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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

December 21, 2010

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(707) 226-9898

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EUREKA, CA 95501
(707) 269-9595

POST OFFICE BOX 2208
FORT BRAGG, CA 95437
(707) 962-0933

712 MAIN STREET, SUITE 101
WOODLAND, CA 95695
(530) 662-5272

CAPITOL OFFICE:
231 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3311

WEB: <http://mikethompson.house.gov>

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

RE: Support for Grant to Construct Camp Berryessa

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to you to express my support for the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District's application for grant funding to help with construction of Camp Berryessa. Located on the northern shore of Lake Berryessa, on land made available without cost by the Bureau of Reclamation, Camp Berryessa represents an exciting federal-local partnership that will serve a diverse audience.

It's no secret that young people today, and lower-income urban residents in particular, have few opportunities to explore the outdoors and directly experience nature. Camp Berryessa will serve groups from through the region, and especially Napa, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo counties, with an emphasis on students and other youth groups. A large percentage of this target audience lives in urban areas and comes from lower-income families.

Despite substantial population growth, no new public campgrounds have been constructed in the region for a very long time. The few outdoor education camps which do exist fill up quickly, must be reserved long in advance and generally require travelling long distances. The camp is also exciting in that it will demonstrate cutting-edge sustainable design: rustic tent cabins using local and recycled materials as much as possible, solar and wind power providing 100 percent of energy needs, water recycling, composting toilets, native plant landscaping, and a comprehensive program of solid waste minimization, recycling and composting. This is an unprecedented opportunity to provide an educational, enjoyable and affordable outdoor experience for current and future generations.

I respectfully request full funding of the Napa County Regional Parks and Open Space District's application for construction of Camp Berryessa.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. If I may answer any questions about this outstanding applicant, please contact me.

Sincerely,

MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

cc: Sam Jenniches, State Coastal Conservancy
John Woodbury, Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District

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DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING DEPT.

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0007
(916) 319-2007
FAX (916) 319-2107

Assembly California Legislature



MICHAEL ALLEN
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTH DISTRICT

January 4, 2011

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

Subject: Grant Request for Camp Berryessa

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to respectfully request your approval of the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District's request for a \$1,500,000 grant to help with construction of Camp Berryessa, an environmental education camp to be located on the northern shore of Lake Berryessa.

The camp will serve a diverse range of organizations, with a focus on students and other youth groups. Despite the rapid growth in population in our region, no new public campgrounds have been constructed in decades, and the few environmental education camps which do exist are oversubscribed and generally require long and expensive bus or auto trips.

Camp Berryessa will be a model of sustainability. All energy will be generated through on-site solar and wind power. The camp will be the first facility in the region to use composting toilets; this plus recycling of gray water for native plant landscaping will dramatically cut water consumption. Camp operations will emphasize waste minimization, recycling and composting of food scraps, with the goal of not only reducing the camp's waste stream, but also demonstrating behaviors which campers will adopt and take home with them.

With no cost for the land, grant funding for construction, and the sustainability features that are built into the design, Camp Berryessa can be made affordable for the many lower income students who are expected to use the camp.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage your support.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL ALLEN
Assemblymember 7th District

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JAN 05 2011

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.





IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Central California Area Office
Lake Berryessa Recreation Resources Branch
5520 Knoxville Road
Napa, California 94558



JAN 10 2011

CC-420
ADM-13.00

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

Subject: Support of Grant Application for Camp Berryessa

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am pleased to express the Bureau of Reclamation's strong support for the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District's grant request to help construct Camp Berryessa as an outdoor education camp.

Transforming the Boy Scout camp that was at this site until it closed approximately six years ago, into a public camp where students, youth groups and organizations can learn about the environment and experience nature-based recreation has long been a goal for Reclamation. The Record of Decision for Lake Berryessa's Visitor Services Plan, adopted in 2006, called for Reclamation to seek a local partner that would construct and operate such a facility. Formation of the Regional Park and Open Space District was approved by local voters in November of that same year, and the new District immediately expressed interest in partnering with Reclamation.

