

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

COMMITTEES

CHAIR, BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
VICE CHAIR, AGRICULTURE
TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CALIFORNIA
PORTS AND GOODS MOVEMENT
GOVERNMENT MODERNIZATION,
EFFICIENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
JOINT LEGISLATIVE BUDGET
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

California State Senate

SENATOR
DENISE MORENO DUCHENY
FORTIETH SENATE DISTRICT



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GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT
CALIFORNIA'S HORSE
RACING INDUSTRY
PERCHLORATE
CONTAMINATION
MOBILE AND
MANUFACTURED HOMES

September 19, 2005

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing in support of the Chula Vista Nature Center's request for \$350,000 in California Coastal Conservancy funding for a Green Sea Turtle component in their Wergeland Family Discovery Center.

The new Discovery Center will allow Chula Vista Nature Center (CNVC) to better serve the public by providing a quality nature center/living museum to promote coastal resource conservation and environmental stewardship through education.

By focusing on the ecosystems and wildlife (including the Green Sea Turtle) of San Diego Bay, local and regional residents will better understand the unique coastal resources we have in the South Bay.

The Chula Vista Nature Center has been offering environmental education programs to South Bay students and residents for 18 years. The annual visitation is around 50,000, while nearly 15,000 local students participate in hands-on field trips to CVNC.

I thank you for your continued support of environmental educational opportunities such as those offered by the Chula Vista Nature Center and its current project. Please feel free to contact me at my district office (619) 409-7690 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise Moreno Ducheny".

DENISE MORENO DUCHENY
State Senator, 40th District

DMD:jmh

cc: Barbara Moore, Program Manager, Chula Vista Nature Center

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL ROOM 4081
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
PH (916) 651-4040
FAX (916) 327-3522

CHULA VISTA OFFICE
637 3RD AVENUE, SUITE C
CHULA VISTA, CA 91910
PH (619) 409-7690
FAX (619) 409-7688

IMPERIAL VALLEY OFFICE
1224 STATE STREET, SUITE D
EL CENTRO, CA 92243
PH (760) 335-3442
FAX (760) 335-3444

COACHELLA VALLEY OFFICE
53-990 ENTERPRISE WAY, SUITE 114
COACHELLA, CA 92236
PH (760) 398-6442
FAX (760) 398-6470



Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0079
(916) 319-2079
FAX (916) 319-2179

DISTRICT OFFICE
878 3RD AVENUE, #105
CHULA VISTA, CA 91910-5844
(619) 409-7979
FAX (619) 409-9270

Assembly California Legislature



JUAN VARGAS
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-NINTH DISTRICT
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE, CHAIR

COMMITTEES

- AGRICULTURE
- BANKING AND FINANCE
- BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS

SELECT COMMITTEES

- CHAIR, URBAN REVITALIZATION
- CO-CHAIR, LANGUAGE AND ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT
- BIOTECHNOLOGY
- CALIFORNIA AND LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS
- CHILDREN'S PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELL-BEING IN DIVERSE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES
- COASTAL PROTECTION
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- TITLE IX
- URBAN YOUTH

September 30, 2005

Doug Bosco, Board Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

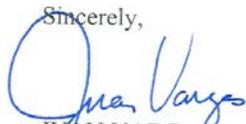
I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for the funding of the Chula Vista Nature Center's Wergeland Family Discovery Center project. The new Discovery Center will be an invaluable resource to the Chula Vista Nature Center (CVNC) which has been offering environmental education programs to South Bay students and residents for 18 years.

The CVNC is visited by approximately 50,000 people annually, while 15,000 students participate in hands-on study trips to the Nature Center. The new Discovery Center will not only attract more visitors, it will allow CVNC to better serve the public by providing a quality nature center/living museum which will promote coastal resource conservation and environmental stewardship through education.

By focusing on the ecosystems of San Diego Bay, Chula Vistans and the region's residents will better understand the amazing resources, including the Green Sea Turtle, which inhabits the San Diego Bay and its surrounds.

Thank you for your continued support of the Chula Vista Nature Center and its current project. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me or George Balgos, of my staff, at (619) 409-7979.

Sincerely,



JUAN VARGAS
Assembly Member
79th District

JV:gb



Printed on Recycled Paper

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support



GREG COX
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT
San Diego County Board of Supervisors

August 31, 2005

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

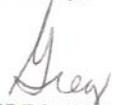
Dear Mr. Bosco,

It is my understanding that the California Coastal Conservancy will consider a recommendation to provide grant funding to the Chula Vista Nature Center (CVNC) for the Center's Wergeland Family Discovery Center project at your October 2005 meeting. As a member of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors representing South San Diego County, it is my pleasure to strongly support this recommendation before your Board.

