EXHIBIT 3: Letters of Support

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Governing Board Member Cynthia Verdugo-Peralta
20505 Yorba Linda Blvd, Suite 324, Yorba Linda, CA 92886-7109 (714) 777-7729 • Fax (714) 693-7863

May 28, 2006
The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to convey my wholehearted support of the National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC), and their proposal to the California Coastal Conservancy for support of their upcoming "California Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute", to be held in late July at various sites in Southern California.

As the Governor's Appointee to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (the largest air quality district in the U.S.), I give my highest recommendation to NHEC and their California Youth Institute. I have been familiar with and a part of NHEC for over 5 years now, and have been deeply impressed with the organization and their programs, especially those regarding environmental education and youth training.

As the only national Latino environmental/natural resource organization in the country, NHEC is uniquely qualified to operate the California Institute. Founded in 1996, NHEC has a successful record of accomplishment in advocacy and program management, and it is my firm opinion that NHEC has made a real difference in "opening the doors of opportunity" for Latinos and other minorities in the environmental arena.

As to the California Institute, I am confident it will be successful, since it is modeled after NHEC's proven, national "Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute", held for the last 5 years in New Mexico. I strongly believe that NHEC now has the track record, ability, and resources to successfully duplicate this program in California, where it is sorely needed. In light of our state's rapidly changing demographics, and the vast increase in California's Latino/minority population, a program like this is long overdue.

The California Institute will offer a major opportunity to the Conservancy, the other funders, and the youth of California in learning more about our California's environmental and natural heritage. This will also help in bringing much-needed diversity to the environmental and conservation movement in the state. Like its New Mexico model, the California Institute will be an intensive, science-based, hands-on, 10 day residential program for talented teens, aged 16-18. Students from throughout the state will be chosen in a competitive process. Only California residents are eligible to apply, thus guaranteeing that California funds will benefit California students and communities.

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A unique feature of all NHEC's youth programs is the involvement of "role models", many of who are minority environmental professionals, from every discipline, who volunteer to help teach, inspire, and mentor the students. The California Institute will have such role models, and in fact I intend to be one of them at the upcoming Institute. Further, the South Coast Air Quality Management District is considering hosting one of the Institute's training sites. This will include a visit by students to our air quality laboratory, where they will meet our scientists and technicians.

NHEC in general – and their Institute program in particular – are seeking to help build the next generation of minority environmental leaders and professionals. I support this important goal and the South Coast Air Quality Management District supports this goal. I urge the California Coastal Conservancy to do the same.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (714) 777-7729, or at vpcenergy@aol.com .

Sincerely,

Cynthia Verdugo-Peralta

Cynthia Verdugo-Peralta
Governing Board Member - Governor's Appointee
CA Fuel Cell Partnership – Vice Chair
Energy Efficiency/Air Pollution Control Specialist

Welcome to La Puente
"Where the Past Meets the Future"

Louie A. Lujan, M.Ed.
Mayor
City of La Puente

June 5, 2006

The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

My name is Louis Lujan, and I am the Mayor of the City of La Puente, near Los Angeles. I wanted to express to the Board of the California Coastal Conservancy that I am very supportive of the National Hispanic Environmental Council and their proposal to your agency for funding to underwrite their "California Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute".

As Mayor of La Puente, as a Latino with a degree in the environment, and as a member of NHEC, I know the organization quite well, and I've long been supportive of their environmental education programs for youth, as well as their other work in the environmental arena.

Because of their track record and programs, NHEC has demonstrated, to me and other Latino leaders I know, that they are committed to ensuring that our community, and other minorities as well, are trained to become the "environmental leaders of tomorrow" in our state. This is crucial, since the Latino population of California is now over 36%, and growing every day. Thus, we must prepare our youth to be the next environmental stewards of California's natural resources.

The NHEC California Institute is another example of their pioneering work in the environmental field, and I'm looking forward to having youth from my city apply to and attend this exceptional and much needed program. I urge the Conservancy to fund the Institute --one of the few environmental education programs by a minority organization -- that truly targets minority and underserved youth.

