

EXHIBIT 8: Letters of Support

LOIS CAPPS
23RD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

1707 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0522
(202) 225-3601

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET



Congress of the United States House of Representatives June 10, 2004

- DISTRICT OFFICES:
- 1411 MARSH STREET, SUITE 205
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401
(805) 546-8348
 - 1216 STATE STREET, SUITE 403
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101
(805) 730-1710
 - 141 SOUTH A STREET, SUITE 204
OXNARD, CA 93030
(805) 385-3440

Paul Morabito
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Morabito:

I am writing to express my support for the Coastal Conservancy staff recommendation to authorize disbursement of up to \$4,000,000 to the City of Goleta for the acquisition of the Ellwood Mesa property in my Congressional district.

The Ellwood Mesa property consists of 137 acres of undeveloped oceanfront property within the City of Goleta in Santa Barbara County. It is currently zoned for up to 162 units of residential development and has been threatened by a series of development proposals in recent years. The property holds tremendous natural resource, open space, and recreational values, and it is extremely important that we make a commitment to preserving it for future generations to enjoy.

In addition to the importance of the Ellwood Mesa property to the Santa Barbara community and the state as a whole, the property holds national significance because of its location at the eastern end of scenic Gaviota Coast, which is one of the last undeveloped stretches of coastline in Southern California. During my years in Congress, one of my central focuses has been working to ensure long-term protection and preservation of agriculture and open space on the Gaviota Coast. In 1998, I secured funding for a National Park Service study to examine the resources and values of this region and to explore a range of preservation options for the coast. This study was completed early this year and stated that the Gaviota Coast is considered nationally significant and worthy of increased protection.

With that finding in mind, I have been extremely encouraged to see the commitment of the community, the Trust for Public Land, and various levels of government to ensuring permanent protection to the "Gateway to Gaviota Coast" at Ellwood Mesa. In raising the funds required for this acquisition there has been significant support through private donations, county funding, and funding from the State Wildlife Conservation Board. Recently I was happy to assist in these efforts by securing a federal appropriations earmark of \$800,000 in the 2004 fiscal year for this acquisition. I believe Coastal Conservancy funding would be another major step towards achieving the goal of capitalizing on this unique opportunity to preserve the natural habitat and recreational opportunities on the Ellwood Mesa.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

LOIS CAPPS
Member of Congress
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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

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STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0035
(916) 319-2035
FAX (916) 319-2135

DISTRICT OFFICES
101 W. ANAPAMU STREET, SUITE A
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101
(805) 564-1649
FAX (805) 564-1651
701 E. SANTA CLARA STREET, SUITE 25
VENTURA, CA 93001
(805) 648-9943
FAX (805) 648-9946

Assembly California Legislature

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

COMMITTEES
BUDGET
HIGHER EDUCATION
JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND THE ECONOMY
JUDICIARY
JOINT COMMITTEES
LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
THE ARTS
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
SELECT COMMITTEES
CHAIR, COASTAL PROTECTION
CO-CHAIR, TITLE IX
STATE BOARDS
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

June 10, 2004

Mr. Paul Morabito, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for Ellwood Mesa project

Dear Mr. Morabito,

I am writing to urge you to support funding for the acquisition of the Ellwood Mesa property when it is heard in the California Coastal Conservancy board meeting on June 30, 2004.

Nestled on the eastern edge of the Gaviota Coast in Santa Barbara County, the 137-acre Ellwood Mesa property is a widely beloved resource. For decades, residents of Goleta and nearby Santa Barbara have used the mesa as a community park and to gain access to the beach. Protecting Ellwood Mesa will provide unlimited public access for visitors to the Santa Barbara area, ranging from school children to international butterfly enthusiasts, as well as residents of the region.

Ellwood Mesa is a perfect location for hikes, viewing wildlife, painting, and family picnics. A spectacular coastal trail follows the bluff-top for the entire length of the property, and continues into the open space on the mesa's eastern and western boundaries, creating a two-mile coastal recreation corridor. This trail will eventually become part of the 1,300-mile California Coastal Trail.

The property includes 40 acres of regionally rare grassland, and hosts a wide range of fauna and an estimated 200 species of bird, including the white-tailed kite, hawks, and American kestrel. Devereux Creek, together with the mesa's vernal pools, attract a variety of waterfowl and wading birds including herons, egrets, and cinnamon teal, and supports rare plants such as meadow barley and spikeweed. Every year in early October, as many as 60,000 monarch butterflies, the largest gathering in California, collect at the groves during their southward migration.



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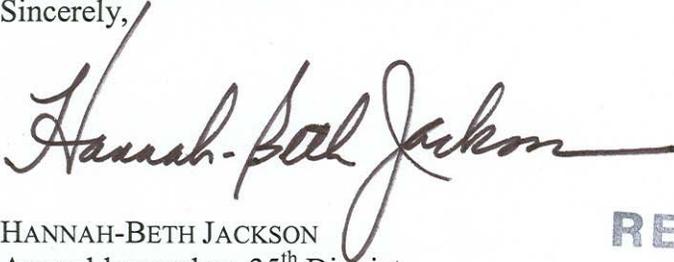
EXHIBIT 8: Letters of Support

Mr. Morabito
Page Two
June 10, 2004

This acquisition will link together more than 600 acres of public open space on the Gaviota Coast, including existing parkland, the Coal Oil Point Reserve, and UC Santa Barbara open space.

Ellwood Mesa is a refuge for the human spirit, and one of the most scenic open spaces and natural assets in Santa Barbara County. Please join me in support of the protection of this magnificent coastal property.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hannah-Beth Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

HANNAH-BETH JACKSON
Assemblymember, 35th District

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 8: Letters of Support



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

1430 N STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA
95814-5901

JACK O'CONNELL

State Superintendent of
Public Instruction

PHONE: (916) 319-0800

June 10, 2004

Paul Morabito, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Morabito:

It has come to my attention that the California Coastal Conservancy will be considering a staff recommendation in favor of a \$4 million grant to assist in acquiring the Ellwood Mesa property in Goleta, located in Santa Barbara County. I want to express my strong support for this funding.

