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E-mail: Linda.Parks@ventura.org

January 8, 2007

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland CA 94612-2530

*Re: Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project,
Local Assistance Program (File No. 97-001).*

Dear Mr. Bosco:

As co-chair of the Ventura County Task Force of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, I am writing to urge the State Coastal Conservancy to authorize the proposed grant of \$650,000 to Environment Now to fund its management of the Wetlands Recovery Project's Local Assistance Program (LAP).

The Local Assistance Program and the LAP staff provide important assistance to local agencies and nonprofit organizations in Ventura County by assisting them in the development and implementation of community-based ecosystem protection and restoration projects. It has been instrumental in the education and increased participation of a number of local organizations and individuals and has encouraged their engagement in such efforts.

This program has supported the Task Force in cultivating partnerships among stakeholders and fostering local support for protection and restoration of wetlands and watersheds, and has acted as a clearinghouse for the gathering and dissemination of information. The LAP staff has also provided valuable technical assistance with development and implementation of local wetland acquisition and restoration projects. These projects include restoring coastal estuaries, modifying or removing barriers to migration by endangered southern steelhead, and enhancing habitat for marine and riparian species.

The Ventura County Task Force acts as the first stage of planning and review of prospective projects by the Wetlands Recovery Project. It helps identify restoration needs in the County and often develops initial concepts for prospective projects for inclusion on the Work Plan and the Small Grants Program.

Our Local Assistance Program coordinator, Bob Thiel, has been instrumental to the success of the local program by organizing the monthly meetings of the Ventura County Task Force. He provides up to date information, conducts research, and drafts working papers.

The Local Assistance Program provides an important service to the people of this County, and I believe it should be continued. We appreciate all of the Coastal Conservancy's financial support and technical assistance for wetland and stream restoration in Ventura County for the past three decades and we would ask that you continue that effort by approving the proposed grant to Environment Now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Parks".

Linda Parks
Ventura County Supervisor, Second District



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Diego Region

Over 50 Years Serving San Diego, Orange, and Riverside Counties

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January 4, 2007

Douglas Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
Attention: Karen Bane, Project Manager

Dear Mr. Bosco:

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

I understand that the Board of Directors of the Coastal Conservancy will soon be considering authorization of a grant to continue the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) Local Assistance Program (LAP). I participate in the WRP Wetlands Managers Group on behalf of the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board. I believe the LAP is an important program that should be continued. Although the membership of the WRP consists of state and federal governmental organizations, local governmental and non-governmental organizations are critical to achieving the goals of the WRP. 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.

The WRP San Diego County Task Force Watershed Coordinator position is funded by the LAP. Both of the individuals who have served in that position have actively, energetically, and effectively devoted their considerable knowledge and experience to working with local entities to protect and restore southern California wetlands and watersheds.

I strongly recommend continuation of funding for the LAP.

Sincerely,

Bruce W. Posthumus
Senior Water Resource Control Engineer

California Environmental Protection Agency



Los Angeles - Ventura Project
3639 Harbor Blvd., Suite 201
Ventura, CA 93001

tel [805] 642.0345 ext. 502
fax [805] 642.0343
nature.org

4 January 2007

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland CA 94612-2530

*Re: Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project,
Local Assistance Program (File No. 97-001).*

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of the Ventura County Task Force of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, I write to express my strong support for the proposed grant to Environment Now for \$650,000 for the continued funding and management of the Wetlands Recovery Project's Local Assistance Program.

Since 1999, the Local Assistance Program (LAP) has provided an important resource, helping to build the capacities of agencies and organizations to protect and restore wetlands, increasing community involvement in wetlands recovery projects, and facilitating knowledge sharing for wetlands recovery practitioners. Ventura County contains some of the best quality and last remaining wetlands in Southern California, and the LAP has been an important resource for protection efforts because it is a consistent funding source and a well-staffed program.

As a result of the Coastal Conservancy's previous grant to Environment Now, the LAP staff—including Shawn Kelly, administrator of the small grants program, and Bob Thiel and Greg Gauthier, the LAP project coordinators for Ventura County—have provided important assistance that other organizations in the County cannot duplicate at this time. They have helped target priority habitat restoration projects and recruit local partners to develop them. They have also identified and publicized potential funding sources for those projects, assisted in grant writing, facilitated project permitting, and helped resolve other technical issues related to various projects.

