

EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support

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Assembly
California Legislature

FRAN PAVLEY
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, FORTY-FIRST DISTRICT

CHAIR, BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
ON RESOURCES (NO. 3)

COMMITTEE MEMBER:
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ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS,
TOURISM & INTERNET MEDIA
BUDGET
EDUCATION
ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND
TOXIC MATERIALS
NATURAL RESOURCES
WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE

January 28, 2004

Paul Morabito, Chairman and Members of the Board
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

**Re: Ventura River Parkway Confluence Property Acquisition
SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Morabito and Board Members:

I am writing to lend my support to the disbursement of funds to the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy (OVLAC) for the acquisition of the Ventura River Parkway Confluence property, and for preparation of a management and restoration plan for the property and the adjoining public lands. This is an important acquisition for a number of reasons:

- The Confluence Property will protect the confluence of the two most important riparian corridors in the valley—the Ventura River and the San Antonio Creek;
- It encompasses the best remaining example of old growth cottonwood/sycamore forest on the Ventura River;
- It will preserve and provide opportunities to restore critical areas of the river for the benefit of migrating steelhead trout and Least Bell's Vireo;
- The property is adjacent to other public lands encompassing two miles of the river and an important part of the ecological "puzzle";
- The property is highly visible from Highway 33 and the popular Ojai Valley Bicycle and Bridal Path.

I am confident that if this acquisition is funded it will serve to preserve a key scenic open space area as well as preserve riparian forest and wetlands and critical habitat. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



FRAN PAVLEY
Assemblymember, 41st District

FP:mms



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EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support

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Assembly
California Legislature

HANNAH-BETH JACKSON
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-FIFTH DISTRICT
CHAIR, NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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SELECT COMMITTEES
CHAIR, COASTAL PROTECTION
CO-CHAIR, TITLE IX
STATE BOARDS
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD



January 14, 2004

Paul Morabito
Chair, California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway Ave., Ste. 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
Fax: 510-286-3840

RE: Ojai Valley Land Conservancy grant for Ventura River Parkway confluence property acquisition

Dear Mr. Morabito:

I am writing in support of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's request for a \$450,000 grant, to be used toward the purchase of 14 acres of land and a conservation easement for an additional 16 acres on the portion of the Ventura River that meets the mouth of San Antonio Creek.

This acquisition by the Ojai conservancy is a key part of a broader plan to preserve and protect a significant portion of the middle Ventura River, one of the last free-flowing rivers in Southern California. Because these riparian corridors have water running through them year-round, they are the most important in the Ventura River watershed. Their purchase also fits in with other projects funded by the Coastal Conservancy along the Ventura River aimed at restoring southern Steelhead Trout to its natural habitat, including the Robles Diversion fish ladder and the proposed removal of the Mat lija Dam.

The two parcels in question, while small, are adjacent to government-owned lands that will combine to protect a total of two miles along the 16-mile river, along with the three miles of river that the conservancy already helped purchase upstream. The Ojai conservancy plans to work with agencies to develop a cooperative management plan for these lands that will focus on both restoring habitat and providing recreational opportunities. The land provides a unique opportunity for recreation, as it straddles and is visible from both Highway 33 and the scenic Ojai Valley bike path and horse trail.

I believe this project would be a great boost to efforts to restore and protect the Ventura River, and again, I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Hannah-Beth Jackson
Assemblymember, 35th District
Chair, Natural Resources Committee

HBJ:jcr
R2

Cc: Jim Engel, Ojai Valley Land Conservancy
Peter Brand, project manager



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