

**Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter Public Position**  
**Adopted March 2008**



**Resolution on the Cargill Industrial Saltworks  
in Redwood City**

WHEREAS, More than 90 percent of California's original wetlands have been destroyed by diking, draining, and filling and many remaining wetlands are threatened,

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Bay Area has lost nearly 95 percent of its historic tidal and riparian wetlands due to urban development, agricultural conversion, and salt production, and scientists estimate that a minimum of 100,000 acres must be restored to tidal marsh to keep the San Francisco Estuary vital and self-sustaining,

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Bay is one of the most important wintering habitat and breeding grounds for millions of North American waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors and songbirds that migrate along the Pacific Flyway during their spring and autumn migrations,

Whereas, Complete restoration of the Cargill Industrial Saltworks Redwood City Salt Ponds ("CISW") will create and extend a vital combination of habitats for a variety of wildlife, including endangered species, necessary to maintain the complex ecosystem of the Bay,

WHEREAS, Wetlands protect downstream waters by filtering out or transforming naturally occurring and man made pollutants such as the fertilizers, pesticides, automobile pollutants and sediment found in treated wastewater effluent and storm water runoff,

WHEREAS, Wetlands reduce the effects of flooding and prevent shoreline erosion by providing water storage within the floodplain area, slowing water velocities, reducing peak flows, and increasing flow duration,

WHEREAS, Local and state agencies project a climate-change-related SF Bay sea-level rise that would inundate CISW, thus shifting to the taxpayer the cost of construction of levees or other mitigation measures to protect the development,

WHEREAS, Complete restoration of the CISW provides an opportunity for recreation and ecotourism while furthering much-needed education and appreciation of the Bay's ecosystem and beauty,

WHEREAS, A sustainable development policy for the environmentally sensitive edge of Redwood City with San Francisco Bay is not served by building on existing open space in favor of residential and public recreational development, creating multiple negative environmental impacts of urban development including the heat island effect from homes, streets and paving, noise and traffic pollution, and other unavoidable negative development impacts on the adjacent sensitive ecology of the Bay,

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WHEREAS, Redwood City's housing needs should preferably be provided in areas with existing infrastructure of utilities, roads, public transit and needed supporting amenities rather than by filling in the Bay, and by modifying existing planning policies and incentives to encourage greater density and housing development along existing transit corridors,

WHEREAS, The greater need of the Redwood City and surrounding communities both on an environmental and cultural basis would be better served by restoring the tidal wetlands on the bayshore in order to protect, cleanse and beautify the baylands for limited recreational and ascetic purposes, and to insure public access to a vital part of California's goldmine of natural habitat,

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Sierra Club supports full and complete restoration of the Cargill Industrial Saltworks Redwood City property to tidal wetlands.**

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