As an example of an important recent accomplishment, Bob Thiel helped organize and facilitate a new Ventura River Watershed Council. Over the years, he has also provided technical assistance to such agencies as the Ventura County Planning Division and Ventura County Watershed Protection District, locally based watershed groups, such as the Upper Santa Clara River Biodiversity Working Group; and nonprofit organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, and Friends of the Santa Clara River. Many of our projects and initiatives would be stalled or non-existent without Bob's commitment and expertise.

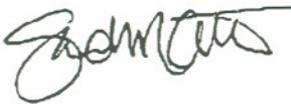
Ltr to Bosco, page 2 of 2
4 January 2007

By providing staff support to the County Task Forces and by sponsoring various workshops and training programs, the Local Assistance Program has furnished local partners with important, practical information regarding wetland protection and restoration. One of its key initiatives last year was the 2006 Wetlands Symposium at the University of California, Santa Barbara, which included a series of useful sessions on such issues as applying landscape ecology to wetland management, avoiding common problems in managing restoration projects, and anticipating the impacts of climate change on wetland conservation.

As a manager of a major conservation program for a large nonprofit here, I can attest to the value of the Local Assistance Program. It has been invaluable to the community in cultivating partnerships among stakeholders, working with agency personnel, and advising local groups on funding opportunities, strategies and potential projects. I strongly urge the Coastal Conservancy to continue to support this important work by approving the proposed grant to Environment Now.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sandi Matsumoto
Co-chair of the Ventura County Task Force,
Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project; and

Project Director
The Nature Conservancy

Cc: Karen Bane .



Community Environmental Council

January 4, 2007

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Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland CA 94612-2530

*Re: Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project,
Local Assistance Program (File No. 97-001).*

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Task Force of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, I am writing to express my support for the proposed \$650,000 grant to Environment Now so that it can continue to fund and manage the Wetlands Recovery Project's Local Assistance Program.

Through the work of its staff, the Local Assistance Program has helped build the capacity of local agencies and organizations in Santa Barbara County to undertake wetlands projects, increased the involvement of local groups in wetlands recovery efforts here, and helped us exchange and share information and resources.

As a result of the Coastal Conservancy's previous grant to Environment Now, the LAP staff—including Shawn Kelly, administrator of the small grants program, and Bob Thiel, the LAP project coordinator for Santa Barbara County—have provided important assistance that other organizations in the County cannot duplicate at this time. They have helped target priority habitat restoration projects and recruit local partners to develop them. They have also identified and publicized potential funding sources for those projects, assisted in grant writing, facilitated project permitting, and helped resolve other technical issues related to various projects.

During the past several years, for example, Thiel served on technical advisory committees for the City of Santa Barbara's watershed assessment and planning program and Conception Coast Project's *Regional Conservation Guide* project. He provided similar assistance to such agencies as the City of Carpinteria and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency; community-based watershed groups, such as the Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition and Goleta Slough Management Committee; and nonprofit organizations such as Community Environmental Council, the Land Trust of Santa Barbara County, and the Agricultural Watershed Coalition of Santa Barbara and Southern San Luis Obispo Counties.

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By providing staff support to the County Task Forces and by sponsoring various workshops and training programs, the Local Assistance Program has furnished local partners with important, practical information regarding wetland protection and restoration. One of its key initiatives last year was the 2006 Wetlands Symposium at the University of California, Santa Barbara, which included a series of useful sessions on such issues as applying landscape ecology to wetland management, avoiding common problems in managing restoration projects, and anticipating the impacts of climate change on wetland conservation.

As a manager of a major conservation program for a large nonprofit here, I can attest to the value of the Local Assistance Program as a partner with me in my work. And it has been invaluable to the community in cultivating partnerships among stakeholders, working with agency personnel, and advising local groups on funding opportunities, strategies and potential projects. I would urge the Coastal Conservancy to help continue this important work by approving the proposed grant to Environment Now.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Gomez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mauricio Gomez
Co-chair of the Santa Barbara County Task Force,
Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project
805-963-0583 Ext.111
805-962-9080 Fax
mgomez@cecmail.org

Cc: Karen Bane



January 4, 2007

Douglas Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chair Bosco and members of the Conservancy Board:
Attn: Karen Bane, Project Manager

On behalf of the Earth Resource Foundation I wish to convey strong support for the proposed \$650,000 grant to Environment Now to continue the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project Local Assistance Program (LAP).

