



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF VENTURA**

GOVERNMENT CENTER, HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
800 SOUTH VICTORIA AVENUE, VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93009

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

STEVE BENNETT
KATHY I. LONG
PETER C. FOY
JOHN K. FLYNN

STEVE BENNETT
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT
(805) 654-2703
FAX: (805) 654-2226
E-mail: steve.bennett@ventura.org

May 20, 2008

Doug Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Program (File #99-099) June 5, 2008 Agenda

Dear Chair Bosco:

Matilija Dam was built in 1947 to provide a local water supply for agricultural needs, while offering limited flood protection for downstream communities. Over its 50 years of life, the build-up of sediment behind the dam wall has nullified both of those original functions. Additionally, the dam is a barrier to fish passage, blocking 17 miles of the historically pristine rearing and spawning habitat of the endangered Southern Steelhead trout. Dam removal will also open greater public access to the adjoining Los Padres National Forest.

The removal of Matilija Dam has rapidly advanced since its commencement in 2001 with the active participation of the US Army Corps of Engineers, County Watershed Protection District, and your Conservancy. While federal funding will pay the majority of project costs, a substantial non-federal match is necessary. The continued partnership of the Coastal Conservancy is essential to the success of this monumental project.

I support the recommendation before your Board and would respectfully urge your Board to make the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project a high priority by disbursing up to \$4.5 million to the Ventura County Watershed Protection to implement pre-construction elements of the Project. This amount will fund acquisition of a key parcel immediately below the dam, which both allows dam removal to occur, and will provide the permanent public access connection between the dam site and State Highway 33.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve".

Steve Bennett
Supervisor, First District

LOIS CAPPS
23RD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

1110 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0522
(202) 225-3601

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

- DISTRICT OFFICES:
- 1411 MARSH STREET, SUITE 205
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401
(805) 546-8348
 - 101 WEST ANAPAMU STREET, SUITE C
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101
(805) 730-1710
 - 2675 NORTH VENTURA ROAD, SUITE 105
PORT HUENEME, CA 93041
(805) 985-6807

May 23, 2008

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

RE: Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Program (File #99-099) June 5, 2008 Agenda

Dear Chairman Bosco:

Constructed in 1947 by the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, Matilija Dam was intended to provide a local water supply for agricultural needs, while offering limited flood protection for downstream communities. Over its 60 years of life, the build-up of sediment behind the dam wall has undermined both of those original functions. Additionally, the dam is a barrier to fish passage, blocking 17 miles of the historically pristine rearing and spawning habitat of the endangered southern steelhead trout.

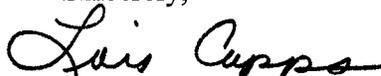
In June 2001, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, initiated a feasibility study to assess the extent of Federal interest in removing the dam and restoring the ecosystem. The feasibility study was completed in December 2004, and in July 2005 the team initiated the design phase of the project. Throughout this effort, the State of California, through the participation of the Coastal Conservancy, has played a key stakeholder role in the success of this project.

The plan to remove Matilija Dam and restore the ecosystem is actively supported by local, State and Federal agencies, non-governmental agencies, and many individual citizens committed to protecting their community's natural resources. The expeditious removal of Matilija Dam will provide for the recovery of California's endangered southern steelhead trout, the restoration of historic outdoor recreational opportunities, and replenishment of Ventura County's coastal beaches.

I respectfully request your support for up to a \$4.5 million disbursement to the Ventura County Watershed Protection District to implement pre-construction elements of the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project, consistent with all relevant rules and regulations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


LOIS CAPPS
Member of Congress

ELTON GALLEGLY
24TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
www.house.gov/gallegly/

2309 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0523
(202) 225-5811

2829 TOWNSGATE ROAD, SUITE 315
THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91361
(800) 423-0023
(805) 497-2224

485 ALISAL ROAD, SUITE G-1A
SOLVANG, CA 93463
(800) 423-0023
(805) 686-2525

Doug Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0524

May 20, 2008

- COMMITTEES:
- FOREIGN AFFAIRS
- SUBCOMMITTEES:
- RANKING MEMBER, EUROPE
- WESTERN HEMISPHERE
- JUDICIARY
- SUBCOMMITTEES:
- VICE RANKING MEMBER, IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP, REFUGEES, BORDER SECURITY, AND INTERNATIONAL LAW
- COURTS, THE INTERNET, AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
- NATURAL RESOURCES
- SUBCOMMITTEE:
- INSULAR AFFAIRS
- HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
- SUBCOMMITTEE:
- TERRORISM, HUMAN INTELLIGENCE, ANALYSIS AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

RE: Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Program (File #99-099) June 5, 2008 Agenda

Dear Chair Bosco:

I am writing to express my support for the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project and Ventura River restoration effort.

