

EXHIBIT #: Letters of Support

JUN-07-2004 12:55

CRWQCB-LA

213 576 6686

P.02/02



California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region



Terry Tamminen
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

Over 51 Years Serving Coastal Los Angeles and Ventura Counties
Recipient of the 2001 Environmental Leadership Award from Keep California Beautiful

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, California 90013
Phone (213) 576-6600 FAX (213) 576-6640 • Internet Address: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4>

June 7, 2004

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

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR GRANT TO ENVIRONMENT NOW TO CONTINUE THE WETLANDS RECOVERY PROJECT'S LOCAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LAP)

Dear Mr. Morabito:

I'm writing to offer my support for a grant to Environment Now that will be under consideration by the Coastal Conservancy at the June 30 meeting. I work closely with two of the five LAP coordinators in my capacity as watershed coordinator at the Los Angeles Regional Board (we have ten watershed management areas) and see their work as complementary to my own but with the added mission to work on additional resource issues beyond water quality, namely, wetlands recovery.

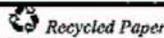
Since the LAP coordinators are approaching wetlands recovery and related resource issues from a non-regulatory stand-point, I believe they are able to build capacity with local organizations that augments rather than duplicates what many regulatory-related outreach efforts can accomplish. Often that may be in the form of follow-up communications and involvement in activities to which a regulatory agency representative may not be invited or welcome. In my role as my agency's representative on the WRP's Managers Group, having LAP coordinators means both gaining the perspective needed to make informed decisions and having people available on-the-ground for local organizations to make the best use of funds granted to them. The LAP coordinators ability to closely interact with local political representatives is also of great value in moving wetlands recovery projects forward.

I appreciate this opportunity to offer my support to continue this valuable program.. Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at 213-576-6679 or sbirosik@rb4.swrcb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Shirley A. Dirosik
Watershed Coordinator

California Environmental Protection Agency



TOTAL P.02

EXHIBIT #: Letters of Support



Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation

Preserve, Protect and Enhance

June 20, 2004

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

Subject: Letter of Support for Continued Funding of the Wetland Recovery Program's (WRP) Local Assistance Program (LAP) and for Dr. Suzanne M. Michel

Dear Mr. Morabito:

I am writing this letter of support from two perspectives. The first concerns the Wetlands Recovery Program's (WRP) Local Assistance Program (LAP) and the importance of its' continued funding into 2006. The second concerns the support that Dr. Michel has and continues to provide to the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation (BLF).

The BLF has significant plans for enhancing the Batiquitos Lagoon and restoring wetland and riparian habitat. To execute our plans requires a significant amount of effort for project planning and in coordinating activities with federal, state and local government and non-governmental organizations. WRP's LAP has greatly assisted us over the years in our habitat enhancement and restoration work. This support has been especially helpful in ensuring our programs and projects are consistent with and complement the various federal, state, regional and local plans. When executing projects, the WRP LAP resources also provide much needed assistance during the very complex permitting process. We encourage you to support the continuation of the LAP and its funding needs.

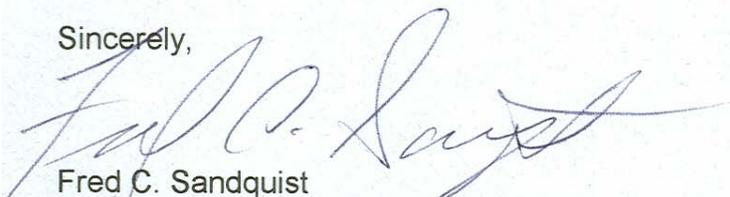
Concerning Dr. Michel, she has brought a fresh and very enthusiastic perspective to the planning process at Batiquitos Lagoon. She has come up with some very innovative recommendations, makes herself readily available for planning meetings, and always follows through on action items. Her attention to detail, brain-storming abilities, and thinking "outside the box" are very helpful and projects a very professional, creative and progressive approach to WRP matters. The Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation strongly supports her continued involvement as our local Watershed Coordinator for the WRP.

P.O. Box 130491 Carlsbad, California 92013-0491 • 760.931.0800 • www.batiquitosfoundation.org

EXHIBIT #: Letters of Support

Please feel free to contact me at (760) 918-2408 should you require any additional support information or have any questions.