Through the work of its staff, the WRP LAP has helped build the capacity of local organizations to develop and implement wetlands projects, increased the involvement of local groups in restoration of our coastal wetlands, and helped us all exchange information and share resources.

I believe that the professional knowledge and skill base that is provided by the LAP to the local organizations is critical to the future success and stability of the Wetlands Recovery Project. Our local Lap representative has worked collaboratively with our organization to increase stakeholder participation in watershed issues throughout the Santa Ana River watershed, a focal project of the Earth Resource Foundation. We look forward to being able to continue this collaboration to build awareness of and active participation in the critical conservation and restoration needs of Orange County.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on the LAP and for the work you have done to make southern California's wetlands a priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie Barger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephanie Barger
Executive Director
Earth Resource Foundation



December 28, 2006

Douglas Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

Attn: Karen Bane, Project Manager

I would like to express my strong support of the Local Assistance Program. Over the past four years, our work has benefited greatly through the coordination and technical support of the Local Assistance Program.

Aquatic Adventures provides educational programs that connect underserved youth to science, inspire environmental action, and increase exposure to marine habitats. Each year we mobilize thousands of non-traditional members of the environmental constituency in actions that support our coastal wetland habitats. As a small not-for-profit organization, we have been able to leverage the resources made available through the Local Assistance Program to achieve greater on-the-ground results in wetlands recovery and volunteer engagement. Working alongside Megan Johnson during the past year, in particular has lead to new opportunities for collaborative projects that address regional challenges in wetlands recovery and enhancement.

If you or others have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 858.488.3849.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shara Fisler", followed by a horizontal line.

Shara Fisler
Executive Director



SAN DIEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY
4891 Pacific Highway, Suite 112 • San Diego CA 92110 • 619/682-7200

January 4, 2007

VIA Email: Karen Bane, Project Manager <kbane@scc.ca.gov>

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The San Diego Audubon Society greatly appreciates the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project's Local Assistance Program, and we urge that its funding be continued. The Program provides a lot of value for protecting and restoring wetlands in our region.

The Task Force meetings provide a valuable forum for sharing of information and coordination among advocates, jurisdictions, regulators, resource managers, planners, and investing agencies, for setting local priorities for investment, for considering wetland issues in a regional context, for sharing lessons learned, and for relevant technical presentations and discussions.

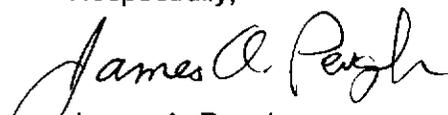
Having a local staff person in the region provides valuable coordination, encouragement, information, and assistance for local groups and agencies. For example, the local staff person has helped a coalition of non-profits, including San Diego Audubon, to seek resources to implement a much-needed restoration project in the north end of Mission Bay. The site is on property of the City of San Diego, and is consistent with the adopted plans for the area, but the City had not been able to move ahead with the project.

The local staff person has encouraged coordination among agencies to better coordinate their priorities for restoration investments. This could provide a more coherent and effective approach and reduce the costs for the agencies.

The San Diego implementation of the SCWRP Local Assistance Program is providing, on a local level, the sort of thoughtful, persistent, long range approach to resource protection that the Coastal Conservancy is known for. The San Diego region needs this influence. Please continue your support for this program.

In case of questions or follow-up, I can be reached at 619-224-4591 or peugh@cox.net.

Respectfully,


James A. Peugh
Conservation Committee Chair

Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

“A Wetland of International Importance” *International Ramsar Convention, 2005*



301 Caspian Way
Imperial Beach, CA 91932
Office (619) 575 3613
Fax (619) 575 6913
jcrooks@tijuanaestuary.org



8 January 2007

Douglas Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Attn: Karen Bane, Project Manager

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I would like to take this opportunity to voice my support for the Wetlands Recovery Project's Local Assistance Program. Over the years, we at the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TR NERR) have benefited greatly from our interaction with the Wetlands Recovery Project. A key goal of the TR NERR is to facilitate a science-based approach to wetland protection, restoration, and education, and our WRP Local Assistance Program, led by Megan Johnson, has been especially important in helping us achieve this goal.

For example, we recently completed a project funded by the WRP Small Grants Program to restore a wetland / upland transition zone at the Reserve. The Local Assistance Program coordinator assisted us in the project implementation, and we will work with her to transfer important lessons learned through this work to a larger audience. This will be accomplished in large part through the County Task Force, which has proven to be an interesting and fruitful forum to exchange ideas and move forward with effective wetlands-related work. In addition facilitating this sharing of experience and expertise related to understanding and protecting wetlands, the LAP and its coordinator are also serving as key partners in efforts to realize more funding for projects in the region. We have recently partnered with the WRP to apply for EPA grants to address goals shared between the WRP and TR NERR, and Megan was absolutely instrumental in moving these grants forward.