I have been actively involved in the creation of the CVNC and its operations since its opening in 1987. Through the collaborative efforts of community volunteers, its partners in education, the business and civic communities, the CVNC has established a unique living museum that enriches people of all ages in a densely populated urban community. More than 15,000 students annually participate in its environmental education programs and over 60,000 visitors from throughout the world enjoy the facilities each year and learn the importance of coastal resource conservation and environmental stewardship. Through commitment to its mission, this small but powerful nature center has earned accreditation by the American Association of Museums, making it one of only four nature centers in the nation to hold this distinction.

In their quest to assure that the CVNC continues to provide a solid educational experience for its visitors, the Center has embarked on a fundraising campaign to replace the 18-year old Discovery Center displays and expand and enhance its public facilities. To date, the Friends of the Chula Vista Nature Center have raised \$184,800 toward this purpose. Grant funding from the California Coastal Conservancy will significantly contribute to this project, increasing the public's understanding of coastal resource conservation issues and providing how-to solutions that will help all visitors to the Center become better stewards of the environment. It is my sincere hope that your Board will look favorably upon the recommendation to provide grant funding to the Chula Vista Nature Center and join in assuring the completion and success of this very worthy project. I urge the California Coastal Conservancy to give this recommendation your most serious consideration.

Sincerely,


GREG COX
Supervisor, First District

County Administration Center • 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335 • San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 531-5511 • Fax (619) 235-0644 www.gregcox.com
Email: greg.cox@sdcounty.ca.gov

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support



*Friends
of the
Chula Vista Nature Center
Board of Directors*

- Natasha Martinez**
(Chair)
- Daniel D. Beintema**
(President)
- Greg Cox**
- Anthony Cutri, AIA**
- Roland Daniel**
- Maryellene Deason**
- Janie DeCelles**
- Dennis M. Doyle, Ph.D.**
- J. David Gardner, Sr.**
(Past Chair)
- Brian Joseph, DVM**
- Christine Malone**
- Steve Miesen**
(Past Chair)
- Barbara C. Moore**
(Secretary)
- Frank A. Powell, Jr.**
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- Frank Roseman**
- Donald W. Smith, CFP**
(Treasurer)
- Louis Vignapiano**
- Kenneth G. Weimer**
- F.L. Wergeland**
(Past Chair)

August 22, 2005

Esteemed members of the California Coastal Conservancy:

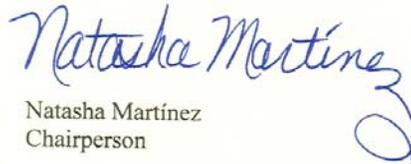
It is my pleasure and honor as the chairperson of the Friends of the Chula Vista Nature Center to support the recommendation before your board to assist with the funding for our Wergeland Family Discovery Center project.

Those of us who serve as volunteers of the Friends Board do so because of sincere admiration for the work done, and how it is done, at the Chula Vista Nature Center (CVNC). The collaborate efforts among staff, volunteers, the educational community, the business and civic communities, and visitors have created a unique facility to be enjoyed by people of all ages. We are proud to know that over 15,000 students participate in environmental education programs annually at the CVNC, that visitors from throughout the world enjoy the facilities and that our small but powerful center is accredited by the American Association of Museums. We know that the CVNC has had an important role in the increasing stature of Chula Vista as a recreational, cultural, and educational hub of San Diego County.

In our quest to assure that the CVNC continue to promote coastal resource conservation and environmental stewardship through educating the visitor, we embarked on a fundraising campaign to replace the 18-year old displays and expand and enhance the public facilities. Our group has raised \$184,800. to date toward this purpose and we continue our efforts throughout the summer.

It is our sincere hope that your board will look favorably at the request before you and join us in assuring the completion and success of this very worthy project.

Sincerely,


Natasha Martínez
Chairperson

(619) 409-5900 • Fax (619) 409-5910 • Website: ChulaVistaNatureCenter.org

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support



CHULA VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

84 EAST "J" STREET • CHULA VISTA, CALIFORNIA 91910 • 619 425-9600

EACH CHILD IS AN INDIVIDUAL OF GREAT WORTH

BOARD OF EDUCATION

CHERYL S. COX, Ed.D.
LARRY CUNNINGHAM
PATRICK A. JUDD
BERTHA J. LÓPEZ
PAMELA B. SMITH

August 31, 2005

SUPERINTENDENT

LOWELL J. BILLINGS, Ed.D.