Since then, the District has worked diligently with Reclamation to complete an engineering and financial feasibility and preliminary design study. Environmental review of the project under the National Environmental Policy Act and California Environmental Quality Act is expected to be complete by early February, after which Reclamation and the District will enter into a long-term agreement under which the District will construct and operate the camp.

The property which Reclamation is making available to the District is ideal for this use. Located on a peninsula that extends into the Putah Creek arm of Lake Berryessa, the site offers unique and highly sought-after opportunities for swimming and hiking, combined with study of wildlife, native habitats, water quality and supply, and Native American life.

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman

2

With your assistance, Camp Berryessa will provide a much-needed outdoor educational facility serving groups from throughout northern California.

Your consideration of this grant request is very appreciated.

Sincerely,



Melissa Vignau
Park Manager (Acting)

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OAKLAND, CALIF.



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

NAPA GROUP
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Napa, CA 94559
www.redwood.sierraclub.org/napa

January 11, 2011

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

**Subject: Camp Berryessa Grant Request,
Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District**

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The Napa Group of the Sierra Club enthusiastically supports the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District's request for a \$1,500,000 grant to help with construction of an outdoor education camp at Lake Berryessa..

The future of land conservation depends on the support of the next generation of leaders and voters, most of whom now live in urbanized areas with little potential to experience nature first hand. Camp Berryessa represents a rare chance to introduce people to the outdoors through nature-based recreation. Located on a remote inlet at the northern end of Lake Berryessa, the camp will offer an exceptional opportunity for swimming, canoeing, kayaking and fishing, combined with studying the local ecology in a rustic outdoor setting.

There is no comparable public facility in the Bay Area.

We are particularly supportive of the concept for the camp, in which the District provides a facility at low cost to a wide diversity of youth, non-profit and community groups, where each group can operate its own programs, tailored to its particular focus, while also taking advantage of educational displays and nature paths installed by the District.

The camp's sustainable design will also provide a great educational benefit; simply by staying at the camp, campers will learn about everything from water conservation to recycling to composting and techniques for reducing our carbon footprint.

We encourage you to support this exciting project.

Sincerely,

Marc Pandone
Vice-chair, executive committee

cc: Sam Jenniches, State Coastal Conservancy
John Woodbury, Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 3: Project Letters

cc: Sam Jenniches, State Coastal Conservancy
John Woodbury, Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District

Exhibit 3: Project Letters

December 23, 2010

Douglas Bosco, Chairman,
California Coastal Conservancy,
1330 Broadway, 13th floor,
Oakland, CA 94612

Gentlemen,

For over 30 years, the Boy Scouts of America, Silverado Council Napa Valley California (today, Silverado District Mount Diablo Silverado Council) owned and operated Camp Berryessa.

On these wonderfully rugged shores, hillsides, trails and camping areas, boys and adults gathered several times each year to utilize all the terrain for camping, boating, hiking, sightseeing, and general recreational use. Much later as the deteriorated and outdated facilities required extensive repair and upgrading, the Boy Scouts could no longer afford to fund the area. Therefore, the camping areas were abandoned.

Today, Boy Scouts have been once again using Lake Berryessa camping facilities located at Oak Shores camping area. This has been very satisfying for an interim period with the hopes that someday Camp Berryessa, our former home, would once again be available for use.

Now that this plan outlined by John Woodbury, General Manager of the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District, is moving forward, the Boy Scouts are very excited to be a part of the new plan. Boy Scouts of America, Silverado District. Mount Diablo Silverado Council, will support needed (on a monthly basis) trail and facility maintenance, grounds cleanup and service projects (a monthly standard of service hours by all Boy Scouts), selected and required individual Eagle Scout Project Projects, weekly and monthly camp outs and hikes in the immediate area. The Boy Scouts look forward to supporting every aspect of this new plan and will work diligently with all agencies in any way necessary to bring this plan to completion.