As you know, I represented Santa Barbara County in the State Legislature for 20 years prior to being elected as State Superintendent of Public Instruction. As such, I worked for many years towards the acquisition of this spectacular property, which has long been a conservation priority locally and, due to its resources, is of statewide and national significance. During my tenure in the State Senate, I submitted a letter of support for this project (see enclosed letter); however, I wanted to reiterate that support.

Situated at the beginning of the magnificent Gaviota Coast, Ellwood Mesa is home to sensitive vernal pools, native grasslands and groves of Eucalyptus trees that serve as an over wintering site for thousands of Monarch butterflies every year. The Ellwood Main butterfly grove is used extensively as an outdoor classroom by children, not only locally, but from all over California.

I truly believe that it is these types of "hands on" educational experiences that motivate children to learn about our environment and its natural resources. The Ellwood Mesa property also provides public access directly to the beach, as well as bluff top trails, including a proposed segment of the California Coastal Trail. Purchasing this property will ensure that these important resources are protected and enhanced, so that these excellent educational and recreational opportunities, can continue into the future.

Again, I want to urge the Conservancy to support a \$4 million grant to ensure that this unique, long-awaited opportunity to purchase and preserve Ellwood Mesa does not go by the wayside. Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack O'Connell".

JACK O'CONNELL

JO:cc
Enclosure

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CA

EXHIBIT 8: Letters of Support

SACRAMENTO OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 5035
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 445-5405

SAN LUIS OBISPO OFFICE
1260 CHORRO STREET, SUITE A
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401
(805) 547-1800

SANTA BARBARA OFFICE
228 WEST CARRILLO, SUITE F
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101
(805) 966-2296

VENTURA OFFICE
89 S. CALIFORNIA STREET, SUITE E
VENTURA, CA 93001
(805) 641-1500

California State Senate

SENATOR
JACK O'CONNELL
EIGHTEENTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



CHAIR:
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
COASTAL CAUCUS
MAJORITY CAUCUS
MEMBER:
BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
EDUCATION
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
JUDICIARY

November 22, 2002

Sam Schuchat, Executive Director
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

As you know, my term as a State Senator will come to at close a the end of this month. Nonetheless, there is one land conservation project that may come before the State Coastal Conservancy in the coming year which I have actively supported for many years, namely, the acquisition of the Monarch Point Bluffs property in Santa Barbara County. I want to take this opportunity to express my strong support for any funding requests made to the Conservancy for this project.

The 137 acre Monarch Point property, more commonly known as the Ellwood Mesa, has long been a conservation priority locally and, due to its resources, is of statewide and even national significance. Situated at the beginning of the spectacular Gaviota Coast, the Ellwood Mesa is home to sensitive vernal pools, native grasslands and groves of Eucalyptus trees that serve as an overwintering site for thousands of Monarch butterflies every year. In addition, this prime coastal open space provides sweeping vistas of the Santa Barbara Channel and breathtaking views of the Santa Ynez Mountains. Purchasing this property now will ensure that these important resources are protected and enhanced, providing excellent educational opportunities, as well as a plethora of recreational opportunities, including a coastal trail.

When Goleta was incorporated as a City less than a year ago, one of the City Council's first actions was to make the acquisition of this important property a major priority. The City has been working with both the developer and the Trust for Public Land to initiate this purchase. Having recently facilitated a major acquisition on the Gaviota Coast, the 2500 acre El Capitan Ranch, the Trust has already established a successful track record in this region.

It is for all of these reasons that I want to, again, urge the Conservancy to support this unique, long-awaited opportunity to purchase and preserve the Ellwood Mesa in the City of Goleta. Thank you in advance for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

JACK O'CONNELL
JO:ddf
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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 8: Letters of Support

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105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101
Telephone (805) 568-2192
Fax (805) 568-2883
Santa Ynez Office
1745 Mission Drive
Solvang, California 93463
Telephone (805) 686-5095
Fax (805) 686-8133
Isla Vista Office
970 Embarcadero del Mar
Isla Vista, California 93117



GAIL MARSHALL
County Supervisor
Third District
JOHN BUTTNY
Executive Staff Assistant
MARK CHACONAS
Executive Staff Assistant
ELIZABETH MARTINEZ
Administrative Assistant

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

E-Mail: gmarsh@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

June 7, 2004

Mr. Paul Morabito
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, California 94612

Subject: Disbursement of \$4,000,000 for the acquisition of the Ellwood Mesa property

Dear Mr. Morabito,

I am writing to support the recommended disbursement of \$4,000,000 to the City of Goleta for the acquisition of the Ellwood Mesa property.

This funding request will allow us the opportunity to purchase 137 acres of wildlife and recreational open space on the Ellwood Mesa, located on the eastern border of the Gaviota Coast and will compliment Federal, State, local and private funds.

The Ellwood Mesa is recognized as an area of national and statewide significance due to its important transition zone where northern and southern species reach their migration and habitat limits. The biotic communities represented include coastal sage scrub, native grasslands, vernal wetlands, an extensive eucalyptus forest and riparian woodland. These resources provide critical habitat for various wildlife species, including the western snowy plover and white-tailed kite. In addition, the mesa's eucalyptus groves host as many as 60,000 monarch butterflies each year during their winter migration, making the site world-renowned among butterfly enthusiasts.

This acquisition project will result in the ultimate preservation of over 2¼ miles of contiguous coastline, provide important public access and serve as the urban gateway to the Gaviota coast. Your support of this appropriation will secure the necessary funds and allow our broad based coalition to achieve its long held vision.

Thank you for your interest and support of this important project. If I may be of assistance on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Gail Marshall
Third District Supervisor

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 8: Letters of Support



June 14, 2004

CITY COUNCIL

Cynthia Brock
Mayor

Jonny D. Wallis
Mayor Pro Tempore

Jean W. Blois
Councilmember

Margaret Connell
Councilmember

Jack Hawxhurst
Councilmember

CITY MANAGER
Frederick C. Stouder

State Coastal Conservancy
Paul Morabito, Chair
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Morabito and Board Members:

The City of Goleta requests your support for our efforts to protect the Ellwood Coast. Preserving this site for future generations of visitors and residents is one of the highest goals of our new City.