Sincerely,



Fred C. Sandquist
Executive Vice President and Board Member
Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation

cc: Trish Chapman
Dr. Michel

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JUN 23 2004
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT #: Letters of Support



Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation

Preserve, Protect and Enhance

June 20, 2004

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

Subject: Letter of Support for Continued Funding of the Wetland Recovery Program's (WRP) Local Assistance Program (LAP) and for Mr. Shawn Kelly

Dear Mr. Morabito:

I am writing this letter of support from two perspectives. The first concerns the Wetlands Recovery Program's (WRP) Local Assistance Program (LAP) and the importance of its' continued funding into 2006. The second concerns the support that Mr. Shawn Kelly has and continues to provide to the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation (BLF).

The BLF has significant plans for enhancing the Batiquitos Lagoon and restoring wetland and riparian habitat. To execute our plans requires a significant amount of effort for project planning and in coordinating activities with federal, state and local government and non-governmental organizations. WRP's LAP has greatly assisted us over the years in our habitat enhancement and restoration work. This support has been especially helpful in ensuring our programs and projects are consistent with and complement the various federal, state, regional and local plans. When executing projects, the WRP LAP resources also provide much needed assistance during the very complex permitting process. We encourage you to support the continuation of the LAP and its funding needs.

Concerning Mr. Kelly, I have had the sincere pleasure of working with him in planning for and executing a small grant entitled *Go Wetlands! Restore Now for Tomorrow* under the Southern California's Wetlands Recovery Small Grants Program. His project management and grant administrative skills were and continue to be very apparent. He has always been easy to contact, very helpful in getting answers to questions, always follows through when further research was required, and projected a solid knowledge of environmental and grant administrative issues, processes, regulations and procedures. As Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation's Grant Administrator, he has made my job not only easier,

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EXHIBIT #: Letters of Support

-2-

but professionally rewarding as well. I very strongly encourage you to continue his involvement with the WRP as he truly is one of your key assets from my perspective.

Please feel free to contact me at (760) 918-2408 should you require any additional support information or have any questions.

Sincerely,



Fred C. Sandquist
Executive Vice President and Board Member
Batiqitos Lagoon Foundation

cc: Trish Chapman, SCWRP
Shawn Kelly, SCWRP Small Grants Program

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ESTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT #: Letters of Support

Cottonwood Creek Conservancy



June 6, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Morabito:

This letter is in support of the continued funding of the Wetlands Recovery Project Local Area Assistance Program and Suzanne Michel as Watershed Coordinator under the LAP.

Cottonwood Creek is a small coastal stream in the highly urbanized downtown of Encinitas in northern San Diego County. Its watershed is only 3.4 square miles, yet it is of historical importance and supplied water for the railroad built here in 1883 and for the townspeople until 1920. The stretch of open creek and canyon from Coast Highway 101 to the Pacific Ocean is now the site of Moonlight Beach State Park, which is managed by the City of Encinitas. A portion of the park has been designated as a native habitat restoration area by agreement between the State Parks Department and the City of Encinitas. Our conservancy has been working with the City of Encinitas since 1990 to restore habitat in this area and to return historic Cottonwood Creek to a more natural state.

In our most recent grant project funding this work, from the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, having Suzanne Michel work with us as Watershed Coordinator has been a great help to us. She has brought information and resources to us that we were not previously aware of, and has been able to deal with city and other officials in a way that we, as the grantees, have not been able to do.

For this project we are required to secure a Coastal Development Permit through the City of Encinitas under its Local Coastal Program. We have had considerable difficulty in this process due to concerns and objections of an adjacent property owner. Among other things, he is afraid that the restoration of native habitat may constrain future development of his property in the unlikely event that listed species establish residence in the restored areas next to his property. Particularly in this matter, Suzanne Michel of the Local Assistance Program has been of invaluable help. She has met with city staff to discuss our problems, and I believe has been able to present our case with more credibility, as she may be seen as more objective party, plus her experience in these areas is much greater than ours. Our grant administrator, Shawn Kelly, has helped out in this matter as well, but since Suzanne is located in this area, she has been able to more effectively assess the situation and meet with the parties involved.

Another thing that has been helpful is that Suzanne is aware of resources of the Coastal Conservancy and the SCWRP that have been a great help to our efforts. She has regular interactions with other people in these organizations and has referred questions about our project to them. In our case there are some legal questions regarding property rights, about which she is consulting with SCC legal staff. While it would be possible for us to do this ourselves, we are a small group and have our hands full with the immediate needs of keeping this project moving ahead. So her knowing who to contact and having existing relationships with them has been a big help and will bring a better outcome for our project.

For these reasons our conservancy supports the State Coastal Conservancy granting funds to Environment Now to continue the Local Area Assistance Program and continuing Suzanne Michel in the position of Watershed Coordinator.