I believe the California Institute will be a success, since it is based primarily on NHEC's national "Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute", which NHEC has operated each summer since 2001 in New Mexico. With this successful track record, I am positive NHEC will be able to effectively replicate this program in the Golden State, where it is needed. Again, I give my full support to NHEC, and applaud the Conservancy in advance for your funding of their Institute.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 626.855.1500, or via e-mail at llujan@alumni.usc.edu
Thank you!

Sincerely,

Louie Lujan, M.Ed.
Mayor
City of La Puente

Mayor Louie A. Lujan • 15900 E. Main Street • La Puente, CA 91744 • 626.926.0875 • www.louielujan.com

EXHIBIT 3: Letters of Support

Mary Loquvam
1756 Micheltorena Street Los Angeles, California 90026

June 12, 2006

The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to convey my wholehearted support of the National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC), and their proposal to the California Coastal Conservancy for support of their upcoming "CA Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute", to be held in late July at various sites in Southern California.

As the only national Latino environmental/natural resource organization in the country, NHEC is uniquely qualified to operate the CA Institute. Founded in 1996, NHEC has a successful record of accomplishment in advocacy and program management, and it is my firm opinion that NHEC has made a real difference in "opening the doors of opportunity" for Latinos and other minorities in the environmental arena.

As to the CA Institute, I am confident it will be successful, since it is based on NHEC's proven, national "Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute", held for the last 5 years in New Mexico. I strongly believe that NHEC has the track record, ability, and resources to now successfully duplicate this program in California, where it is sorely needed. In light of our state's rapidly changing demographics, and the vast increase in California's Latino/minority population, a program like this is long overdue.

The CA Institute will offer a major opportunity to the Conservancy, the other funders, and the youth of California to learn more about our state's environment and natural heritage, while helping bring much-needed diversity to the environment and conservation movement. Like its NM model, the CA Institute will be an intensive, science-based, hands-on, 10 day residential program for talented teens, aged 16-18, chosen competitively from across California. Only CA residents are eligible to apply, thus guaranteeing that California funds will benefit CA students and communities.

I urge the California Coastal Conservancy to support this program. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mary Loquvam

EXHIBIT 3: Letters of Support

CALIFORNIA
Wild Heritage
CAMPAIGN

June 12, 2006

The Honorable Douglas Bosco
Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

On behalf of the California Wild Heritage Campaign (CWHC), I wish to convey my strong support for the National Hispanic Environmental Council's proposal for their "California Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute", which will be held this summer in Southern California. I would like to take this opportunity to articulate my endorsement of NHEC.

Founded in 2000, the CWHC is a coalition of over 300 California-based environmental, community, civic and business organizations that is working hard to preserve and protect, as federal wilderness, some of California's last remaining special wild places and rivers. The CWHC includes the Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, Friends of the River, The Wilderness Society, and Defenders of Wildlife. NHEC has been a key member of the CWHC for the last 4 years, and has been coordinating outreach and educational efforts to Latinos in an effort to meet our mutual goals.

Over the last four years, I have interacted regularly with NHEC, and I have developed a high regard for their organization and the individual projects they administer. Thus, I give my highest recommendation to NHEC and their California Youth Institute. My history and experience with them convinces me that their project has great merit and will be a success. I believe the Conservancy, the youth of California, and the conservation goals we all believe in and work towards will benefit from this Institute.

Further, this program will undoubtedly help in another important goal, i.e., the need to bring diversity to the environmental movement so that it better reflects our state's new demographics. We must do more to reach out to and educate minority Americans on a wide range of environmental and conservation issues. The Institute will help meet this goal in California, where minorities are now the majority, according to the latest statistics. For all these reasons and more, CWHC has been working with NHEC.

I am very comfortable giving NHEC my strong support because they have a proven track record when it comes to Latino outreach efforts and especially, to environmental education programs for minority youth. In fact, their proposed California Youth Institute is based on their successful, national "Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute", in New Mexico, which NHEC has planned and run each summer since 2001. In light of this experience, I am positive NHEC will successfully duplicate this effective program in California, and I am sure the Conservancy will be pleased with their efforts.

www.californiawild.org

Should you have any questions about CWHC and/or NHEC, please contact me at 916-442-3155 or at tsheehan@californiawild.org Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Traci Sheehan Van Thull
Executive Director, California Wild Heritage Campaign