



**Buena Vista Audubon Society**  
**PO Box 480**  
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House Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 14, 2022

**SUBJECT: Resilient Coasts and Estuaries Act**

Dear Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Buena Vista Audubon Society (BVAS) to express our support for the Resilient Coasts and Estuaries Act being heard before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife on June 16, 2022.

BVAS is an independent non-profit conservation organization, a chartered chapter of the National Audubon Society, with membership of over 1,400 households in coastal San Diego County in California. We have operated the Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center on the north shore of the Buena Vista Lagoon Ecological Reserve since its opening in 1987 and recently assumed title to lagoon property just west of the nature center. Our primary mission has been the preservation and enhancement of the lagoon and its wildlife. We also focus on nature education through our programs, displays, and guided nature walks at the lagoon and other locations throughout the county. Therefore, the BVAS Board and membership have a keen interest in any program with funding sources for the enhancement of California's valuable and threatened coastal wetlands.

Our members and other coastal residents have for a long time been aware of the continuing loss and serious decline of lagoons and estuaries impacted from surrounding development, as well as threats to coastal wetlands from climate change. BVAS has an ongoing program of advocacy for restoration of the Buena Vista Lagoon Ecological Reserve, our own property located on the lagoon, and the chain of lagoons and estuaries on the Pacific Coast Flyway in California. We believe there is a compelling need for the allocation of resources for preservation of coastal wetlands.

We support the Resilient Coasts and Estuaries Act because it will strengthen efforts to protect these sensitive habitats. The bill reauthorizes funding for the Coastal and

Estuarine Land Conservation Program at \$60 million per year through 2026, which will provide crucial resources for conservation of lagoons and estuaries and will address wetland impacts from climate change. The bill also directs the Secretary of Commerce to designate at least five new National Estuarine Research Reserves, and would increase the authorization for the program to \$47 million to account for the increased number of reserves. These measures will further advance natural resource conservation, an effort that is vital for wildlife and the quality of life for coastal residents and visitors.

Thank you for considering our views on this matter.

Sincerely,

Curt Busk, President  
Buena Vista Audubon Society