Your staff report succinctly outlines the biological resources of the site: vernal pools, native grasslands, coastal sand dune and coastal bluff scrub communities, riparian habitat, sandy beaches, and eucalyptus groves that are wintering sites for tens of thousands of monarch butterflies. Ellwood's importance as bird habitat has also been well established.

The Ellwood Mesa has long been a popular place for passive recreation like walking, jogging, bird watching, kite flying, painting and photography, or nature study. The site is loved by area residents, by generations of UCSB students, and by visitors from all over the state and from even further away. During the monarch wintering season it is not uncommon to have many visitors from other states and other countries in the grove.

While walking the coastal trail the visitor experiences a 360-degree view of nature—to the south the bluffs, beach, ocean, and islands; to the north the expansive grasslands, eucalyptus groves, and mountains rising above. The vegetation and topography visually mask nearby urban development to provide the feeling of leaving the hustle of today's life far behind. Those familiar with the area affectionately call this "The Ellwood Experience."

The local fund-raising effort, led by The Trust for Public Land along with its local partner, Friends of the Ellwood Coast, met and surpassed its original goal of six million dollars. Money was raised through

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individual solicitations, mailings, contact with various groups, brochures distributed on the site and at every type of business and organization throughout the area, as well as special events in the community with widespread participation.

Since incorporation of the City of Goleta, a little over two years ago, the City Council, the City Manager, Planning Director, planning staff, and its consultants have dedicated high levels of effort, time, and resources towards the successful completion of this plan to preserve the Ellwood Mesa. Our Council, while sometimes divided on other issues, has been consistently unanimous in its support for this plan.

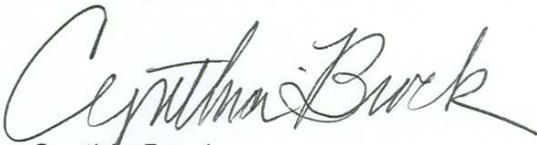
The City is in the final stages of preparing an Open Space and Habitat Management Plan for the acquired property. Goals of this plan include habitat protection and enhancement, passive recreational opportunities, and beach access. Our plan includes policies for our future management of 228 acres of contiguous open space, comprising the Mesa site, as well as the balance of the adjoining Santa Barbara Shores Park property. As described in the Joint Proposal, partially funded by the Coastal Conservancy in 2001, these properties will be managed in conjunction with adjacent open spaces to the east under the jurisdiction of the University of California at Santa Barbara and Santa Barbara County.

A new lot on the eastern segment of the park property will provide public parking. More than five miles of trails will be permanently provided for public access for pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians. Trails on city parkland will connect with trails on open space managed by other jurisdictions. Two beach access points on city parkland will allow travel down the bluffs to the sand and water.

An extensive work effort of the City—staff, council, and consultants—has occurred over the past year, including numerous technical studies, public workshop meetings, and public hearings. Final actions by the City Council on the project are expected by late June of 2004.

Many years of cooperative efforts have brought us to this point. Without your help, these efforts may have been in vain. With this grant, a major milestone will be achieved towards preserving Ellwood forever. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Brock
Mayor, City of Goleta

EXHIBIT 8: Letters of Support



Gaviota Coast Campaign
300 E. Canon Perdido, Suite B1
Santa Barbara CA, 93101

June 7, 2004
California Coastal Conservancy
11th Floor, 1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chair Paul Morabito and California Coastal Conservancy Board,

The Sierra Club strongly supports your staff's recommendation to provide up to \$4,000,000 to the City of Goleta for the acquisition of the Ellwood Mesa property in the City of Goleta. This allocation would finally realize the decade long effort of local citizens to preserve this incredible piece of property, that has been dubbed "the gateway to the Gaviota Coast." This acquisition would help resolve a long-standing land use dispute in the most urban and threatened area of the Gaviota Coast, as well as protect sensitive habitat and provide for public coastal access, including a segment of the California Coastal Trail.

Our community is thankful to the Trust for Public Land for spearheading the purchase of the Ellwood Mesa. TPL has undertaken an ambitious campaign to raise the \$19,750,000 in cash needed to purchase the Ellwood Mesa property. As of mid-May TPL had succeeded in raising an impressive \$7.7 million from the community, in the form of grants from local foundations and nonprofits and donations from individual community members. An additional \$6.7 million has come from local, state, and federal grants, including a \$4 million grant to the City from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). By matching the \$4 million given by the WCB, the Coastal Conservancy will ensure that this incredible public trust resource will be preserved and will give much needed support to the coastal community that has put so much of their own money towards an effort to save this mesa for all future generations.

On any given day, you can see scores of people walking, running, biking, accessing the beach, watching wildlife, and having a peaceful experience at the Ellwood Mesa. Ellwood is a prime area for preservation and will help efforts to preserve surrounding coastal open space and agriculture from the pressures of development. Sierra Club is focusing its efforts on the preservation of the Gaviota Coast and has provided funds over the last four years for as full time staff position and educational campaign to protect the Gaviota Coast, the last stretch of undeveloped coastline left in southern California. We have considered the Ellwood mesa to be part of the Gaviota Coast and we know we can not afford to lose another majestic property on this coastline to development.

Please allocate the necessary funds requested to protect the Ellwood Mesa and the Gaviota Coast.

Sincerely,

Ariana Katovich
Sierra Club Conservation Organizer

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 8: Letters of Support

Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society



5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B, Goleta, CA 93117

(805) 964-1468

May 31, 2004

State Coastal Conservancy
Paul Morabito, Chair
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Ellwood Mesa, Santa Barbara County

Dear Mr. Morabito and Coastal Conservancy Board members:

Santa Barbara Audubon has been a long-time supporter of the Ellwood Mesa and strongly supports the acquisition of this property for conservation. I am writing to urge the State Coastal Conservancy to approve a grant request to the City of Goleta of \$4,000,000 to assist with the acquisition costs. The Trust for Public Lands (TPL) is working cooperatively with the City of Goleta to preserve this 136-acre parcel of coastal mesa and bluffs.