Sincerely,

Bradford Roth, Project Manager

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JUN 23 2004

**COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.**

1507 Rubenstein Avenue, Cardiff by-the-Sea, CA 92007 (760) 436-2632 broth@cox.net

EXHIBIT #: Letters of Support

JUN-10-2004 11:50

P. 02/02



California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region



Terry Tamminen
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100, San Diego, California 92123-4340
(858) 467-2952 • Fax (858) 571-6972
<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9>

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

June 10, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Morabito:

**SUBJECT: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WETLANDS RECOVERY PROJECT
LOCAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

I understand that the Board of Directors of the Coastal Conservancy will soon be considering whether to authorize a grant to continue the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (SCWRP) Local Assistance Program (LAP). I participate in the SCWRP Wetlands Managers Group on behalf of the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board. I believe the LAP is a valuable program that should be continued. Although the SCWRP consists of state and federal governmental organizations, local governmental and non-governmental organizations are critical to achieving the goal of the SCWRP. The LAP builds local support for protection and restoration of wetlands and watersheds, develops and nurtures working relationships with local entities, increases the ability of local entities to undertake wetlands and watershed protection and restoration projects, and facilitates sharing of information, resources, and experience with local entities.

Ms. Suzanne Michel is the Watershed Coordinator for the San Diego County Task Force of the SCWRP. Her position is funded by the LAP. In the short time she has been in that position, she has actively, energetically, and effectively devoted her considerable knowledge and experience to achieving the goal of the SCWRP. Ms. Michel has already been instrumental in planning and implementation of a number of worthwhile events, presentations, and initiatives focused on protection and restoration of wetlands and watersheds. Ms. Michel also frequently provides useful information to participants in the SCWRP San Diego County Task Force.

I strongly recommend continuation of funding for the LAP and for Ms. Michel.

Sincerely,

Bruce W. Posthumus
Senior Water Resource Control Engineer

California Environmental Protection Agency

TOTAL P. 02

EXHIBIT #: Letters of Support



Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

California Department of Parks and Recreation

301 Caspian Way • Imperial Beach • CA • 91932

(619) 575-3613 • Fax (619) 575-6913



June 16, 2004

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

Dear Mr Morabito,

The purpose of this letter is to express support for continued funding of the Wetlands Recovery Program (WRP), Local Assistance Program. Currently Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR) is coordinating with WRP to produce a series of Coastal Decision Makers Workshops, intended to provide science-based information to managers, political leaders, community leaders who make decisions that affect resources in the coastal zone. Interaction with Suzanne Michel, our county WRP coordinator, has greatly benefited the development of this program.

In addition our NGO support group, The Friends of San Diego Wildlife Refuges, was recently awarded a WRP Small Grant for the Tijuana Estuary Saltmarsh Transitional Habitat Restoration and Plant Propagation Project. This project will restore two acres of wetland/upland transitional habitat adjacent to Oneota Slough, a 200-acre prime saltmarsh. Part of a larger ten acre habitat restoration effort, the site will buffer saltmarsh from nearby residential neighborhoods. The project will also help us to build the capacity to undertake other similar projects by funding the expansion of our native plant nursery. Without the WRP small grant it would be extremely difficult for us to finish this important project.

As you know, the Coastal Conservancy has been an important partner in restoration efforts at TRNERR. Nearly \$15 million have been spent on resource protection and restoration in the Reserve's wetlands over the past decade. We look to the WRP as a means to expand upon the successes that been achieved. WRP can help us plan, prioritise and fund important restoration projects. The program can also help us to disseminate the knowledge and experience that has been gained over the years. We look forward to a long and productive partnership with WRP.

Best Regards,

Michael L. Wells, Ph.D.
Reserve Manager

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT #: Letters of Support

Southern California Watershed Alliance

Paul Morabito, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
11th Floor, 1330 Broadway,
Oakland, CA 94612
phone (510) 286-1015/
fax (510) 286-0470

Regarding: Local Assistance Program, San Diego Watershed Coordinator, Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project

This letter is to voice strong support for the above fore mentioned program, it is vital to not only San Diego County but the entire region. The Southern California Watershed Alliance has worked with local groups and agencies through out the Southern California Bight and sees the short term progress and long term thought that this program has generated.

Wee realize that these are tight times for all levels of government but this is money well spent with a coordinator that is thoughtful and determined. Southern California Watershed Alliance continues to hear from groups within this area of the essential work that has began and should not be stopped.

