

California State Senate

SENATOR
THOMAS MCCLINTOCK
NINETEENTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



- COMMITTEES
- VICE CHAIRMAN
- TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING
- MEMBER OF
- BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW
- GOVERNMENT MODERNIZATION, EFFICIENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY
- GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT
- SUBCOMMITTEE
- BUDGET SUB 4
- (STATE ADMINISTRATION, GOVERNMENT & TRANSPORTATION)
- JOINT COMMITTEES
- LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
- LEGISLATIVE BUDGET

SACRAMENTO ADDRESS
STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 3070
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4019
FAX (916) 324-7544

DISTRICT OFFICE
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SUITE 400
THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91360
TEL (805) 494-8808
FAX (805) 494-8812
TOLL FREE (800) 458-8500

HTTP://WWW.SEN.CA.GOV/MCCLINTOCK
EMAIL: TOM.MCCLINTOCK@SEN.CA.GOV

June 16, 2006

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support of lower Refugio Creek Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I want to strongly urge the Commission to approve the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County's application and proposal to eradicate *Arundo donax* from Refugio Creek. *Arundo donax* threatens local natural habitat and is a serious pest of riparian areas in the south coast of Santa Barbara County. The elimination of the *Arundo* will also improve habitat conditions for a variety of native flora and fauna located in the surrounding areas.

The project will also receive support in the form of in-kind assistance by all private property owners affected and is also supported by the Cachuma Resource Conservation District and the County of Santa Barbara Flood Control District.

The project is exactly what the people of California envisioned Proposition 40 (Watershed, Clean Beaches and Water Quality Act of 2002) funding being used for. The lower Refugio Creek area, its surrounding area (including Refugio State Park) and its natural habitat are truly gems for the citizens of California. This project will help assure that the area and its surrounding ecosystem remain strong and vibrant.

I hope the Commission looks favorably upon this proposal being submitted by the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County.

Sincerely,



Tom McClintock

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

DISTRICT OFFICE
101 W. ANAPAMU ST., SUITE A
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101
(805) 564-1649
FAX (805) 564-1651

Assembly California Legislature



PEDRO NAVA
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-FIFTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:
CHAIR, BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 5
ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/
TRANSPORTATION
BUDGET
HIGHER EDUCATION
INSURANCE
NATURAL RESOURCES
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
JOINT LEGISLATIVE BUDGET

June 16, 2006

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland CA 94612-2530

Re: Refugio Creek Arundo Removal

Dear Mr. Bosco,

As the California State Assemblymember for the 35th District, I would like to voice my strong support for the Refugio Creek Arundo Removal Project. This project will dramatically improve the wildlife value along the creek by removing the highly invasive weed, Arundo donax (giant reed), stabilizing several major erosion sites and revegetating 17,000 square feet of the riparian corridor. With up to three years of post-installation monitoring, re-treatment, and replacement planting, the project will help ensure a successful outcome.

Arundo donax affects riparian systems with aggressive growth that chokes stream channels and creates debris dams that cause increased bank erosion and clogged road culverts, impeding fish travel during storm flows. This project will attempt to eradicate and control Arundo donax in lower Refugio Creek, where it has spread to about 100 locations that cover over four acres of creek bottom and banks.

The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County, in cooperation with three private agricultural landowners and the Cachuma Resource Conservation District, will dramatically improve the wildlife value along one and one-half miles of the creek with approval of this project.

