



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ELECTED OFFICIALS, ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS OPPOSE DEVELOPMENT ON SAN FRANCISCO BAY SALT PONDS

Joint Statement Asks Redwood City Council to Support Restoration of Site to Wetlands

REDWOOD CITY, CA – August 20, 2019 – More than 60 elected officials and community organizations from the Peninsula and throughout the Bay Area today urged the City Council of Redwood City to reject proposals for development on Redwood City salt ponds.

Their joint statement declares, “We don’t build on San Francisco Bay,” and was prompted by Cargill Salt Co. and luxury home developer DMB Associates renewing efforts to build on Bay salt ponds – where massive public opposition stopped their 12,000-home project in 2012.

“We’re taking bold action to prepare our communities for the impacts of climate change, but building on these wetlands would be a giant step backward,” said San Mateo County Supervisor Dave Pine who also chairs the SF Bay Restoration Authority. “There is too much at stake – building here will put people at risk, destroy fish and wildlife habitat and make traffic congestion on the Peninsula even worse.”

The statement’s signers include Members of Congress, San Mateo County supervisors, and the mayors of San Francisco, San Jose, Menlo Park, Atherton, Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and Woodside. Organizations signing the statement include regional chapters of the Sierra Club, Audubon Society, and Clean Water Action, as well as Redwood City Neighbors United, Committee for Green Foothills and Save The Bay.

“Climate change is one of the most serious issues facing our planet and my Congressional District,” said U.S. Representative Anna G. Eshoo. “Redwood City’s zoning wisely forbids building on the salt ponds. We must do more to build resilience against climate change, not support developments in areas facing the risk of massive flooding due to sea level rise.”

Scientists warn tens of thousands more acres of wetlands must be restored in the next decade to ensure a healthy Bay, before climate change raises sea levels.

“We need to build Bay Smart Communities that put housing near existing transit hubs to support resilient, diverse and equitable communities,” said David Lewis, Save The Bay’s executive director. “On the Bay shoreline, we need to restore more wetlands to protect people and wildlife from rising tides.”

Community groups and organizations are once again coming together and opposing any plans to build on the salt ponds. The urgency of preventing a massive development on the salt ponds has only increased since 2012, as flooding related to sea level rise and king tides has become more severe.

“Redwood City residents don’t want our city’s future growth to occur on a restorable wetland out in the Bay, where it will make traffic gridlock worse and be vulnerable to earthquakes and rising seas,” said Dan Ponti, steering committee member at Redwood City Neighbors United. “The salt ponds have been designated as open space for years, and they should stay that way.”

Redwood City Mayor Ian Bain has said he does not want to see the salt ponds re-zoned for housing and prefers to see Cargill donate or sell the ponds for wetlands restoration.

For more information and historic background, please visit: savesfbay.org/dont-pave-the-bay.

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SAVE THE BAY

About Save The Bay

Save The Bay is the voice of the Bay. For almost 60 years, the organization has mobilized residents to protect and restore San Francisco Bay for people and wildlife. Save The Bay restores wetlands and battles climate threats to improve the health and safety of our communities and wildlife. Each year, 5,000 volunteers help us transplant and install 40,000 plants and remove 58,000 pounds of weeds and trash from shorelines. We promote Bay Smart Communities to ensure that regional growth benefits the Bay and supports diverse and equitable communities. Our education program brings 2,000 students to the shoreline to help them gain a deeper understanding of San Francisco Bay, local wetlands and our relationship to them. www.saveSFbay.org

About Redwood City Neighbors United

Redwood City Neighbors United is a grassroots advocacy group that formed in 2011 over concerns that the Cargill and DMB plans for development on the salt ponds would have serious implications for Redwood City residents and the environment. RCNU believes in growing Redwood City within its downtown core and along transit corridors and not sprawling into open space. With our growing understanding of the implications of sea level rise on our community, RCNU believes more than ever that the salt ponds are not a suitable place for housing or businesses. www.rcnu.org

About the Committee for Green Foothills

The Committee for Green Foothills was founded in 1962 and has been working ever since to protect open space and natural resources in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, including the San Francisco Bay. We envision a region where wildlife thrive, everyone has natural beauty to enjoy, and communities live in balance with nature. www.greenfoothills.org

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