of traditional school and incorporate the kids into a much larger community. The addition of an onsite field research and learning center would be a major enhancement to all of these activities and experiences for our students, and thus for the larger community. Thank you for supporting this opportunity and moving forward with confidence that such a facility will be very beneficial to many people, including the students of Mission Bay High School.

Sincerely,

Dr. Eric, Brown

Echo Jacoway

Principal
Mission Bay High School

Science teacher and department head
Mission Bay High School



March 9th, 2022

**California Coastal Commission
Attn: Stephanie Leach
Coastal Program Analyst
7575 Metropolitan Drive,
Suite 103 California Coastal Commission
San Diego, CA 92108**

Dear Honorable Commissioners and California Coastal Commission staff,

The ReWild Coalition, a driving force for wetland restoration in the northeast corner of Mission Bay Regional Park, supports the new Kendall-Frost Mission Bay Marsh Reserve Field Station and Learning Center. This Center will replace the old trailer that can't meet the needs of Bay visitors and scientists, and we're confident the Center will continue to be the beating heart of wetland research and restoration efforts in Mission Bay for decades to come. The new Center will improve the public's connection to the Marsh and our knowledge of the value and restoration potential of the Bay. Importantly, the new Center includes community and classroom space, an amenity that doesn't exist now but is needed to build and keep our connection to this last remnant of wetland habitat in Mission Bay. We also note that the new building will comply with current ADA and fire safety requirements, an important improvement over the old structure.

The ReWild Coalition began in the summer of 2019, advocating for substantial wetland restoration in the northeast corner of Mission Bay Regional Park that was demonstrated to be feasible in the San Diego Audubon's ReWild Mission Bay Feasibility Study. In the subsequent two and half years, the ReWild Coalition has advocated for Wildest wetland restoration as the best option for our public park because of its water quality improvement, sea level rise resilience, and reconnection opportunities for humans, and we have galvanized 66 organizations and thousands of community supporters to help steer the City towards a more sustainable plan for Mission Bay. Often in partnership with the UCSD Natural Reserve System, we have invested in the Park by supporting research into carbon sequestration and the economic costs of sea level rise, connecting with schools and inspiring students, surveying endangered species, and celebrating the marsh through community events.



Thank you for the opportunity to support this project, and the member organizations of the ReWild Coalition are excited to see this improved Center up and running, restoring our connections to the park.

Sincerely,

ReWild Mission Bay Coalition Members

AAP-CA3 American Academy of Pediatrics: San Diego and Imperial Counties
AFT Guild Local 1931
American Bird Conservancy
Aqua Adventures
Audubon California
Beautiful P.B.
Bike S.D.
Buena Vista Audubon Society
California Native Plant Society
Casa Tamarindo
Center for Local Government Accountability
Citizens Coordinate for Century III (C3)
Clean Earth 4 Kids
Climate Action Campaign
The Climate Reality Project San Diego
Coastal Policy Solutions
Coffee Cycle
Community Congregational Church of Pacific Beach
Corona Enterprises
Endangered Habitats League
Environmental Center of San Diego
Environmental Health Coalition (EHC)
Friends of Famosa Slough
Friends of Mission Bay Marshes
Friends of Rose Canyon
Friends of Rose Creek
Indian Equity and Education Fund
Islamic Center of San Diego (ICSD)
Kai Pono Solutions
Latino Outdoors
Law Office of Michelle A. Gastil
McCullough Planning and Design

Mission Bay Fly Fishing Company
Montgomery-Gibbs Environmental Coalition
Native Like Water
The Ocean Foundation
Outdoor Outreach
Renaissance
Rose Creek Watershed Alliance
St. Andrew's by the Sea Episcopal Church
San Diego 350
San Diego Audubon Society
San Diego Canyonlands
San Diego Children and Nature
San Diego City College Audubon Club
San Diego City College SACNAS Chapter
San Diego Coastkeeper
San Diego County Democrats for Environmental Action
San Diego Democrats for Equality
San Diego EarthWorks
San Diego Green New Deal Alliance
San Diego Pediatricians for Clean Air
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Save Our Access
Sierra Club San Diego Chapter
Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association (SWIA)
Stay Cool for Grandkids
Strong Hearted Native Women's Coalition Inc.
St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church
Surfrider San Diego
Sustainability Matters
Unite Here! Local 30
Urban Corps San Diego County
Waste for Life
WILD Coast

Fostering the protection and appreciation



of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats...