Thank you for your consideration, if you have any others questions, please feel free to ask.


Conner Everts,
Executive Director
310.804.6615

6/9/04

EXHIBIT #: Letters of Support

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SUPE SUSAN ROSE

PAGE 02

wage issue, which may impact projects. In addition to being a source of information regarding contractors, such as engineering firms, landscape architects and surveyors, the coordinator invites new groups/stakeholders to participate in the task force who either can manage additional projects or who bring a different set of expertise to the table. For example, researchers from UCSB have recently been attending task force meetings and contribute knowledge about coastal restoration techniques. The coordinator keeps the task force updated on Ventura County activities and is helping to create a partnership between the two counties. In the coming week, County staff will be visiting with the Ventura County Watershed Protection Agency to compare their programs to Santa Barbara County programs.

These efforts would not have come about without the active involvement of the LAP coordinator, local task force members and input from other county task forces. Through this collaboration we are articulating a vision for a more effective and pro-active County role in collaborative coastal resource protection and decision-making.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan J. Rose". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" and "R".

Susan J. Rose
Second District Supervisor

EXHIBIT #: Letters of Support

CHAPMAN



COUNTY OF ORANGE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ROBERT E. THOMAS HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
10 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
P. O. BOX 687
SANTA ANA, CA 92702-0687

June 1, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Morabito:

The County of Orange supports the State Coastal Conservancy awarding a grant of \$650,000 to Environment Now to continue the Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) Local Assistance Program (LAP).

Through the work of the LAP coordinators, the program has helped to build the capacity of local agencies and organizations to undertake wetlands projects, increase the involvement of local groups in wetlands recovery efforts, and increase efficiency by facilitating the sharing of information and resources.

Our LAP coordinator, Greg Gauthier, recently provided several Non Government Agencies (NGO's) with grant writing assistance for the WRP Small Grant Program. Two of these NGO's have been awarded grant funds, and now it will be Greg's job to oversee the projects.

Greg has also been very involved in supporting the Orange Coast River Park stakeholders group. This group is currently seeking funding for a 1,000 acre park that brings together the cities of Newport Beach, Huntington Beach, and Costa Mesa as well as regulatory agencies, numerous NGO's, and the County. Greg has been instrumental in setting up well attended quarterly meetings that focus on moving the project forward.

We look forward to a long and rewarding relationship with the WRP and State Coastal Conservancy.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Wilson, Chairman
Supervisor, Fifth District

James W. Silva, Vice Chairman
Supervisor, Second District

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JUN 04 2004

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT #: Letters of Support



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

June 1, 2004

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

Dear Paul Morabito, Chair:

I am writing in support of the Wetlands Recovery Project, Local Area Assistance Program in the San Diego area. Suzanne Michel provides a valuable service to environmental professionals in San Diego by coordinating local projects, promoting networking and funding opportunities, expediting communication across institutional barriers, and sharing her technical and scientific knowledge.

As a landscape architect working for the City of San Diego Water Department, I rely on the support of the WRP Local Assistance Program staff to help implement water quality projects. The importance of having independent scientific experts, who evaluate projects and build relationships with political and community leaders, cannot be overstated.

I recommend that your Board authorize continued funding for this successful program, and for Ms. Michel's position. The work of restoring and maintaining our wetland habitats has made great strides forward recently, thanks in large part to the efforts of your staff members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel Carney".

Daniel Carney
Landscape Architect
City of San Diego Water Department
600 B Street, San Diego, CA 92101

EXHIBIT #: Letters of Support

Jun 07 04 03:34p

p. 2

City of
Santa Clarita

23920 Valencia Blvd.
Suite 300
Santa Clarita
California 91355-2196
Website: www.santa-clarita.com

Phone
(661) 259-2489
Fax
(661) 259-8125



June 7, 2004

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

Subject: City of Santa Clarita Support of the Wetlands Recovery Project
Local Assistance Program

Dear Mr. Morabito:

Please accept this letter of support from the City of Santa Clarita for awarding Environment Now funding to continue Wetlands Recovery Project Local Assistance Program (LAP).

Our LAP coordinator, Mary Loquvam, has helped develop the capacity of local agencies and organizations willing to undertake wetlands projects, increase the involvement of local groups in wetlands recovery efforts, and increased efficiency by facilitating the sharing of information and resources. Specifically, Ms. Loquvam has helped coordinate watershed tours, facilitated wildlife corridor research, and assisted our staff with watershed outreach and information.