TPL has raised \$14.4 million towards the \$20.4 million goal, including a \$4 million grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board. The community has been very supportive of this effort, and has contributed \$7.7 million toward this acquisition. Our Audubon chapter offered a challenge grant to our members, and member contributions and the match from the chapter raised over \$5,500. We are getting close, and urge you to fund the full request of \$4 million for this treasured land.

Acquisition of Ellwood Mesa by the City of Goleta will protect 136 acres of scenic open space and significant wildlife habitat including 17 vernal pools, extensive native bunchgrass grasslands and adjacent woodlands which provide an important foraging and nesting sites for White-tailed kites and numerous other bird species. Protecting this property will protect foraging and breeding habitat for the kites, as well as breeding for Northern Harriers, and potentially for the Burrowing owl. The eucalyptus groves on site serve as one of the most critical overwintering sites in North America for the Monarch butterfly.

The site is important for biodiversity and for the regional context. It is part of the Important Bird Area designation of the Devereux-Ellwood Important Bird Area, including Western Snowy Plover critical habitat on the beach. The Ellwood Mesa is part of the Gaviota Coast, the largest remaining undeveloped stretch of Southern California coastline. The adjacent Coal Oil Point Reserve (COPR) includes the Devereux Slough, and an expanding breeding population of Western Snowy Plovers. Least Terns are also present and may breed at COPR this year. Devereux Creek flows through the Ellwood

<http://www.audubon.org/chapter/ca/santabarbara>

EXHIBIT 8: Letters of Support

Mesa property on its way to the slough, and is the primary fresh water source for the slough. This is the largest estuary on the Gaviota Coast.

The City of Goleta will improve two existing beach access paths and develop segments of the California Coastal Trail and the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail on the mesa. This is a marvelous site already much used for passive recreation.

Audubon strongly supports the fund-raising efforts of the Trust for Public Lands for acquisition of the Ellwood Mesa, which would then be transferred to the City of Goleta for habitat preservation and enhancement, and passive public recreation. Protection of the natural and recreational resource of the Ellwood Mesa is a priority for the Santa Barbara/Goleta community as well as for the thousands of visitors from throughout the State and beyond who come to witness the spectacular roosting Monarch butterflies every winter. We urge you to approve the grant application to help make this conservation vision a reality.

Sincerely,



Darlene Chirman
President, Santa Barbara Audubon

Copy:
Trust for Public Lands
Attention: Carla Frisk
3340 Sagunto Street
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

EXHIBIT 8: Letters of Support



Surfrider Foundation.

Santa Barbara Chapter

(805)899-BLUE(2583)

May 28, 2004
Paul Morabito
Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Morabito,

Surfrider Foundation Santa Barbara chapter wants to express it's strong support for the SCC staff's recommendation awarding a \$4 million grant to assist in the purchase and permanent preservation of the Ellwood Mesa in Goleta. Our chapter has donated \$1000 toward this same goal and many of our over 400 members in Santa Barbara County have made personal contributions of time and money toward this worthy effort. We consider this parcel an enormously valuable resource for the entire state, not just our county. Beach lovers and surfers up and down the coast come to this area for it's fantastic beaches, surf and other natural resources. Our chapter strongly supports this \$4 million grant and urge you to follow the recommendations of SCC staff and approve the entire amount.

Sincerely

Kenneth Palley
Chairman
Surfrider Foundation
Santa Barbara Chapter

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

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Advocates for Wild, Healthy Oceans

Santa Barbara Field Office
714 Bond Avenue
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

805.687-2322 ph
805.687-5635 f



June 9, 2004

California Coastal Conservancy
11th Floor, 1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Coastal Conservancy Board and Staff,

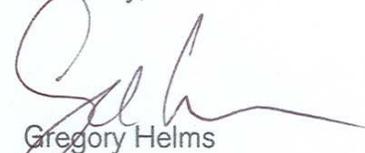
The Ocean Conservancy is pleased to support your staff recommendation to contribute as much to \$4,000,000 to the City of Goleta for the acquisition of the Ellwood Mesa property. This action would help complete the long effort of to secure for the public this invaluable of property and the outstanding ecological and recreational values it contains.

Our community has undertaken successful fundraising for this purpose, and has demonstrated its level of interest and dedication to protecting this coastal jewel.

Ellwood is a prime area for preservation and will help efforts to preserve surrounding coastal open space and agriculture from the pressures of development as well as to safeguard a key area of the "land-sea interface" for this and future generations.

Please allocate the necessary funds requested to protect the Ellwood Mesa and the Gaviota Coast.

Sincerely,



Gregory Helms
Santa Barbara Field Office
The Ocean Conservancy

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 8: Letters of Support

June 3, 2004



Paul Morabito, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway Street, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612-2530
Attn: Mary Travis

Re: Support for a Coastal Conservancy Grant for Ellwood Mesa

Dear Chairman Morabito,

This letter is submitted on behalf of the Environmental Defense Center ("EDC"), in support of the Trust for Public Land's request for a grant of \$4,000,000 to acquire the 137-acre Ellwood Mesa property on the Gaviota Coast. The EDC is a public interest environmental law firm that has represented Save Ellwood Shores in efforts to protect the Ellwood Mesa for the past fifteen years. EDC originally proposed a "land swap" to protect the Mesa in the early 1990's, and we and our client are thrilled at the opportunity to now combine the land swap with acquisition funding to complete the preservation effort for the Mesa and bluff areas.