March 16th, 2022

**California Coastal Commission
Attn: Stephanie Leach
Coastal Program Analyst
7575 Metropolitan Drive,
Suite 103 California Coastal Commission
San Diego, CA 92108**

Dear Honorable Commissioners and California Coastal Commission staff,

The San Diego Audubon Society enthusiastically supports the new Kendall-Frost Mission Bay Marsh Reserve Field Station and Learning Center. As one of the leading organizations working to conserve, restore, and connect people to Mission Bay, we know that this Center is greatly needed and will be much-loved. San Diego Audubon is a non-profit organization with a mission to foster the protection and appreciation of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats, through education and study, and to advocate for a cleaner, healthier environment. We have been conserving, restoring, managing, and advocating for wildlife and their habitat in the San Diego region since 1948.

This Center will replace the old trailer that can't meet the needs of visitors, students, and scientists, and we're confident the Center will continue to be at the forefront of wetland research and restoration efforts in Mission Bay for decades to come. The Center will improve the public's connection to the Marsh and knowledge of the value and restoration potential of the Bay. Importantly, the new Center includes community and classroom space, an amenity that doesn't exist now and is needed to build and keep a connection to this last remnant of wetland habitat in Mission Bay. We also note that the new building will comply with current ADA and fire safety requirements, a critical improvement.

San Diego Audubon grows the ReWild Coalition, advocating for substantial wetland restoration in the northeast corner of Mission Bay Regional Park. In partnership with the UCSD Natural Reserve System, we have supported carbon sequestration research and the economic costs of sea level rise, inspired students, surveyed endangered species, and celebrated the marsh through community events. We are excited to continue this critical work together and the new Center surely magnifying our impact.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this project.

Sincerely,

Travis Kemnitz
Executive Director
San Diego Audubon Society



**California Coastal Commission
Attn: Stephanie Leach
Coastal Program Analyst
7575 Metropolitan Drive,
Suite 103 California Coastal Commission
San Diego, CA 92108**

Honorable Commissioners and California Coastal Commission staff,

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of UC San Diego Natural Reserve System's proposal for a new modular building, the Kendall-Frost Mission Bay Marsh Reserve Field Station and Learning Center.

The Kendall-Frost Mission Bay Marsh Reserve protects a valuable remnant of coastal salt marsh habitats once common throughout Southern California estuaries. This reserve is remarkably productive, providing rich intertidal habitats, each with its own spectrum of vegetation and invertebrates. Currently, the UC San Diego Natural Reserve System uses a trailer that is over 50 years old to accommodate their outreach and environmental research needs. This trailer no longer meets the needs of researchers, students, or the public at the reserve.

A new building is incredibly important to properly support operations for coastal-dependent wetlands research, education, and outreach. The new building will accommodate classes, from kindergarten to university and encourage the participation of students and citizens alike in topics such as carbon sequestration, water quality, habitat restoration, increase public access to the coast, and the cultural heritage of the wetlands. For all of these reasons, please consider supporting this application and its mission to improve knowledge and access to the Kendall-Frost Mission Bay Marsh Reserve.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachele Lopez".

Rachele Lopez
Science Program Manager
San Diego Coastkeeper

FW: SUPPORT: Application No. 6-22-0491 (UCSD Kendall-Frost Field Station and Learning Center, San Diego)

SanDiegoCoast@Coastal <SanDiegoCoast@coastal.ca.gov>

Mon 12/12/2022 2:50 PM

To: Leach, Stephanie@Coastal <stephanie.leach@coastal.ca.gov>

Hi Steph, please see below for a public comment regarding 6-22-0491.

Thank you,
Isabel

From: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal <ExecutiveStaff@coastal.ca.gov>

Sent: Monday, December 12, 2022 2:48 PM

To: SanDiegoCoast@Coastal <SanDiegoCoast@coastal.ca.gov>

Subject: FW: SUPPORT: Application No. 6-22-0491 (UCSD Kendall-Frost Field Station and Learning Center, San Diego)

From: Friends of Rose Creek <info@saverosecreek.org>

Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 9:19 AM

To: ExecutiveStaff@Coastal <ExecutiveStaff@coastal.ca.gov>

Subject: SUPPORT: Application No. 6-22-0491 (UCSD Kendall-Frost Field Station and Learning Center, San Diego)

Dear Coastal Commission,

The Friends of Rose Creek would like to encourage the Coastal Commission to approve this item. Rose Creek is the largest source of fresh water inflows to the north east corner of Mission Bay and historically fed into what is now called Kendall-Frost Marsh.

We highly value our partnership with the reserve and believe that the new structure will more effectively meet current and future educational, research, and community needs of the Reserve and other wetlands in the area as well as the engaging students from the local high school

Warmly,

Karin Zirk, Ph.D. (she/her/hers)

Executive Director

Friends of Rose Creek

***** Connecting Our Communities *****

<https://SaveRoseCreek.org>