Doug Bosco
SSC Board Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The Chula Vista Elementary School District (CVESD) is an active partner with the Chula Vista Nature Center (CVNC). As the district's representative on the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Chula Vista Nature Center, I write to you urging you to support our request for funding to renovate the Wergeland Family Discovery Center.

Our school district is fully committed to utilizing this amazing resource to enable our students to have hands-on experience in a living laboratory that brings their science standards to life. Indeed, over 15,000 students participate in environmental education programs annually at the CVNC. In fact, our district assigns a full time teacher to the center to provide on-site instruction on a daily basis to our students who are bussed in on a regularly scheduled basis.

In order to ensure that future generations continue to promote coastal resource conservation and environmental stewardship, Friends of the CVNC has embarked upon a fundraising campaign to replace the out of date displays and provide modern engaging learning exhibits. To date, Friends of CVNC has raised \$184,800 toward this goal and we are looking enthusiastically to others who share our vision to make this dream come true.

Thank you in advance for considering this request on behalf of the next generation who will carry the torch!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dennis Doyle".

Dennis Doyle
Assistant Superintendent

(Board Member, Friends of the Chula Vista Nature Center)

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support



NATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1500 "N" AVENUE • NATIONAL CITY, CA 91950 • (619) 336-7500 FAX (619) 336-7505

August 30, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure and honor to support the recommendation before your board to assist with the funding for the Chula Vista Nature Center's Wergeland Family Discovery Center project.

The collaborative efforts among staff, volunteers, the educational community, the business and civic communities, and visitors have created a unique facility to be enjoyed by people of all ages. We are proud to know that over 15,000 students participate in environmental education programs annually at the Chula Vista Nature Center (CVNC), that visitors from throughout the world enjoy the facilities and that our small but powerful center is accredited by the American Association of Museums. We know that the CVNC has had an important role in the increasing stature of Chula Vista as a recreational, cultural, and educational hub of San Diego County.

In their quest to assure that the CVNC continue to promote coastal resource conservation and environmental stewardship through educating the visitor, CVNC embarked on a fundraising campaign to replace the 18-year old displays and expand and enhance the public facilities. The Friends of the Chula Vista Nature Center has raised \$184,800 to date toward this purpose.

It is our sincere hope that your board will look favorably at the request before you and join us in assuring the completion and success of this very worthy project.

Sincerely,

George J. Cameron, Ed. D.
Superintendent

GJC:pc

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support



SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

6401 LINDA VISTA ROAD, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92111-7399 (858) 292-3500

Superintendent of Schools
Rudy M. Castruita, Ed.D.

August 31, 2005

Ms. Barbara Moore
Chula Vista Nature Center
1000 Gunpowder Point Drive
Chula Vista CA 91910

Dear Ms. Moore,

It is my pleasure to support the recommendation before your board to assist with the funding for the Chula Vista Nature Center's Wergeland Family Discovery Center project.

The collaborative efforts among staff, volunteers, the educational community, the business and civic communities, and visitors have created a unique facility to be enjoyed by people of all ages. We are proud to know that over 15,000 students participate in environmental education programs annually at the Chula Vista Nature Center (CVNC), that visitors from throughout the world enjoy the facilities, and that the center is accredited by the American Association of Museums. We know that the CVNC has had an important role in the increasing stature of Chula Vista as a recreational, cultural, and educational hub of San Diego County.

In their quest to assure that the CVNC continue to promote coastal resource conservation and environmental stewardship through educating the visitor, the center staff has embarked on a fundraising campaign to replace its 18-year old displays and expand and enhance the public facilities. The Friends of the Chula Vista Nature Center have raised \$184,800 to date toward this purpose.

It is our sincere hope that your board will look favorably at the request before you, which will help assure the completion and success of this very worthy project.

