



## REGION 9

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105

January 16, 2025

Melodie Grubbs  
Executive Director  
Morro Bay National Estuary Project  
601 Embarcadero  
Morro Bay, California

RE: EPA Approval of the Morro Bay National Estuary Program Habitat Protection and Restoration Strategy, December 2024

Dear Melodie Grubbs:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hereby approves the Morro Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) Habitat Protection and Restoration Strategy (the Habitat Strategy). The Habitat Strategy is the remaining component of the MBNEP's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) and fulfills EPA's FY21-24 NEP Funding Guidance requirements. It also meets the intent of the 2021 Protect and Restore America's Estuaries (PRAE) Act by discussing recurring extreme weather events and climate change effects on the estuary and proposed adaptation strategies.

EPA acknowledges the Habitat Strategy's focus on measurable objectives and targets; alignment of 2022 CCMP Action Plans, protection and restoration efforts, and climate stressors; and overall status and health of habitats and key species within the Morro Bay watershed.

EPA looks forward to our continued partnership and appreciates the impactful efforts of the MBNEP to protect and restore the Morro Bay estuary and watershed.

Sincerely,

Tomás Torres, Director  
Water Division