This amazing property is located at the eastern edge of the Gaviota Coast, the last remaining stretch of largely undeveloped and unprotected coastline in Southern California. The conservation of this bluff top mesa represents a critical step in the greater effort to preserve the wondrous natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the Gaviota Coast. The property provides unmatched public access to the beach, Ellwood Monarch Butterfly groves and an expansive coastal mesa, with bluff top trails, views of the Channel Islands and the Santa Ynez Mountains.

Today, for the first time in two decades, a developer exists who is willing to work with the conservation community and the City of Goleta to protect this special property in perpetuity as public open space and wildlife habitat. This conservation success will preserve 137 acres of magnificent bluff top land, including a beloved coastal trail, expanses of fragile vernal pools and native grasslands, and splendid views of the Pacific Ocean, the Gaviota coastline, and the Santa Ynez Mountains. The City's acquisition of this property will also safeguard the internationally significant Monarch Butterfly overwintering grounds.

This is our last chance to ensure that this special landscape is preserved forever and your support for this project is critical to its success. Please help us make this

906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101 Phone (805) 963-1622 FAX (805) 962-3152
2021 Sperry Avenue, Suite 18, Ventura, CA 93003 Phone (805) 677-2570 FAX (805) 677-2577
www.edcnet.org

EXHIBIT 8: Letters of Support

June 3, 2004
California Coastal Conservancy – Ellwood Mesa
Page 2

wonderful opportunity possible by approving the \$4,000,000 recommended by your staff for this very worthwhile project.

Sincerely,



Linda Krop
Chief Counsel

cc: Save Ellwood Shores
Trust for Public Land

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA, INC.

328 East Carrillo Street, Suite A
Santa Barbara, California 93101

TEL/FAX (805) 965 2422

e-mail: lwvsb@silcom.com
www.lwvsantabarbara.org

June 13, 2004

Paul Morabito, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Ellwood Mesa Acquisition, File No. 03-156
Project Manager: Mary Travis

Dear Chairman Morabito,

The Santa Barbara League of Women Voters is consistently concerned about coastal protection, and we have been following, and commenting on, the efforts to protect the Ellwood Mesa for ten years. We have always supported trying to save the bluff top areas as open space, and we have been aware of how serious the obstacles have been to doing so.

We think that the current effort involving intense cooperation between the City of Goleta, the County of Santa Barbara and the University of California at Santa Barbara is the most exceptional case of regional land use planning that we have seen here. The three separate Environmental Impact Reports covering the entire area are remarkable. The three governing bodies would not have even considered such an involved process if there were not universal agreement that this is a most valuable environmental habitat and public recreation resource and one that had to be protected for the public benefit.

We encourage the Conservancy to approve the disbursement of \$4,000,000 to the City of Goleta for the acquisition of the Ellwood Mesa property. The people of the State of California will be indebted to you for doing so.

Sincerely,

Connie Hannah, Sustainable Communities Director
Phone: 805-967-4720

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JUN 16 2004

**COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.**

EXHIBIT 8: Letters of Support



June 3, 2004

Post Office Box 1099
Goleta, CA 93116
(805) 563-7976
gavcoast@silcom.com

Paul Morabito, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Morabito:

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Diane Wondolowski

The Gaviota Coast Conservancy supports the staff report recommending approval of Coastal Conservancy grant funding of \$4,000,000 for the Ellwood Mesa in Santa Barbara County.

The conservation purchase of Ellwood Mesa is a high priority for our organization. Its combination of biological, scenic and recreational values in connection with its location on the urban fringe gives it exceptional importance to the community. This acquisition will not only capture an opportunity with ever-increasing value to the public, it will help us secure the urban growth boundary at the western end of Goleta.

With its surprising biological vitality and diversity, it is an important part of the nationally significant Gaviota Coast, which serves as a safe harbor for the numerous imperiled species displaced by human settlement elsewhere. Direct public access to Ellwood's beaches from adjacent public roadways offers visitors from near and far the increasingly rare experience of a non-mechanized approach to the beach through natural landscapes.

We strongly urge you to approve this grant.

If I can be of assistance in providing further documentation in support of this grant, please don't hesitate to contact me at (805) 967-5828.

Sincerely,

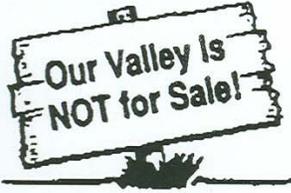
Michael R. Lunsford
President

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 8: Letters of Support



Citizens for Goleta Valley

P.O. Box 1564, Goleta, CA 93116-1564

Friday, June 04, 2004

Paul Morabito, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support for Request of \$4,00,000 to the City of Goleta for the Ellwood Mesa

Dear Chairman Morabito,

Citizens for Goleta Valley is a grass-roots organization that has been working for the protection of environmentally sensitive habitats throughout the Goleta Valley for 25 years. We enthusiastically support the request to the State Coastal Conservancy for funds to support the acquisition of the Ellwood Mesa.

The Ellwood Mesa is rich in coastal and riparian habitat, including vernal pools, native grasslands, white-tailed kites, and the monarch butterfly grove. The "Ellwood Devereux Joint Proposal" presents us with a unique opportunity to preserve for posterity the Ellwood Mesa and adjoining open space that will protect meaningful wildlife corridors, making this acquisition even more significant for the community.

This project also has statewide significance because of the numerous protected species that live in Ellwood, and the integral relationship to the Devereux Slough and the Gaviota Coast. Devereux Creek transverses the property, creating riparian habitat on the mesa and feeding the Devereux Slough. The monarch butterfly grove, which provides an over-wintering site for thousands of monarchs, has the attention and appreciation of people around the world. Ellwood is also momentous as the eastern gateway to the Gaviota Coast, an area of national import because of the vast coastal resources that reside there.

Ellwood is especially unique because it hosts a diversity of wildlife adjacent to an urban area. Every year thousands of students from University of California, Santa Barbara discover Ellwood as an educational and recreational open space. Here people begin to understand that humans can co-exist with wildlife, and learn to appreciate and understand the simple things one can do to make that happen. They take that lesson wherever they go.