Sincerely,

Jim Esterbrooks
Public Information Officer

Board of Education

Nick Aguilar Ernest J. Dronenburg, Jr. Susan Hartley Robert J. Watkins John Witt

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support



FRIENDS OF SAN DIEGO WILDLIFE
REFUGES

301 Caspian Way
Imperial Beach, CA 91932
(619) 575-2704

PRESIDENT
MARGIE STINSON

TREASURER
HERB YOUNG

SECRETARY
DEBORAH VERFAILLIE

DIRECTORS

GEORGE
DOWDEN

KURT & JACKIE
FARRINGTON

SUSAN
FULLER

JOE VERFAILLIE

PAT
WAGNER

BECKY
WATSON

Doug Bosco,
SCC Board Chairman
California Coastal Commission
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, California 94612

20 August 2005

Dear Mr. Bosco:

As president of the *Friends of the San Diego Wildlife Refuges*, it is my profound honor to describe the tremendous value of the Chula Vista Nature Center [CVNC] to our community and to the U.S. National Wildlife Refuge System.

The Chula Vista Nature Center is centered in and surrounded by the Sweetwater National Wildlife Refuge. The staff and volunteers of the Nature Center have spent years restoring the ecologic stability and biodiversity of these extremely valuable and highly sensitive coastal wetlands. The increased environmental awareness that is apparent in our community is largely due to the educational efforts and public programs of the CVNC's staff and volunteers.

The Nature Center is the main source of environmental education for the San Diego and northern Baja California regions. Many thousands of school children and college students use the facility for entire courses of instruction, for special programs, and for field trips.

The Nature Center provides education materials and interpretive signage in both English and Spanish. The Nature Center is central to our regional bi-national community. It is exemplary in its quality neither as a zoo or aquarium nor as a museum of dead specimens, but as a living experience! The CVNC staff members are rare in their expertise in interacting with the public and presenting quality information.

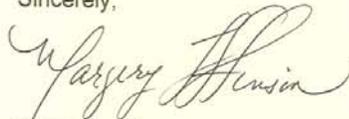
Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

Mr. Doug Bosco
California Coastal Commission
20 August 2005 ~2~

The CVNC is a regional treasure that has been built by years of student and adult volunteers. They and their community are united in history and dreams. As president of the *Friends of the San Diego Wildlife Refuges*, I am deeply impressed with the phenomenal professionalism of the CVNC's staff in planning their envisioned *Discovery Center*. This center will focus on the ecology of the San Diego Bay, coastal wetlands and the waters that feed into the bay and wetlands, as well as the conservation of water and other limited resources.

I humbly call upon your assistance to help in every way possible so that the Chula Vista Nature Center can reach its goals and fill the community dream of the *Discovery Center*.

Sincerely,



Margie L. Stinson,
President *Friends of San Diego Wildlife Refuges*
760-554-4965
oceaninfo@cox.net
mstinson@swc.cc.ca.us

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support



Norma L. Hernandez
Superintendent/President

Governing Board
David J. Agosto
Christine Aranda, Ed.D.
Jean Roesch, Ed.D.
Yolanda Salcido
Terri Valladolid

September 15, 2005

Doug Bosco
SCC Board Chairman
California Coastal Commission
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

Along the lines of the parable "*It takes a village to raise a child*", the life-long success of our students is shaped not only by their academic experiences, but also through community involvement. Healthy communities grow as a synergistic blend of diverse strengths, perspectives and opportunities.

As the Superintendent/President of Southwestern College, I realize the profound value of community. A star in our bi-national "community" of San Diego and northern Baja California is the Chula Vista Nature Center (CVNC).

It has provided our students, faculty and the entire regional community with a wealth of educational opportunities in the form of field trips, special lectures, professional workshops, and student opportunities for service learning and long-term internships. The breadth and depth of knowledge of the CVNC staff is profound. Their dreams reflect those of the community. It is my earnest hope that you are able to help the CVNC reach its immediate dream of the *Discovery Center*. My faculty and students have told me first hand of the plan for the *Discovery Center*; they have expressed their excitement and await its completion.

This is an occasion where we find ourselves extending our community in asking for your support. This center will be of value far beyond our southern region, because it will help educate visitors from near and far about the value of protecting our coastal oceans, bays and wetlands. If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely,

Norma L. Hernandez
Superintendent/President

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support



California Coastal Commission
SCC Board Chairman
Doug Bosco
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, California 94612

30 August 2005

Dear Review Committee:

As Dean of Mathematics, Sciences and Engineering at Southwestern College, it is my pleasure to write a letter on behalf of the Chula Vista Nature Center (CVNC). Even though Southwestern College and the Nature Center do not have an official partnership, it seems so!