For these reasons, I highly recommend that this valuable project receive the California Coastal Conservancy's support. Please feel free to contact my staff at (805) 564-1649 to discuss this matter further. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pedro Nava
Assemblymember, 35th District

Exhibit 4: Letters of Support

From: Mary_Root@fws.gov
Date: Mon, 19 Jun 2006 18:02:52 -0700

Dear Ms. Diehl,

Please accept my apologies for sending my letter of support for the Lower Refugio Creek Arundo Removal Project past the suggested deadline. I would like to stress that this should by no means reflect on the importance of the Land Trust of Santa Barbara County's (Land Trust) efforts to remove Arundo and restore riparian habitats in the lower portions of the Refugio Creek watershed. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service strongly support these efforts and have already provided monetary support through our Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (2004). Our Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program awarded the Land Trust \$25,000 to begin implementing Arundo removal, bank stabilization, and native plant revegetation on one private landowner's property within the Lower Refugio Creek watershed. The Land Trust's current Arundo removal proposal would help to implement Arundo removal throughout the lower portions of the Refugio Creek watershed thus extending and complimenting the benefits of our existing restoration project.

In terms of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's trust resources, the proposed Arundo removal project would likely directly benefit the federally threatened California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*), as well as, the endangered tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*) and southern California steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*); all three species are known to occur in riparian habitats of the lower Refugio Creek. The Arundo removal project would also likely help to enhance potential habitats for the endangered least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) and southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax trallii extimus*), which transiently occur within the riparian corridors along the Gaviota coast. Lastly, many other native species may also benefit from the proposed invasive Arundo removal including numerous species of migratory birds, native amphibians, and native riparian plants.

We strongly support the Land Trust's efforts and encourage the California Coastal Conservancy to also support removal of this highly invasive plant species. We would also like to highlight that the Land Trust's efforts to build partnerships between private landowners and the various resource agencies in the lower Refugio Creek region will likely help to provide an important model for future partnerships in other watersheds along the Gaviota Coast.

Thank you for your time and for any possible support you may be able to give for this important restoration effort. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions about our office's support for the Lower Refugio Creek Arundo Removal Project.

Sincerely,

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Mary E. Root
Conservation Partnerships Program Coordinator US Fish & Wildlife Service
Ventura Field Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, CA. 93003

(805) 644-1766 ext 233
mary_root@fws.gov



Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Weights & Measures ■ County of Santa Barbara

William D. Gillette
Commissioner / Director

May 31, 2006

Janet Diehl
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Ms. Diehl:

The Santa Barbara County Weed Management Area strongly supports the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County's project proposal to eradicate *Arundo donax* from Refugio Creek. *Arundo donax* is a high-priority concern of the Area and we are currently involved in the eradication of Arundo from the banks of Carpinteria Creek.

Arundo is a serious pest of riparian areas especially on the south coast of Santa Barbara County. Arundo readily invades riparian channels, especially in disturbed areas, is very competitive, difficult to control, and does not provide high-quality food or nesting habitat for native animals.

Once established arundo tends to form large, continuous, clonal root masses, sometimes covering several acres, often at the expense of native riparian vegetation which cannot compete. Root masses, which can become more than a meter thick, stabilize stream banks and terraces, altering flow regimes. Arundo is also highly flammable, presenting an additional hazard to nearby residents, native animals and vegetation, which would have difficulty rebounding from any fires that might occur.

The Santa Barbara County Weed Management Area (SBCWMA) is an association of local public agencies, environmental groups, and private interests who are concerned with the spread of invasive and noxious weeds in Santa Barbara County. The SBCWMA is co-chaired by the County of Santa Barbara Agricultural Commissioner's Office and the Santa Barbara Chapter of the Audubon Society.

The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County is a longstanding environmental organization in Santa Barbara County and has the infrastructure to support conservation projects. This project is supportive of the Santa Barbara County Weed Management Area's goal of reducing the impact of arundo in Santa Barbara County. We hope that the Coastal Conservancy can support this project.

Sincerely,

David Chang
WMA Coordinator
Agricultural Program Specialist

RECEIVED

JUN 05 2006

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



Cachuma Resource Conservation District

USDA Service Center - 920 East Stowell Road - Santa Maria, CA 93454 - Phone: (805) 928-9269 - Fax: (805) 928-9644
Internet: www.carcd.org E-mail: cachumarcd@nacdn.net

June 13, 2006

Janet Diehl
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Letter of Support for the Land Trust of Santa Barbara County's Proposal for Refugio Creek.

