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SAN FRANCISCO BAY CONSERVATION
& DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Larry Goldzband, Executive Director
Bay Conservation and Development Commission
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 10600
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mr. Goldzband:

Thanks so much for inviting my mother, Sylvia McLaughlin, to say a few words at the celebration for the enactment of the McAteer-Petris Act establishing BCDC September 17, 1965. My mother is thrilled at BCDC's sustained commitment to providing Bay access, open space, and views for the millions of people living in the region ringing San Francisco Bay, a task made complicated by BCDC's concern for balancing the needs of multiple interests, a concern implied in the commission's very name: Bay Conservation *and* Development Commission.

From the beginning, confronted with a hotchpotch of disastrous municipal plans for Bay development, she and her fellow volunteers had a vision of a regional planning agency that would regulate shoreline development in a way compatible with Save the Bay's mission to preserve and protect what was left of the shoreline and to enhance public access to the water and recreational opportunities along the shore. They sponsored letter-writing campaigns, held countless meetings (manually-typed minutes carbon-copied), had fliers printed and mailed, and became familiar faces at city councils, county boards of supervisors, ABAG, and state committees, working closely with Senator McAteer and Assemblyman Petris. My mother, a self-described shy person, spoke out frequently, not only at public meetings, but also in front of any audience she could gather in order to garner support for the McAteer-Petris Act. All this while taking her other role as a corporate and Regent's wife during the FSM and its aftermath, as seriously as saving the bay. She kept her two roles separate, using the proper "Mrs. Donald H. McLaughlin" for the first and the then unconventional "Sylvia C. McLaughlin" for the second, so as not to embarrass her husband.

At times racing thoughts kept her awake, thoughts of the hundreds of things she believed she should have done days or weeks earlier, not to mention things piling up on her to-do list. At such times encouraging rhymes popped into her head to buck her up. One of them, written in May of 1965, has a verse that my brother and I can still quote whenever we see certain names in public places:

"Keep on battling, keep up the fight
Speak up at hearings and write, write, write
Start at the top and work your way down
From L.B.J. to Governor Brown, McAteer, Knox, Z'berg and Crown"

Over the past fifty years, from its planning stages to the present, BCDC has weathered challenges, survived, and flourished. My mother sends her heartfelt congratulations for fifty years of enlightened development and is confident you will be able to meet climate change's threats to all life, including human life, in and around the Bay.

Hooray for BCDC!

With all best wishes,

Jeanie McLaughlin Shaterian