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Assembly California Legislature



JOHN CAMPBELL
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, SEVENTIETH DISTRICT
Assemblymember.John.Campbell@assembly.ca.gov

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INSURANCE
UTILITIES AND COMMERCE

September 30, 2003

DFA - GRANTS
Division of Financial Assistance
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 16th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

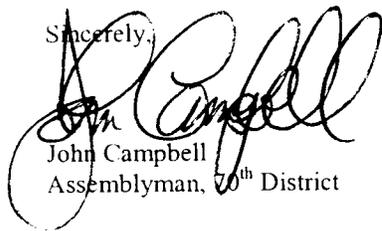
**RE: Big Canyon Creek Restoration Project
Proposal Identification #: 160**

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for the Big Canyon Creek Restoration Project and to respectfully urge the State Water Resources Control Board and the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 8) to grant the City of Newport Beach and Community Conservancy International Proposition 13 Watershed Protection Program grant funds for this important project.

I, Assemblyman John Campbell, strongly support improving the contaminated water quality of Upper Newport Bay. The Big Canyon Creek Restoration Project will address the serious water quality contamination and pollutants entering Upper Newport Bay from the Big Canyon Creek watershed, and will develop a badly-needed habitat restoration plan for restoring tidal influence and a natural transition between wetlands and upland habitats. I believe the Big Canyon Creek Restoration Project is an important and necessary effort that will help protect human health as well as the hundreds of species of plants and animals that depend upon Upper Newport Bay, one of the most important coastal wetlands in Southern California.

I look forward to your favorable consideration of the City of Newport Beach's and Community Conservancy International's request for funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Campbell
Assemblyman, 70th District

cc: **Dave Kiff, City of Newport Beach**
Esther Feldman, Community Conservancy International



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

December 5, 2003

Mr. Paul Morabito, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, California 94612-2530

VIA FACSIMILE: 510-286-0470

RE: Big Canyon Creek Restoration Project's Phase II Funding

Dear Mr. Morabito:

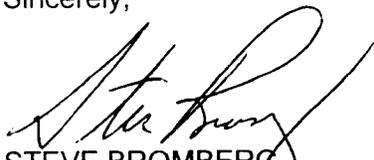
I recognize the large amount of projects being addressed by the Conservancy and its staff. I further appreciate the Board's role in balancing the interests of communities like ours to get projects going quickly and the Conservancy staff time available to effectively administer Conservancy-supported projects.

As you develop your January 2004 agenda, please know that the City of Newport Beach is strongly committed to the Big Canyon Creek Restoration Project in Upper Newport Bay. The Big Canyon Project addresses both important wetlands restoration needs as well as serious water quality contamination affecting the Bay. The City of Newport Beach is committed to providing matching funding for this project. We would appreciate consideration by the Conservancy of Phase II funding as soon as possible, in part to take advantage of the momentum already built behind this effort. Our initial public scoping meetings have generated significant community interest and enthusiasm for the Project.

Further, we are concerned that the Project stays with a tightly-defined schedule that takes advantage of brief habitat restoration windows. An important part of the Big Canyon Creek Project impacts mudflats and nearby habitat areas - as such, the resources agencies' recommended schedules are critical to a timely completion of the Project.

Again, thank you for your continued support of Orange County restoration projects, especially those that protect Upper Newport Bay and its unique recreational and habitat benefits.

Sincerely,



STEVE BROMBERG
Mayor of Newport Beach

cc: Mr. Sam Shuchat, Executive Officer
Linda Brown, State Senator Ross Johnson's Office
Matt Back, State Assembly Member John Campbell's Office



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

http://www.dfg.ca.gov
4949 Viewridge Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 467-4201



October 22, 2003

DFA - GRANTS
Division of Financial Assistance
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 16th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Big Canyon Creek Restoration Project - Proposal Identification #: 160

To Whom It May Concern:

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) would like to express support for the Big Canyon Creek Restoration Project. We request that the State Water Resources Control Board and the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 8) grant the City of Newport Beach and Community Conservancy International Proposition 13 Watershed Protection Program grant funds for this important project.

The Department supports improving the water quality of Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve and estuary. The Big Canyon Creek Restoration Project will address serious water quality contamination and pollutant issues threatening the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve and the Big Canyon Creek watershed, and will develop an important habitat restoration plan for restoring tidal influence by re-creating a natural transition between wetland, riparian, and upland habitats. The Department feels that the Big Canyon Creek Restoration Project is an important and necessary effort that will help protect human health as well as the hundreds of species of plants and animals that depend upon Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve and estuary, one of the most ecologically sensitive coastal wetlands in Southern California.

I look forward to your favorable consideration of the request for funding submitted by the City of Newport Beach and Community Conservancy International to enhance and improve the Big Canyon watershed.

Sincerely,

Theresa A. Stewart, Senior Biologist
Land Management & Monitoring Program
South Coast Region

cc: Dave Kiff, City of Newport Beach
Esther Feldman, Community Conservancy International
Brian Shelton, Reserve Manager Department of Fish and Game

file: CCL-1313Cym

DAVE: FYI TOO

SACRAMENTO OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834
916 445 4971

California State Senate

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SENATOR
ROSS JOHNSON

THIRTY-FIFTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



04 MAR 26 10:25

March 22, 2004

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

Date 3/30/04

Copies Sent To:

- Mayor
- Council Member
- Manager
- Attorney
- File
- _____
- _____
- _____

RE: Upper Newport Bay Big Canyon Creek Project

Dear Mr. Morabito:

I have appreciated your support and assistance on a variety of projects over the years, and I am certainly well aware of the balancing act that is involved in fulfilling your responsibility to preserve California's extraordinary coastline. I am nevertheless dismayed about the Conservancy's failure to fund the Big Canyon Creek Restoration Project in Upper Newport Bay, which will restore historic tidal flow and five acres of wetlands, freshwater pond and other important natural habitats in Big Canyon, a badly-damaged 70-acre portion of the state-owned Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve.

I am deeply troubled by reports that southern California wetlands projects – particularly those in Orange County – have been grossly under-funded from Propositions 12, 13 and 40, when compared to the rest of the state. I'm also very concerned about the possibility that the Coastal Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Board may be waiting to see who "blinks first" about funding the Big Canyon Creek Restoration Project.

As the largest functioning full tidal wetland in southern California, the Upper Newport Bay should be a top priority for the Coastal Conservancy. I would sincerely appreciate your serious reconsideration of the request to fund the Big Canyon Creek Restoration Project this year.

Warm regards,

ROSS JOHNSON
Senator, 35th District