Ms Diehl:

The Cachuma Resource Conservation District in Santa Barbara County requests that you fund the Arundo Removal project in lower Refugio Creek. This project has been at least 5 years in the making and the timing is perfect to begin restoration. Please call me with any comments or questions (805)928-9269 ext 110.

Sincerely,

Tom Lockhart
Cachuma RCD

RECEIVED
JUN 16 2006
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

MAY. 13. 2003 2:39PM

NO. 988 P. 1/1

REFUGIO CANYON RANCH
P.O. BOX 3279
COSTA MESA, CA 92628VIA FACSIMILE: (805) 963-5988

May 13, 2003

Michael Feeney, Executive Director
The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County
P.O. Box 91830
Santa Barbara, CA 93190-1830

Dear Mr. Feeney,

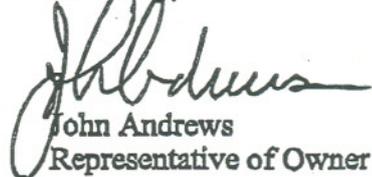
Mr. Dan Hoffman, the manager of our ranch located in Refugio Canyon, has asked me to send you a letter evidencing our desire to pursue grants for the work required to remove the Arundo donax from our property. Please allow this letter to serve as an indication of our interest to do so.

As the representative of the owner of Refugio Canyon Ranch, let me say that the ranch is supportive of the proposed restoration project as described in the plan prepared by the Cachuma RCD and the ranch is willing to participate as well. We are willing to make a commitment of in-kind resources of at least \$6,000 and perhaps more.

We are willing to become a co-applicant for the grants if this should become necessary. I understand that the ranch is not giving it's approval or permission to begin work on the ranch at this time, but we are certainly willing to help be part of attempting to secure the grants. We can then evaluate the terms and conditions of the grants to see if it makes sense to proceed.

My apologies for not getting this letter out to you sooner and I hope it has not held up your progress. Good luck. If you have any further questions, my office number in Orange County is (714) 444-5801.

Sincerely,


John Andrews
Representative of Ownercc: Tom Lockhart
Cachuma Resource Conservation District
Dan Hoffmann, Manager
Refugio Canyon Ranch

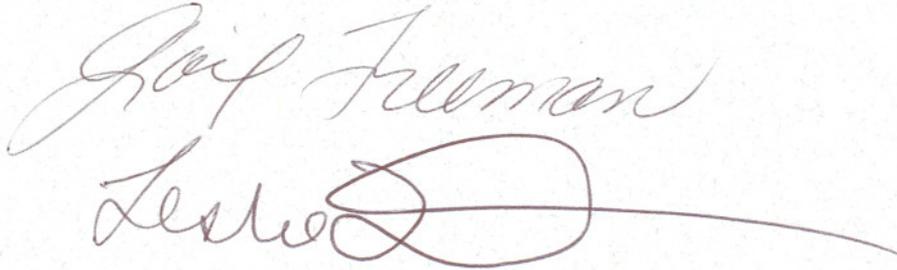
June 13, 2006

Janet Diehl
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Ms. Diehl

We are writing today to let you know that we whole-heartedly support the Lower Refugio Creek Arundo Removal project. We are the owners of the Freeman Ranch located on the lower portion of Refugio Creek. Your assistance with this project is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Leslie & Gail Freeman

Handwritten signatures of Gail Freeman and Leslie Freeman in dark ink. Gail's signature is written above Leslie's, both in a cursive style.

RECEIVED

JUN 15 2006

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Janet Diehl

From: DHoffm7358@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 8:27 PM
To: jdiehl@scc.ca.gov
Subject: Bamboo removal

Janet,
We are still supporting the bamboo removal in Refugio creek.

Sincerely

Dan Hoffmann
Refugio Canyon Ranch
Manager