Constructed in 1947 by the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, Matilija Dam was intended to provide a local water supply for agricultural needs, while offering limited flood protection for downstream communities. Over its 50 years of life, the build-up of sediment behind the dam wall has undermined both of those original functions. Additionally, the dam is a barrier to fish passage, blocking 17 miles of the historically pristine rearing and spawning habitat of the endangered southern steelhead trout.

In June 2001, the US Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, initiated a feasibility study to assess the extent of Federal interest in removing the dam and restoring the ecosystem. The feasibility study was completed in December 2004, and in July 2005 the team initiated the design phase of the project. Throughout this effort, the State of California, through the participation of the Coastal Conservancy, has played a key stakeholder role in the success of this project.

The plan to remove Matilija Dam and restore the ecosystem is actively supported by local, State and Federal agencies, non-governmental agencies, and many individual citizens committed to protecting their community's natural resources. The expeditious removal of Matilija Dam will provide for the recovery of California's endangered southern steelhead trout, the restoration of historic outdoor recreational opportunities, and replenishment of Ventura County's coastal beaches.

I support the recommendation before your Board and would respectfully urge your Board to make the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project a high priority by disbursing up to \$4.5 million to the Ventura County Watershed Protection to implement pre-construction elements of the Project.

Sincerely,



ELTON GALLEGLY
Member of Congress

California State Senate



SENATOR GEORGE RUNNER
REPUBLICAN CAUCUS CHAIR
SEVENTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:

BANKING, FINANCE AND
INSURANCE
VICE CHAIR

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
VICE CHAIR

APPROPRIATIONS

REVENUE AND TAXATION

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

SACRAMENTO OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4017
FAX (916) 445-4662

ANTELOPE VALLEY OFFICE
848 W. LANCASTER BLVD., SUITE 101
LANCASTER, CA 93534
TEL (661) 729-6232
FAX (661) 729-1693

VICTOR VALLEY OFFICE
14343 CIVIC DRIVE, FIRST FLOOR
VICTORVILLE, CA 92392
TEL (760) 843-8414
FAX (760) 843-8348

SANTA CLARITA OFFICE
23920 VALENCIA BLVD., SUITE 250
SANTA CLARITA, CA 91355
TEL (661) 286-1471
TEL (661) 286-1472
FAX (661) 286-2543

May 21, 2008

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

**RE: MATILIJA DAM ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT (FILE #99-099)
JUNE 5, 2008 AGENDA**

Dear Chair Bosco:

I am pleased to support the staff recommendation for the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project, which will authorize the disbursement of up to \$4.5 million to the Ventura County Watershed Protection District to implement pre-construction elements of the Matilija Dam removal project. Removal of the dam will address coastal and watershed resource protection, habitat restoration, endangered species recovery, public recreation, and coastal sediment management.

Constructed in 1947 by the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, Matilija Dam was intended to provide a local water supply for agricultural needs, while offering limited flood protection for downstream communities. During its 50-year lifespan, the build-up of sediment behind the dam has undermined both of these original functions. Additionally, the dam is a barrier to fish passage, blocking 17 miles of the historically pristine spawning and rearing habitat of the endangered southern steelhead trout.

In June 2001, the US Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, initiated a feasibility study to assess the extent of federal interest in removing the dam and restoring the ecosystem. The feasibility study was completed in December 2004. In July 2005, the team initiated the design phase of the project.

