



RECEIVED
2014 DEC -8 PM 12:54
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

November 24, 2014

The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Donovan,

As you prepare the President's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and the Interior, I urge you to include eight items that are of critical importance to the Nation and to the State of California:

1. San Francisco Bay Restoration

This program funds the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) competitive grants for local governments and non-profit organizations working to restore the San Francisco Bay. Projects to date have focused on improvements to city storm water systems, controlling agricultural runoff, and removing PCBs and mercury from Bay Area watersheds. All grant funding is matched by the local sponsors. I ask that you request at least \$5.8 million for the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary Program in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Budget.

2. U.S.-Mexico Border Cleanup

Since 1983, the United States and Mexico have worked together to address environmental issues along the border. Projects include cleanup efforts in the Tijuana River Valley and the New River in Imperial County, as well as construction of new water treatment plants in Mexico to reduce wastewater runoff to the U.S. The program also addresses the border region's poor air quality and improper management of hazardous and solid wastes. Funding for this program has been declining steadily over the last 10 years. Therefore, I ask that you request at least \$10 million in the FY 2016 Budget in order to improve EPA's response to this border region's serious environmental issues.

3. Cooperative Endangered Species Grants

These grants assist States and Territories in building partnerships that achieve meaningful on-the-ground conservation. Land acquisition grants address land-based threats by funding land purchases to prevent land use changes that impair or destroy key habitat values. Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance grants assist in abating threats by protecting habitat and preventing the decline of sensitive species. This action often precludes the need for listing a species under the Endangered Species Act. I ask that you request at least \$50 million for Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Grants in the FY 2016 Budget.

4. Diesel Emissions Reduction Act Grants

The Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Grant program provides funding to finance installation of retrofits on existing heavy-duty diesel vehicles and engines, thereby reducing harmful emissions by as much as 90 percent. In 2010, both the Senate and House unanimously agreed to reauthorize DERA for five more years at \$100 million per year, and this bipartisan program is one of the most successful voluntary clean air programs to date. It is also widely supported by industry, government, non-profit, and labor groups. Therefore, I ask that you request at least \$20 million for DERA grants in the FY 2016 Budget.

5. Clean Water/Drinking Water State Revolving Funds

These two programs finance infrastructure improvements for public wastewater and drinking water systems as well as projects to improve water quality. The Funds are the largest source of federal funds for states to provide loans and other forms of assistance for constructing wastewater treatment facilities, implementing nonpoint source management plans, and developing and implementing estuary conservation and management plans. I ask that you request a total of at least \$2.36 billion in the FY 2016 Budget for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.

6. Beaches Protection Grants

The Beach Grant Program is a collaborative effort between the EPA and states, territories, local governments, and tribes to help ensure that recreational waters do not pose a public health risk. The FY 2015 Budget's proposed elimination of this program would severely weaken California's ability to safeguard public health and safety along its 840 miles of coastline. Therefore, I ask that you request at least \$9.5 million for Beaches Protection Grants in the FY 2016 Budget.

7. California Condor Recovery

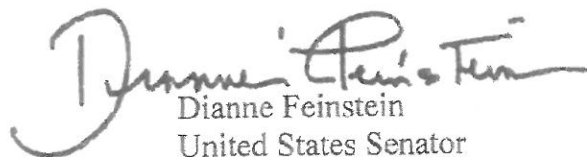
For more than 30 years, nonprofit wildlife conservation organizations have worked with the Fish and Wildlife Service to restore California condor populations from a low point of only 22 birds to 412 birds today. However, these nonprofits have absorbed a disproportionate and unsustainable share of the costs, jeopardizing the program and the continued recovery of the species. I ask that you request at least \$3.3 million in the FY 2016 Budget for the Service to continue the public-private partnership for the recovery of the California condor.

8. Post-Fire Restoration

Currently, Forest Service funds available for post-fire restoration are limited to a small share of the revenue brought in by salvage contracts. As a result, these funds are often insufficient to meet all of the costs of reforestation. Given this continued shortfall, I ask that the FY 2016 Budget include specific line-item funding for post-fire restoration, which is essential to mitigating future wildfire threats and provides benefits for watersheds, wildlife, and forest health.

Thank you for considering my requests. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Josh Esquivel in my Office at joshua_esquivel@feinstein.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture

DF/je

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Dianne Feinstein
U.S.S.

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RECEIVED DEC 08 2010

SINGLP