Overall, I believe that the LAP in San Diego has quickly become a vital instrument in the WRP's efforts, and I look forward to a long and fruitful relationship aimed at preserving and restoring our coastal wetlands.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeffrey Crooks



HUNTINGTON BEACH
WETLANDS CONSERVANCY

A Nonprofit Corporation

P.O. Box 5903
Huntington Beach, CA 92615
(714) 963-2123

January 4, 2007

Douglas Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chair Bosco and members of the Conservancy Board:
Attn: Karen Bane, Project Manager

On behalf of the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy I am writing to convey our strong support for the proposed \$650,000 grant to Environment Now to continue the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project Local Assistance Program.

The work of the Local Assistance Program staff has helped us continue to move forward with our goal of restoring the coastal wetlands at the mouth of the Santa Ana River. We appreciate the efforts and support of the Wetlands Recovery Project in achieving our goals and look forward to continued support so we may implement the restoration planning efforts completed to date.

Additionally, the work of WRP LAP staff has helped build the capacity of other local organizations to develop and implement wetlands projects, increased the involvement of local groups in restoration of our coastal wetlands, and helped us all exchange information and share resources.

I believe that the professional knowledge and skill base that is provided by the LAP to the local organizations is critical to the future success and stability of the Wetlands Recovery Project. Orange County needs the support of the Local Assistance Program.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on the LAP and for the work you have done to make Southern California's wetlands a priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jack Kirkorn", is written over the typed name.

Jack Kirkorn
Chairman of the Board
Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy

RECEIVED

JAN 08 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

SALUD CARBAJAL
First District Supervisor

JEREMY TITTLE
Executive Staff Assistant

MARY ELLEN WYLIE
Administrative Assistant

ERIC FRIEDMAN
Administrative Assistant



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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Santa Barbara, California 93101

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supervisorcarbajal@sbebos1.org

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

January 9, 2007

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland CA 94612-2530

*Re: Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project,
Local Assistance Program (File No. 97-001).*

Dear Mr. Bosco:

As co-chair of the Santa Barbara County Task Force of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, I am writing to urge the State Coastal Conservancy to authorize the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) proposed grant of \$650,000 to Environment Now to fund its management of the WRP's Local Assistance Program.

The Local Assistance Program (LAP) helps protect and enhance the wetlands of Santa Barbara County. During the past several years, the LAP staff has provided critical assistance to local agencies and nonprofits in Santa Barbara County in developing and implementing habitat protection and restoration projects in our County. Among its key initiatives are cultivating partnerships among stakeholders, building local support for protection and restoration of wetlands and watersheds, and sharing information, resources and experience with local partners.

The Santa Barbara County Task Force of the WRP represents more than 30 local agencies and community-based organizations that are working together to promote the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands and watersheds in our County and across the region. A number of these groups are actively involved in important community-based projects focused on restoring coastal estuaries, modifying or removing barriers to migration by endangered southern steelhead, and enhancing habitat for fish and other marine species.

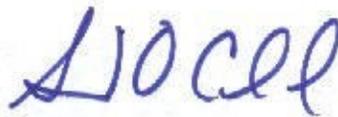
The County Task Force helps identify restoration needs in the County and often develops initial concepts for prospective projects. It acts as the first stage in the Recovery Project's thoughtful process for analyzing and prioritizing individual projects

for inclusion on the Work Plan and the Small Grants Program. And it helps identify and coordinate local resources needed to implement those projects or programs.

Our Local Assistance Program coordinator, Bob Thiel, not only organizes and provides staff support for the monthly meetings of the County Task Force, he also conducts research and drafts working papers, support letters and other materials requested by the group. For example, the Santa Barbara County Task Force recently promoted development of a working paper on institutionalizing watershed planning in county government, and our LAP project coordinator played a key role in researching and drafting that document.

I applaud the Coastal Conservancy's support and technical assistance for wetland and stream restoration in Santa Barbara County for the past three decades, and I strongly urge your consideration the proposed grant to Environment Now.

Sincerely,



Salud Carbajal
County Supervisor, First District

Cc: Karen Bane