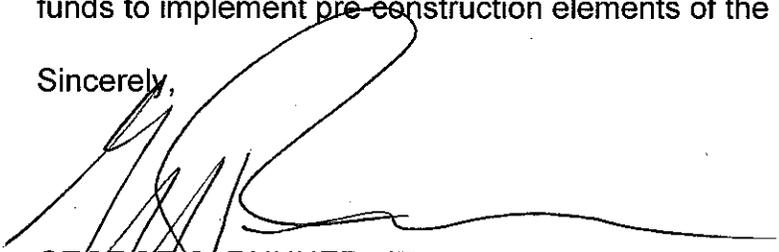
The plan to remove the dam and restore the ecosystem is actively supported by local, state, and federal agencies, non-governmental agencies, and numerous citizens committed to protecting their community's natural resources. The expeditious removal of Matilija Dam will provide for the recovery of California's endangered southern steelhead trout, the restoration of historic outdoor recreational

CCC Matilija Dam Project
May 20, 2008
Page 2

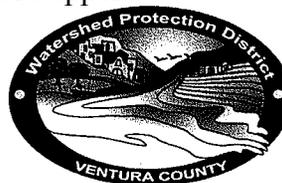
opportunities, and replenishment of Ventura County's coastal beaches. I commend the efforts of the California Coastal Conservancy to move this project forward. As a representative of the state, the Conservancy has played a key stakeholder role in the success of this project.

I fully support the staff recommendation and respectfully urge the Board to make the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project a high priority by voting to disburse funds to implement pre-construction elements of the Project.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. C. Runner, Jr.', is written over the word 'Sincerely,' and extends across the page.

GEORGE C. RUNNER, JR.
Senator, 17th District



VENTURA COUNTY

PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY

WATERSHED PROTECTION DISTRICT

May 19, 2008

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

Jeff Pratt
District Director

Gerhardt Hubner
Water/Environmental Resources

Peter Sheydayi
Design/Construction

Sergio Vargas
Planning/Regulatory

Tom Lagier
Operations/Maintenance

Subject: Letter of Request: Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Program
(File No. 99-099), June 5, 2008 Agenda

Dear Mr. Bosco:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 31251.2(a) of the California Public Resources Code, the Ventura County Watershed Protection District (District) (as the local agency having jurisdiction over the project area) requests the State Coastal Conservancy to assist the District in undertaking the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Program.

The proposed project is described in the Coastal Conservancy staff recommendation to be heard by your board on June 5, 2008.

The proposed project has the full support of the District, as well as the Board of Supervisors of the County of Ventura, and on behalf of the District, I would ask the Coastal Conservancy to undertake this project and urge your support of the proposed \$4,500,000 grant to the District to help fund it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeff Pratt, P.E.
Director

JP/BT/thb/I:Ltr of Request for Matilija Program for Coastal Conservancy - 5.19.08.doc

THE OJAI VALLEY LAND CONSERVANCY

Working to protect the Ojai Valley's future—today



May 22, 2008

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

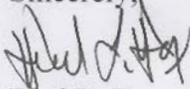
RE: Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Program
(File No. 99-099) June 5, 2008 agenda

Dear Mr. Bosco:

Ojai Valley Land Conservancy supports the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project, which involves the removal of the Matilija Dam on Matilija Creek, a tributary of the Ventura River in Ventura County. Removal of the dam will restore fish passage to historic spawning and rearing habitat for southern steelhead in the upper watershed. Properly implemented, it will also restore natural sediment transport downstream and improve sand replenishment at beaches along the coast. When the Project is fully and appropriately implemented, the Ventura River watershed and its related estuarine and ocean habitats offshore will more closely resemble historic conditions.

Ojai Valley Land Conservancy supports disbursement of up to four million five hundred thousand dollars (\$4,500,000) from California Coastal Conservancy to the Ventura County Watershed Protection District to implement several elements of the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project, including acquisition of the Matilija Hot Springs Property, preparation of engineering designs for two bridge components, and related pre-construction costs associated with the two bridge components.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Fred L. Fox
Executive Director

Board of Directors

J. Roger Essick,
President

Jan Blakslee

Victoria Breen

Stefanie Coeler

Jim Combs

Jesse Grantham

Cari Guerrero

Paula Power

Larry Rose

Kira Ryder

Barbara Washburn

Staff

Fred Fox, Executive
Director

Stevie Adams

Rick Bisaccia

Sherry Doyle

Sheri Mayta

Lynn Malone

Derek Poultney

Tax ID#77-0169682