



City of Albany

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June 29, 2011

Bart Prose
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Pacific Southwest Region (R8)
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-1729
Sacramento, CA 95825

Re: Support for Coastal Conservancy's & Bay Area Early Detection Network's proposal to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant

The City of Albany strongly supports funding from the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant to the California Coastal Conservancy's and the Bay Area Early Detection Network (BAEDN)'s project to eradicate invasive Algerian sea lavender (*Limonium ramosissimum*) from San Francisco Bay wetlands, and to initiate eradication for other emerging threats such as seaside alkali grass (*Puccinellia maritima*). Spread and establishment of these species threatens San Francisco Bay wetlands and biodiversity. Currently occurring in limited quantity and distribution, the time to take action is now, when the chance of success is highest, the cost is lowest, and the most ecosystem damage down the road can be pre-empted through early detection and eradication.

The City of Albany owns waterfront land along the San Francisco Bay on which Algerian sea lavender has been detected. Without early detection, and efforts toward eradication, invasive species can soon overtake native plant materials that are important to the health of the Albany waterfront and overall ecosystem. The City supports this grant proposal and appreciates the value it would have over the 5 year grant cycle (2012-2016).

We have a great opportunity to succeed on eradication of these threatening species. Acting now is critical for San Francisco Bay and we urge you to support this timely and important project to protect San Francisco Bay.

Sincerely,

Ann Chaney
Community Development Director

The City of Albany is dedicated to maintaining its small town ambience, responding to the needs of a diverse community, and providing a safe, healthy and sustainable environment.



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