SWC has conducted several semester-long courses, such as marine or environmental biology at the Nature Center, and every semester hundreds of our students visit the facility on field trips. In addition, the CVNC continually provides numerous service learning and long-term internship opportunities for our students. Because of these opportunities and mentoring by the Nature Center's staff, some of our students have found their path within the biological or environmental sciences.

The Chula Vista Nature Center is a treasure! It provides a type of education that we cannot in terms of its living collection of animals, its museum-quality interpretation and presentation of information, and its fabulous wetlands. Nowhere else can our students go to study coastal wetland ecology in such a *hands-on* manner.

I deeply appreciate the great array of services provided by the CVNC and its staff. It fosters deep relationships throughout the bi-national region between California and Baja California. The *Discovery Center* will take the Nature Center into the future. It will increase and diversify opportunities. I applaud the CVNC and hope their dream comes true.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Tyner", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kathy Tyner
Dean, School of Mathematics, Sciences and Engineering
619-421-6700 x 6344; ktyner@swc.cc.ca.us

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support



August 31, 2005

Doug Bosco
State Coastal Conservancy Board Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy,
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor,
Oakland, CA 94512.

Mr. Bosco,

It is my pleasure and honor to support the recommendation before your board to assist with the funding for the Chula Vista Nature Center's Wergeland Family Discovery Center project.

Since 1987 the Chula Vista Nature Center (CVNC) has become a unique facility for the enjoyment of the educational community, the business and civic communities, and thousands of visitors from throughout the world, who benefit from the facilities and services offered by the center's qualified staff and volunteers. CVNC's small but powerful center -accredited by the American Association of Museums- has played an important role in the increasing stature of Chula Vista as a recreational, cultural, and educational heart of San Diego County.

CVNC embarked on a fundraising campaign to replace the 18-year old displays and expand and enhance the public facilities, in their quest to assure that it continues to promote coastal resource conservation and environmental stewardship through educating the visitors. The Friends of the Chula Vista Nature Center has raised \$184,800 to date toward this purpose.

WiLDCOAST - dedicated to preserving endangered marine species and threatened coastal wildlands of the Californias - is proud to have collaborated with CVNC in numerous successful programs and events, and have benefited from the center's experienced personnel and facilities in the pursue of our common conservation and educational goals. It is our hope that your board will look favorably at the request and join us in assuring the completion and success of this very worthy project.

Should you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Serge Dedina".

Serge Dedina, PhD
Executive Director

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support



3165 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101
P.O. Box 120488, San Diego, CA 92112-0488
619.686.6200 • www.portofsandiego.org

August 30, 2005

Ms. Barbara Moore
Chula Vista Nature Center
1000 Gunpowder Point Drive
Chula Vista, CA 91910

SUBJECT: Letter of Support to the California Coastal Conservancy Regarding Grant
Funding for the New Discovery Center

Dear Ms. Moore:

The Port of San Diego (Port) has been a supporter of the Chula Vista Nature Center environmental education program and the light-footed clapper rail propagation program for years. The Port recommends and supports the issuance of a grant from the California Coastal Conservancy to the Chula Vista Nature Center in support of the Discovery Center project. Through the Port's municipal stormwater program, we initiated a school partnership program that focuses on providing environmental education to schools within the San Diego Bay Watershed. The environmental programs have a focus on San Diego Bay and the protection of its natural habitats. The Chula Vista Nature Center has provided over 5,000 third grade students from our partner schools an opportunity to learn about San Diego Bay. With the new Discovery Center exhibits, our education efforts will continue to promote coastal resource conservation and environmental stewardship.

The Port hopes our support of your education programs will help the Coastal Conservancy to fund the new Discovery Center. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 619-686-6254.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eileen M. Maher".

Eileen M. Maher
Assistant Director
Environmental Services

EMM:rlg
File: CV Nature Center
cc: David Merk
Docs #145949

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

San Elijo Lagoon CONSERVANCY

Dedicated to preserving, protecting and enhancing the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve

P. O. Box 230634
Encinitas, California
92023-0634
T 760 436-3944
F 760 944-9606
www.sanelijo.org

August 17, 2005

To whom it may concern:

The San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy whole-heartedly supports the Chula Vista Nature Center's application to the California Coastal Conservancy for the renovation of educational exhibits. The new exhibits will be exciting and interactive and will help interpret the importance of California's natural resources.

Each year close to 15,000 school children participate in hands-on environmental education programs. The new exhibits will enhance their learning and stewardship.

Sincerely,



Doug Gibson
Executive Director/Principal Scientist