I encourage you to continue funding this program. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Travis Lange
Environmental Services Manager

TL:HM:cf
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EXHIBIT #: Letters of Support

JUN-4-2004 03:03P FROM:

TO: 15102863840

P: 2/2



3815 Old Topanga Canyon Road
 Calabasas, California 91302
 Tel: (818) 591-1701
 Fax: (818) 591-1709
 e-mail: mrtrust@mountainstrust.org

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June 3, 2004

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

RE: Letter of Support for the WRP Local Assistance Program

Dear Mr. Morabito,

As one of the fortunate recipients of the Wetlands Recovery Project's Local Assistance Program, I urge the Coastal Conservancy to authorize a grant of \$650,000 to Environment Now to continue its funding of the Local Assistance Program into 2006.

Thanks to the support of Shawn Kelly and Mary Loquvam, the Mountains Restoration Trust was able to jump start the Resource Enhancement Program (REP), which had been three years in the making. REP is a proactive model program that, through a variety of projects and activities, engages residents and stakeholders of the Santa Monica Mountains' Cold Creek Watershed to help preserve the natural resources and community character of the area in which they live and operate.

Through it all Shawn Kelly has been exceptional in his support and Mary Loquvam's advice instrumental in helping us get our fledgling program off the ground.

A special thank you goes to Mary Loquvam for her assistance on identifying a grant program in the recent State Water Resources Control Board, bringing together key players, and editing a grant proposal that has been awarded for the headwaters of the Los Angeles River, an area overlooked in a vast urbanized region. Mary did not give up when obstacles were many in getting together stakeholders, with a special visit from Mary Nichols, to see firsthand the last remaining open space of the western watershed.

The Wetlands Recovery Project's Local Assistance Program plays a critical role in helping to preserve, protect and restore California's few, embattled wetlands. A little can go a long way.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Harris
 President

To Preserve, Protect and Enhance the Natural Resources of the Santa Monica Mountains
 A California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

EXHIBIT #: Letters of Support

Jun 04 04 01:36p

MISSION BAY SPORTCENTER

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p. 2



June 2, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Morabito:

This letter is in support the pending Environment Now grant to continue the Local Area Assistance Program.

The Local Area Assistance Program coordinators are a critical component in the efforts of organizations to undertake wetlands projects and increase recovery efforts. As a small non-profit organization, Aquatic Adventures supports this project and the continuation of the LAP coordinators and has seen a measurable increase in efficiency and communication due to the addition of this position. Aquatic Adventures facilitates community based restoration projects and has worked closely with both Suzanne Michel and Shawn Kelly. Both have been extremely helpful in sharing resources, providing their expertise, and assisting our organization in building stronger relationships with partners in the community. Suzanne Michel and Shawn Kelly are enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and beneficial to our projects.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (619) 665-3861. Thank you for your thoughtfulness on this matter.

Sincerely,

Shara Fisler
Executive Director

1010 Santa Clara Place • San Diego, CA 92109
Office (858) 488-3849 • Fax (858) 488-4265

EXHIBIT #: Letters of Support

JUN-7-2004 10:24 FROM:TMF

760-742- 51

TO:15102863840

P.2



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TMF Website:
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TMF Email: info@tierramiguel.org
CSA Email: csa@tierramiguel.org

California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF)

A 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization

June 7, 2004

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

Dear Chairman Morabito:

I am writing in support of funding for the Wetlands Recovery Program Local Assistance Program. A grant for Environment Now to continue the work in San Diego County is very much needed. Funding for the Watershed Coordinator for this area will allow capacity-building amongst local agencies and organizations, enhancing involvement, efficiency and information dissemination in these critical areas.

Tierra Miguel Foundation is committed to environmental stewardship and with its 85-acre organic farm located next to the San Luis Rey River encourages exploration of ways to enhance sustainable watershed practices. We anticipate working together on a forum on agriculture and wetlands and promoting best practices in the watershed.

We recently hosted the WRP San Luis Rey River Tour and invite other interested agencies to contact us for future visits or for further information. We are an educational institution as well as an organic demonstration farm with a flourishing Community Supported Agriculture Program. For more information, please call 760-742-4213 or view our website at www.tierramiguel.org.

Again, kindly give every consideration to funding our local program at this critical time in San Diego's water history.

Sincerely,

Charlene Orszag, M.A.
President

EXHIBIT #: Letters of Support



June 7, 2004

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

Mr. Morabito,

On behalf of the Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition, I am writing to urge the Coastal Conservancy to authorize a grant to Environment Now to continue to the Wetlands Recovery Project Local Assistance Program.

The Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition (CCWC) is a partnership of local landowners, community groups, resource agencies, and individuals who've come together to care for Carpinteria Creek. Inspired by a shared sense of responsibility to our community, we're working together to create conditions that will allow the endangered Southern California steelhead to recover in the creek. The people of Carpinteria Valley share a strong sense of environmental stewardship. We've proven our ability to make things happen by our efforts to restore Carpinteria Salt Marsh and to preserve the Carpinteria Bluffs. We meet monthly to share information, ask questions and work together to develop projects that will return Carpinteria Creek to its once healthy state.

The work of wetlands restoration, protection, and management must increasingly be assumed by local communities and local government. State agencies can aid this process, but leadership must reside in the region. Through the work of the LAP coordinators, the program helps build the capacity of local agencies and organizations to undertake wetlands projects, increases the involvement of local groups in wetlands recovery efforts, and increases efficiency by facilitating the sharing of information and resources.

The CCWC is finding ways to increase its role in watershed planning via pilot projects and collaborative efforts on several of the major creeks that extend from the Los Padres National Forest through agricultural and urban areas and to the Santa Barbara Channel. These include many projects in the watershed such as: removing barriers to steelhead migration, reduce erosion in the stream, and eradicating invasive weeds and replanting with native vegetation. The CCWC is also working with the community to develop a watershed assessment and

Post-it* Fax Note	7671	Date	6/9/04	# of pages	2
To	Trix Chapman	From	Jill Kumon		
Co./Dept.	CC	Co.	CCWC CCWC		
Phone #		Phone #	805-963-0583x111		
Fax #	510-284-3840	Fax #	962-9080		

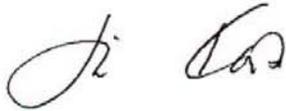
management plan, to include baseline information and identify and prioritize restoration opportunities in the watershed.

The Santa Barbara LAP coordinator, Bob Thiel is a creative thinker who has been invaluable in cultivating partnerships among stakeholders, working with agency personnel and advising local groups on funding opportunities, strategies and potential projects. The LAP coordinator invites new groups/stakeholders who either can manage additional projects or who bring a different set of expertise to the table. For example, landscape architects have recently been attending the meetings and providing feedback on various projects. The LAP coordinator also is a source of information with regard to various contractors, such as engineering firms, landscape architects and surveyors. The CCWC is fortunate to have a LAP coordinator who distributes critical information to Coalition members, such as agricultural waiver permits and the agricultural watershed coordinator, which can assist farmers in their operations.

These efforts would not have come about without the active involvement of the LAP coordinator. Through this collaboration we are articulating a vision designed for a more effective and pro-active county role in collaborative coastal resource protection and decision-making.

Thank you for your consideration of these ideas.

Sincerely,



Jill Komoto
Chair, Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition

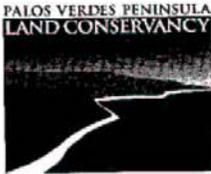
EXHIBIT #: Letters of Support

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p. 2



PRESERVING LAND AND RESTORING HABITAT FOR THE EDUCATION AND ENJOYMENT OF ALL
June 8, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Morabito,

I am writing in strong support of the continuation of the Wetlands Recovery Project Local Assistance Program. It was a pleasure to work with Environment Now as the coordinator of this well-managed and effective program.

Our organization manages 400 acres of land on the geographic Palos Verdes Peninsula. We had restored coastal sage scrub habitat, but had not addressed the wetlands needs of our projects. This grant program enabled us to acquire new skills and restore an area where invasives had compromised the habitat of a riparian area. Once the newly-planted willows and other native plants are mature, this area will be a resource for wildlife and a vital part of the habitat preserve.

With the funding from the small grants program, we were able to leverage the grant with work by the California Conservation Corps, local high school Environmental Science AP students, and an Eagle Scout project. The participants all seemed to appreciate the opportunity to improve a local wetland and learn about habitat restoration in a direct, hands-on way.

The staff members we worked with at the WRP were very helpful. The mechanics of the grant operation were efficient and completed in a very timely manner, thanks to Shawn Kelly. Mary Loquam, in particular, was very helpful, visited the site, and provided valuable suggestions and insight regarding the project.

Because of our success at the initial project, we have applied for (and just learned that we were approved for) a grant for another property. We look forward to transforming another weed-choked canyon into a riparian corridor that will support a flourishing community of native vegetation and wildlife.