Local support for the acquisition of Ellwood has been incredible, but we need your help. We strongly encourage you to approve this allocation that will go a long way to protect wildlife. And we hope that you will visit Ellwood, so you can experience why we are working so hard to protect it.

Sincerely,

Mike Wondolowski

Mike Wondolowski
President, Citizens for Goleta Valley

EXHIBIT 8: Letters of Support



Small Wilderness Area Preserves, Inc.

Santa Barbara Chapter • P.O. Box 91160 • Santa Barbara, CA 93190-1160
Telephone: 805-962-0034

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June 7, 2004

Paul Morabito, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Morabito:

SWAP is proud to support the effort to acquire the Ellwood Mesa and urges the Coastal Conservancy to approve the grant application for \$4,000,000 toward its purchase. The Conservancy's approval would help take California a key step further toward the preservation of a gateway to the Gaviota Coast and an extraordinary example of wild California.

In saving all 137 beautiful acres, the purchase would protect and keep intact rare threshold habitats (geographic, biological and geological), endemic plant species, vernal pool systems, nationally important coastal watershed, and world famous monarch over-wintering sites. The drive to preserve these remarkable attributes is all the more noteworthy as the result of a highly successful partnership among the local community, local government and the Trust for Public Land.

It was our pleasure to serve as a partner in a similar effort to save the Wilcox Property. Now, as supporters of the Ellwood Mesa purchase, our financial contribution could not be large, but our mainly Santa Barbara members more than met our appeal to match our official donation. Ellwood Mesa has stirred residents along the coast, across the Sierras and even nationally and internationally. Not just heartfelt, the drive to preserve this land comes from widespread recognition of its importance as scarce wildlife habitat, part of the largest remaining stretch of contiguous open coastal space in California.

Private fundraising has now raised more than \$13 million toward the \$19.75 million total needed to end the threat of major residential development. Along with Ellwood Mesa supporters everywhere, SWAP requests the support of the Coastal Conservancy in agreeing the grant toward the remainder of the appraised purchase price. Through some remarkable cooperation, California has a chance to complete, literally, a landmark purchase, and to save some of the best wildlife habitat the state has to offer. We trust the Coastal Conservancy agrees that the Ellwood Mesa grant application represents an outstanding opportunity for the State.

Sincerely,


Maria Gordon, Acting President

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JUN 10 2004
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

INCORPORATORS (1971)

Ansel Adams • Margaret Owings • Emily Polk • Dr. Edgar Wayburn

JN-14-2004 07-14-04

EXHIBIT 8: Letters of Support

Santa Barbara Shores Homeowners Association
PO Box 8222, Goleta, CA 93118



June 15, 2004

Paul Morabito, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Morabito,

The Santa Barbara Shores Homeowners Association (SBSHA), would like to wholeheartedly support the Coastal Conservancy's staff recommendations to provide \$4,000,000 to the City of Goleta for the acquisition of Ellwood Mesa in Goleta. Our Association's subdivision resides adjacent to the properties involved in this creative project, and has been closely involved with protecting the Ellwood Mesa from development for decades.

SBSHA's history dates back to the 1960s, and from the earliest days we have been fighting to preserve the mesa and surrounding areas from multiple attempts at development. During the 1990s SBSHA joined forces with the Urban Creeks Council to appeal an approval of what was then a 130-160 unit development on the mesa. Fortunately, because of design, access and environmental issues, development of the mesa has been prevented for many years. However, the land owner still has development rights to the property, and future development plans could receive less opposition depending on the makeup of the local and state governing boards and commissions in the years to come.

SBSHA feels that the current proposal is an ideal alternative to development on the mesa. The project solves many of the previous issues, and provides us with one of the largest stretches of undeveloped public coastline in Southern California. This is an opportunity that has never been available before, and we are delighted that we now have a willing seller, and a creative solution that allows us to feasibly purchase the property.

We hope that the Coastal Conservancy chooses to provide all \$4,000,000 of the funds recommended by staff for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. These funds will provide us with a much-needed boost as we near the end of the campaign to save the property, and will inspire others to help us close the gap. It will serve California well to preserve 137 acres of coastline in perpetuity, and will be a legacy enjoyed by generations to come.

Best regards,

DeAnn Sarver
President, Santa Barbara Shores Homeowners Association

cc: Trust for Public Land, City of Goleta, Friends of the Ellwood Coast

EXHIBIT 8: Letters of Support



June 7, 2004

Paul Morabito, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

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David Fortson
GRAPHIC DESIGN
Karen Shapiro

Dear Mr. Morabito:

Santa Barbara County Action Network, SB CAN, fully supports the acquisition effort to acquire the Ellwood Mesa and urges the Coastal Conservancy to approve the grant application for \$4,000,000 toward its purchase.

The Ellwood Mesa is a very rare example of coastal open space, critical natural habitat, and passive recreational space in California. This purchase is critical not only for the residents of Santa Barbara County, but a significant purchase for the state of California in our common goal of protecting the remaining coastal open spaces and habitats.

This community has fought for years, for the sake of people, plants and animals, to save the Ellwood Mesa. From bake sales to lawsuits, this community has never given up in their quest to make permanent protection of this mesa a reality.

The Coastal Conservancy has the resources and vision to understand the significance of this land and the will to take action. Furthermore, supporting this acquisition reinforces the value and importance of local organizations and national conservation groups joining together in the common goal to protect and preserve California's most important habitats and open spaces.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for the Conservancy's support and leadership in conserving California's natural resources. The Ellwood Mesa preservation campaign offers the Coastal Conservancy another unique opportunity to preserve California's most important and valuable natural resources.

