EXHIBIT 3: Letter from Orange County

COUNTY OF ORANGE

PUBLIC FACILITIES & RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Vicki L. Wilson, Director
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Santa Ana, CA

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November 3, 2003

Sam Schuchat, Executive Director
Attn: Deborah Ruddock, Project Manager
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Subject: Proposed Use of Proposition 12 Funding for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park Acquisition Projects

Dear Ms. Ruddock:

At the time Proposition 12 funds were allocated, the parcel referred to as "Irvine Company Option Parcel 5," was proposed for acquisition by the City of Laguna Beach. Subsequently, a conservation easement over this parcel was donated by The Irvine Company to the Nature Conservancy, with the underlying fee title ultimately due to be donated to an adjacent city or the County of Orange. Since the Coastal Conservancy's Proposition 12 funds are no longer needed for "Irvine Company Option Parcel 5," this is to request The Conservancy's cooperation in re-designating the use of these funds for the acquisition of any or all of the parcels that have been jointly prioritized and submitted to you for consideration by the Trust for Public Land, Laguna Canyon Foundation, City of Laguna Beach, and County of Orange (see maps conveyed to you in August). The proposed parcel acquisitions would enlarge the overall Laguna Greenbelt including Laguna Coast and Aliso & Wood Canyons Wilderness Parks.

The Coastal Greenbelt Authority (CGA) responsibilities originally focused on the day-to-day and long term planning and operations of Laguna Coast Wilderness Park. However, these CGA responsibilities have been expanded to include Aliso & Wood Canyons Wilderness Park as well, in order to embrace the larger coastal canyons and hillside complex known as the Laguna Greenbelt (see attached Amended and Restated CGA Bylaws). The Authority makes recommendations on these items as well as land acquisitions to the County Board of Supervisors and Laguna Beach City Council.

In addition, the bylaws of the Laguna Canyon Foundation also embrace both of these wilderness parks, because they are separate in name only and actually constitute a single coastal greenbelt area.

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PFRD will favorably recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the County lease compatible parcels acquired by the City of Laguna Beach into the two County wilderness parks, just as the County already leases City of Laguna Beach land in Laguna Canyon into Laguna Coast Wilderness Park. This leasing mechanism affords cost effective and uniform recreational and habitat management by our expert park rangers throughout the larger Laguna Greenbelt area. Prior to seeking the Board approval, staff will secure the same recommendation from the CGA.

Thank you very much for all of your fine work to date, and for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Vicki L. Wilson, Director
Public Facilities & Resources Department

Attachment:

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.