Thank you for your past support. I enthusiastically urge the Conservancy to continue this successful program.

Sincerely,


Barbara Dye
Executive Director

EXHIBIT #: Letters of Support

Jun. 8. 2004 10:10AM

No.1676 P. 2



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June 8, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Morabito,

I am writing to support the Coastal Conservancy's \$650,000 grant to Environment Now for the Local Assistance Program of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP).

The Local Assistance Program has been extremely useful in San Diego County, especially since we were able to secure the full-time staff support of Dr. Suzanne Michel. It is clear that local non-profits in San Diego County need additional technical support to achieve their watershed-level goals. WRP's Local Assistance Program is providing this needed advice on a regular basis, including our project in the Tijuana River watershed.

As you recall, the International Community Foundation received a \$208,000 grant from the Coastal Conservancy for a stormwater management and erosion control feasibility study in Los Laureles Canyon in Tijuana, Mexico, which feeds directly to Goat Canyon in the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve. ICF has solicited ten experts to serve on a Technical Advisory Committee to comment on the proposal from our contractors, review the draft report, and serve on a grant selection committee for pilot projects in Los Laureles Canyon.

Dr. Michel serves on that Technical Advisory Committee. She provided the most substantive comments to the original proposal (most of which were incorporated into the final document) and has been an excellent source of bibliographic information for our consultants. In addition, her Spanish language skills and knowledge of the Tijuana River watershed has allowed her to correspond with the consultants directly, answering technical questions that ICF could not. We are grateful for her continued input, which only serve to improve our project.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions at 858-677-2915. In the meantime, I hope you will strongly endorse the WRP's request for continued funding for the Local Assistance Program.

Sincerely,

Anne McEnany
Director, Sustainable Communities

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Cottonwood Creek Conservancy



June 6, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Morabito:

This letter is in support of the continued funding of the Wetlands Recovery Project Local Area Assistance Program and Suzanne Michel as Watershed Coordinator under the LAP.

Cottonwood Creek is a small coastal stream in the highly urbanized downtown of Encinitas in northern San Diego County. Its watershed is only 3.4 square miles, yet it is of historical importance and supplied water for the railroad built here in 1883 and for the townspeople until 1920. The stretch of open creek and canyon from Coast Highway 101 to the Pacific Ocean is now the site of Moonlight Beach State Park, which is managed by the City of Encinitas. A portion of the park has been designated as a native habitat restoration area by agreement between the State Parks Department and the City of Encinitas. Our conservancy has been working with the City of Encinitas since 1990 to restore habitat in this area and to return historic Cottonwood Creek to a more natural state.

In our most recent grant project funding this work, from the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, having Suzanne Michel work with us as Watershed Coordinator has been a great help to us. She has brought information and resources to us that we were not previously aware of, and has been able to deal with city and other officials in a way that we, as the grantees, have not been able to do.

For this project we are required to secure a Coastal Development Permit through the City of Encinitas under its Local Coastal Program. We have had considerable difficulty in this process due to concerns and objections of an adjacent property owner. Among other things, he is afraid that the restoration of native habitat may constrain future development of his property in the unlikely event that listed species establish residence in the restored areas next to his property. Particularly in this matter, Suzanne Michel of the Local Assistance Program has been of invaluable help. She has met with city staff to discuss our problems, and I believe has been able to present our case with more credibility, as she may be seen as more objective party, plus her experience in these areas is much greater than ours. Our grant administrator, Shawn Kelly, has helped out in this matter as well, but since Suzanne is located in this area, she has been able to more effectively assess the situation and meet with the parties involved.

Another thing that has been helpful is that Suzanne is aware of resources of the Coastal Conservancy and the SCWRP that have been a great help to our efforts. She has regular interactions with other people in these organizations and has referred questions about our project to them. In our case there are some legal questions regarding property rights, about which she is consulting with SCC legal staff. While it would be possible for us to do this ourselves, we are a small group and have our hands full with the immediate needs of keeping this project moving ahead. So her knowing who to contact and having existing relationships with them has been a big help and will bring a better outcome for our project.

For these reasons our conservancy supports the State Coastal Conservancy granting funds to Environment Now to continue the Local Area Assistance Program and continuing Suzanne Michel in the position of Watershed Coordinator.