Sincerely,

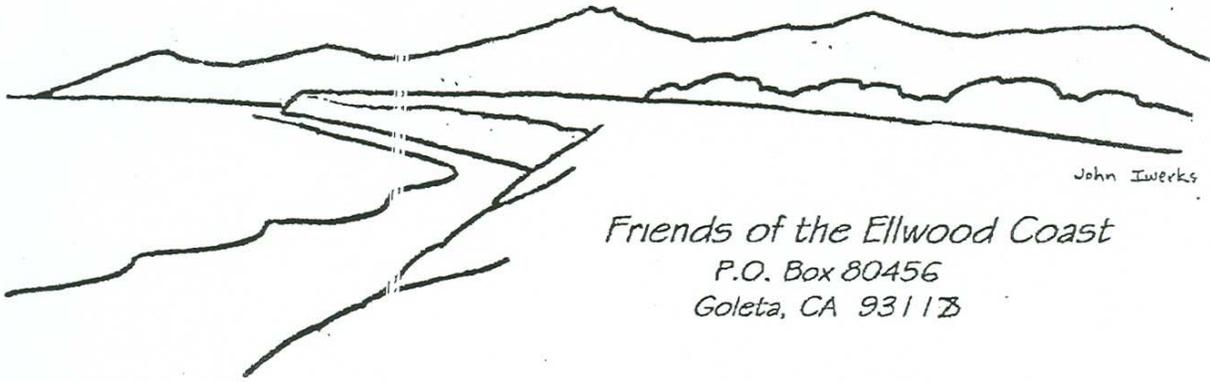

David Fortson
SB CAN Executive Director

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JUN 16 2004
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

The Santa Barbara County Action Network (SB CAN) is a county-wide grassroots organization dedicated both to promoting social justice and preserving our community's environmental and agricultural resources.

Post Office Box 43352 • Santa Barbara, California 93140-3352
Phone: 805.687.1674 • FAX: 805.687.5103 • mail@sbcan.org

EXHIBIT 8: Letters of Support



Friends of the Ellwood Coast
P.O. Box 80456
Goleta, CA 93118

Phone: 805-682-0854
Email: monarchsrule@yahoo.com

June 10, 2004

Paul Morabito
Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Mr. Morabito:

RE: ELLWOOD MESA ACQUISITION FUNDING REQUEST

FOTEC, a nonprofit dedicated to preservation of the undeveloped natural resources of the Ellwood Coast, supports your staff recommendation to disburse up to \$4 million to the City of Goleta to acquire the Ellwood Mesa.

You may as well imagine before you a room crowded full of families, activists, scientists, and local fundraisers: such an outpouring has been a "Save Ellwood Mesa" standard for fourteen years (at least). I wish I were in Eureka on June 30 to bring this message in person!

Congratulations! By now you have taken Mary Travis' excellent Project Summary in hand and made your way through the maze of Ellwood's planning history in good shape. Your agency stands at the eighteen-month mark of our fundraising campaign--a point of convergence, where all our efforts to preserve Ellwood Mesa meet.

EXHIBIT 8: Letters of Support

FOTEC to Mr. Morabito/State Coastal Conservancy, 6/10/04

Your agency's involvement at this point follows naturally on your recent support of regional coastal planning (funding the Ellwood-Devereux Joint Proposal and OSHMP). It is important to realize however that the Ellwood Mesa acquisition project enjoys such high priority that it has rightly been crafted to sail swiftly through the regulatory process, independent of the Joint Proposal if necessary. Your grant will help close the fundraising component and allow land transfer and permits to be secured in a timely manner.

FOTEC has great respect for the new city of Goleta. Its rigorous environmental review is paired with the City Council's full support of a quality Open Space and Habitat Management Plan and further supporting language policy in the General Plan. They are fit stewards, ensuring public access and protection for the monarch butterfly sites, native grassland, vernal pools, creek, trails and views we love so well. Please join other local, state, and federal donors--lend your financial support generously. And come see the Mesa's incredibly rich natural beauty--the "Ellwood Experience".

Sincerely,



Christina Lange
President

EXHIBIT 8: Letters of Support



(Letterhead is for information only)

30 July 2003

Sam Schuchat
Executive Director
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Ellwood Mesa (Monarch Point Bluff)

Dear Sir:

I am writing in behalf of the Trust for Public Land's plan to purchase the Ellwood Mesa/Monarch Point Bluff site. I am Professor of Biology at Santa Monica College and have been conducting research on monarch butterflies for close to 20 years. I first visited this area in 1985-86. The area seems to change names as projects ideas come and go; hence, we have Monarch Point Bluff or Ellwood Mesa. My primary concern has always been the monarch butterflies in this area. I recall taking part in naming the principle monarch overwintering site as "Ellwood Main." The name Ellwood came from the nearby Southern Pacific railroad stop and the oil company's Ellwood Pier. "Main" came from the fact that this was the main roosting site among the dozen or so other smaller sites in the area. I have been conducting research on the monarch butterflies at Ellwood Main since 1985. This research has been bringing me to Ellwood about a dozen times a year, so I am extremely familiar with the site and the surrounding area. In addition, I served as Santa Barbara County's consultant on monarch butterflies to evaluate the impacts of the proposed development of Ellwood Mesa on the monarch overwintering sites.

I am not an expert on funding, market value, tax shelters, etc, but I am a biologist and an expert on monarch butterflies. So I would like to address the importance of this project in this light.

In California, there are three large, spectacular monarch overwintering sites that are accessible to the general public. These are Natural Bridges State Beach in Santa Cruz, Pismo State Beach in Pismo Beach, and Ellwood. In the last half dozen years, Ellwood and Pismo State Beach have traded number one ranking in terms of the size of the overwintering monarch population from year to year.

For close to 20 years, I have been monitoring monarch sites in California. Ellwood has

EXHIBIT 8: Letters of Support

been one of the most consistent monarch overwintering sites in California. On an abundant monarch year, it has ranked 1st or 2nd in size. On a poor monarch year, it is also one of the few sites in California to have overwintering monarchs. To help monitor California's monarch population and study its spring migration, I have been tagging close to an average of 6000 monarchs each winter at Ellwood. This site has produced some fascinating results. Monarch tagged at Ellwood have been recovered as far away as southeastern Arizona and the vicinity of Zion National Park.

