

# The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Partnership

## *Building Collaborative Action for Shorebird Conservation*

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Dr. Rob Clay  
Director, WHSRN Executive Office  
rclay@manomet.org

Dear Dr. Clay,

The WHSRN-USA Committee of the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Partnership Council has reviewed the site modification request for elevation of the status of Humboldt Bay, currently a site of international importance, and supports the upgrade to a site of hemispheric importance.

The upgrade in status is due primarily to recent (2018) counts of Western Sandpipers at the site. Although we were concerned about the somewhat arbitrary use of dates of the ancillary data collected in Arcata Bay to justify the elevated status, we also looked at average counts of Western Sandpipers at four-day interval and obtained a result that close to the midpoint of the estimate provided on the nomination form and in the paper (450,000 individuals versus 425,000). Adding in the summed or maximum counts for other species (about 85,000 individuals), the site does cross the threshold of supporting  $\geq 500,000$  shorebirds.

We realize the upgrade in status is only based on one year of data, but it does indicate the potential for the site to support migrating Western Sandpipers and updates the original nomination data gathered in the 1990s. Therefore, we recommend that the WHSRN Executive Office accept the modification request from Humboldt Bay.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Penner II  
Chair, WHSRN-USA Committee  
The Nature Conservancy

cc: Brian Smith  
Brad Andres  
Laura Chamberlin