Sincerely,

Bradford Roth, Project Manager

1507 Rubenstein Avenue, Cardiff by-the-Sea, CA 92007 (760) 436-2632 broth@cox.net



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June 7, 2004

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

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	6/8/04	# of pages	2
To	Trish Chapman	From	Jill		
Co./Dept.	CC	Co.	CEC		
Phone #		Phone #	963-0583 x111		
Fax #	510-286-3846	Fax #			

Mr. Morabito,

I am writing to urge the Coastal Conservancy to authorize a grant to Environment Now to continue to the Wetlands Recovery Project Local Assistance Program.

The work of wetlands restoration, protection, and management must increasingly be assumed by local communities and local government. State agencies can aid this process, but leadership must reside in the region. Through the work of the LAP coordinators, the program helps build the capacity of local agencies and organizations to undertake wetlands projects, increases the involvement of local groups in wetlands recovery efforts, and increases efficiency by facilitating the sharing of information and resources.

Santa Barbara County is finding ways to increase its role in watershed planning via pilot projects and collaborative efforts on several of the major creeks that extend from the Los Padres National Forest through suburban and urban areas and to the Santa Barbara Channel. These include projects on Rincon, Carpinteria, Mission, Arroyo Burro, San Jose, Arroyo Hondo, and Refugio creeks. Other efforts include collaborating with watershed coordinators in north Santa Barbara County on several potential projects including Horse and Nojoqui creeks. Efforts to re-energize a Santa Maria Watershed forum will begin soon in hopes of moving towards an integrated management plan for that watershed.

The Santa Barbara LAP coordinator, Bob Thiel is a creative thinker who has been invaluable in cultivating partnerships among stakeholders, working with agency personnel and advising local groups on funding opportunities, strategies and potential projects. The LAP coordinator invites new groups/stakeholders who either can manage additional projects or who bring a different set of expertise to the table. For example, researchers from UCSB have recently been attending task force meetings and contribute knowledge about coastal restoration techniques. The LAP coordinator also is a source of information with regard to various contractors, such as engineering firms, landscape architects and surveyors. He updates us regularly on Ventura Task Force activities and is helping to create a

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partnership between the two counties. In the coming week we will be visiting with the Ventura County Watershed Protection Agency, their flood control agency. Santa Barbara County is fortunate to have a LAP coordinator who distributes critical information to task force members, such as prevailing wage issue, which may impact projects. Because Greg Gauthier, the Orange County LAP coordinator, lives in Santa Barbara, we are kept apprised of the activities of the Orange County Wetlands Task Force which helps generate ideas for our county as well.

These efforts would not have come about without the active involvement of the LAP coordinator, local task force members and input from other county task forces. Through this collaboration we are articulating a vision designed for a more effective and pro-active county role in collaborative coastal resource protection and decision-making.

Thank you for your consideration of these ideas.

Sincerely,



Jill Komoto
Manager, Watershed Restoration Program
Co-Chair, Santa Barbara County Wetlands Recovery Task Force

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NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION®

People and Nature: Our Future Is in the Balance

Western Natural Resource Center

June 4, 2004

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

Subject: Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project

Dear Mr. Morabito,

The National Wildlife Federation is writing this letter in support to continue the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project Local Assistance Program. In San Diego County the Wetlands Recovery Project Watershed Coordinator, Suzanne Michel is working with community-based groups and local schools to become involved with wetlands education outreach and recovery efforts. She has proven to be a valuable resource for us when we field questions or requests concerning wetlands habitat and species.

Within the next year the NWF office in San Diego is looking to working with WRP to partner on various small grants wetlands restoration and education projects. We are especially excited about opportunities in coordinating NWF's Schoolyard Habitat Program with WRP efforts in urban creek regions. Please consider continuing to support of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project Local Assistance Program.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Stowell
Senior Manager,
Regional Education

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PAGE 01

SUSAN J. ROSE
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June 7, 2004

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

Mr. Morabito,

I am writing to urge the Coastal Conservancy to authorize a grant to Environment Now to continue to fund the Wetlands Recovery Project Local Assistance Program.

The work of wetlands restoration, protection, and management must increasingly be assumed by local communities and local government. State agencies can aid this process, but leadership should reside in the region. Through the work of the LAP coordinators, the program helps build the capacity of local agencies and organizations to undertake wetlands projects, increases the involvement of local groups in wetlands recovery efforts, and increases efficiency by facilitating the sharing of information and resources.

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Santa Barbara County is fortunate to have a LAP coordinator who has been invaluable in cultivating partnerships among stakeholders, working with agency personnel and advising local groups on funding opportunities, strategies and potential projects. Our coordinator, Bob Thiel, distributes critical information to task force members, such as prevailing

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