Ellwood Main also serves as a flagship monarch overwintering site for the greater Santa Barbara area from Gaviota to Ventura. In Santa Cruz, there is Natural Bridges State Beach, in Morro Bay, there is Morro Bay State Park, and in Pismo Beach/Atascadero area, there is Pismo State Beach. Each of these monarch overwintering sites (and parks) serves as an advocate for the protection of monarch overwintering sites in their respective areas. Visitors are made aware of the monarch butterfly, its migration, and its overwintering phenomenon. These visitors go home and see other, albeit smaller overwintering sites. They then serve as advocates for the preservation of these smaller sites.

The relationship of overwinter sites is important. We now know that monarch butterflies move from one site to another. In the fall, monarchs gravitate to "any" grove of trees along coastal California, but as winter approaches with winds, cold and rains, the monarch move to the larger more protected groves of trees such as those found in Ellwood Main. Hence, my reference to the "dozen or so other smaller sites in the area" in my first paragraph.

The one problem is that Ellwood is under private ownership. There are no park rangers to watch over the site to keep the general public from climbing the monarch trees, shaking the trees, or throwing rocks at the cluster of monarchs (I have seen these occur). My feeling is that Ellwood has gradually been degrading over the last 20 years due to benign neglect and ironically too much public adoration. There is uncontrolled visitation. I have seen upwards of 3-400 people visit this place on a given Saturday or Sunday. During weekdays, numerous elementary school classes come by to see the monarchs. Dogs run amok cyclist ride everywhere, kids climb up and down the eroding gully, and uncontrolled foot traffic trample butterflies on the ground. I do not think these people are doing this maliciously; they are simply unaware of the damage they are causing.

Fortunately, in recent years a local grassroots group has barely managed to begin to reign in this havoc. A rope barrier and signs have helped to begin to protect the butterflies. The general public has tended to stay on the paths designated by the group, and the usual trash is gone.

This site is world famous, as I have received calls and emails from across both oceans asking when to visit Ellwood as well as directions. Mexican parents bring their families here to show their kids a smaller version of what they saw in their homeland in the state of Michoacan.

EXHIBIT 8: Letters of Support

I think the Ellwood Mesa site offers more than Monarch butterflies. A short quarter mile walk to the bluff offers one of the last coastal open spaces in Santa Barbara, where the public can have an unobstructed view of the Pacific Ocean and sunsets each evening. Although the monarchs are not wheelchair accessible (yet), the walk out to the bluffs is. There are environmentally sensitive habitats as well as state and federally listed species of plants and animals.

There has been a number of international attempts to protect monarch overwintering sites, beginning in the early 1980's. First, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), a world-wide group of governments, private organizations, scientists, and other conservation experts has stated that the protection of the monarch wintering colonies is a priority since the sites could be eliminated in the near future. Second, the monarch is also the only insect listed on the Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (the "Bonn Convention"), an international treaty protecting a number of animal taxa. In California, legislation sponsored by Assemblyman Byron Sher "recognized" monarch overwintering sites in California and required an inventory of these California sites. These sites are now listed on the California Department of Fish and Game's Natural Diversity DataBase. Soon after, the 1988 passage of Proposition 70 in California set aside \$2,000,000 for Monarch site acquisition. In 1990, the city of Pacific Grove passed a multi-million dollar bond measure to purchase the storied monarch site in that city. In 1997 there was a tri-country (Canada, Mexico, and the U.S.) Conference on the monarch butterflies. The monarch butterflies of the Eastern U.S. and Canada migrate to the mountains of Central Mexico. These sites are being threatened by logging. Right now, Canada and the U.S. are asking Mexico to protect the monarch overwintering sites

Yet, the Mexican people can ask what are we doing to protect similar sites in California. I have been crunching numbers for a scientific paper I am working on and found that only a third of the 24 largest sites are under the public domain. The rest are under private ownership. The monarch butterflies in California come from the western states, and their overwintering sites are also threatened. In our case it is development. Thus, although there is no legal protection for monarch butterflies with a few exceptions and for their overwintering sites, there is an acute concern for these sites. Most coastal communities with monarch butterflies at least consider these overwintering sites in looking at proposed development with specific buffer zones, and most demand mitigation to protect the overwintering sites. The California Coastal Commission has also looked favorably upon the monarch butterfly overwintering sites.

From a land management and land protect perspective, a large parcel is much better than a series of fragmented parcels. The Ellwood Mesa site sits in the middle of other protected parcels. To the west is Santa Barbara Shores Park, to the north is Coronado Butterfly Preserve, to the east is the UCSB Open Space, and to the southeast is Coal Oil Point Preserve. The Ellwood Mesa property would connect all four of these adjacent parcels and strengthen the biodiversity of the area. Conservation biologists will tell you that a single large site is better than several smaller fragmented sites.

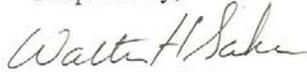
EXHIBIT 8: Letters of Support

I realize that the cost of the purchase of this property is astronomical, and I realize that the Santa Barbara is a relatively affluent area. But those that visit this area are primarily young people and the blue collared. Hundreds of children visit this site annually. Santa Barbara elementary school lesson plans are built around Ellwood. Hundreds of families trek from greater Los Angeles to visit this site. Dozens of others bring family and friends from across the United States and from foreign countries to see this biological wonder.

So I would like to encourage you to help in the effort to purchase this parcel.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at sakai_walter@smc.edu or at 310.434.4702.

Respectfully,


Walter H. Sakai

Professor of Biology
Santa Monica College
1900 Pico Blvd
Santa Monica, CA 90405-1628
310.434.4702 (direct line)
310.434.3624 (Dept FAX)
sakai_walter@smc.edu; danausakai@aol.com
homepage: http://homepage.smc.edu/lifesci/sakai_walter
Master Bird Banding Permit #22030

Research Associate
Entomology Section
Natural History Museum of
Los Angeles County

“Migrate with the Monarchs”
“The best way to learn something is to teach it.”

cc: Al Wright, Executive Director
Wildlife Conservation Board

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AUG 04 2003

COASTAL CONSERVATION
OAKLAND, CALIF