For better Scouting in our community,

Jeffrey L. Johnson
Assistant District Commissioner
Silverado District, Mount Diablo Silverado Council
Boy Scouts of America

1879 Larkspur Street
Yountville CA 94599

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



January 13, 2011

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I recently had the opportunity to meet with John Woodbury, General Manager, Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District, to learn more about the District's plans for Camp Berryessa.

Girl Scouts of Northern California would be delighted to have a safe camp with water activities, to serve members in Napa County and beyond. Girl Scouts of Northern California serves 47,000 girl (ages 5-17) and 32,000 adult members in 19 counties, from Santa Clara to the Oregon Border and east to Chico.

Connecting girls with nature is a core part of our mission. We believe that camp experiences help build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. Most of our members experience camp through week-end camping with their volunteer-led troops -- we have almost 4,500 Girl Scout troops in Northern California. We also deliver camp experiences to 10,000 members each summer through staff and volunteer-led day and resident camps on a combination of 12 Girl Scout-owned camp properties and 17 properties leased from third parties.

Camp Berryessa would offer a wonderful site for weekend troop camping. In a recent member survey about their preferences for camp experiences we learned that 68% of volunteers want a camp site within a two hour drive of their residence. This would make Camp Berryessa a very valuable site for members located in Contra Costa, Alameda, Solano, Napa and Sonoma Counties -- we have over 20,000 members in these five counties.

Camp Berryessa also would offer unique and wonderful experiences for girls. We offer two summer resident camps on lakes in the Sierras. These camps are open only during the summer and are much beloved by the girls who learn to canoe, row, sail, windsurf and swim in the lakes. It would be wonderful to add a 1-2 week volunteer-run summer resident camp that is closer to the Bay Area and also to have such property available for rental for year-round camping.

We greatly appreciate the State Coastal Conservancy's interest in supporting safe and inspiring places for youth to connect with and grow in nature.

Sincerely yours,

Marina H. Park
Chief Executive Officer

E-mail: mpark@girlscoutsnorcal.org • Phone: (510) 562-8470, ext. 139 • Fax: (510) 562-3194

Girl Scouts of
Northern California

Greater Bay Area

7700 Edgewater Drive, Suite 340
Oakland, CA 94621-3019
510-562-8470
800-447-4475

1310 S. Bascom Avenue
San Jose, CA 95128-4502
408-287-4170

www.GirlScoutsNorCal.org

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character,
who make the world a better place.

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



Napa-Solano Audubon Society
PO Box 10006, Napa, CA 94581

January 13, 2011

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair,
Calif. State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Grant Application for Camp Berryessa

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I am writing on behalf of Napa Solano Audubon Society in support of the funding request for the Camp Berryessa project, submitted by the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District. Napa Solano Audubon is an active Chapter of National Audubon Society and represents approximately 1000 members in Solano and Napa Counties. The mission of our organization is to share the fun of birding, promote conservation and scientific understanding of wild birds and their habitats, and offer engaging science-based education, emphasizing the communities of Napa and Solano Counties. We offer programs, field trips, workshops and educational outings for both adults, families and children. We also conduct extensive bird monitoring projects.

The Lake Berryessa environs are ideal locations for studying and experiencing our local habitats—especially the representative oak and mixed conifer woodlands, chaparral, natural grasslands with rock outcroppings, and riparian communities. Lake Berryessa has been listed as an IBA: “Important Bird Area” due to the abundance and diversity of raptors including Bald eagle, Golden eagle, Osprey, Peregrine and Prairie falcon, Long-eared and Burrowing owl. A broad spectrum of woodpeckers, songbirds, shorebirds and ducks also inhabit the area. This is the environment that our local students and young people should have the opportunity to explore and learn about—that which is in their own backyards! Our hope is that Camp Berryessa will provide the space & resources for a very special environmental education experience on a local level—to be used by schools, scouts, environmental education organizations and others to share their knowledge. Currently our Napa County schools send students to a camp on the coast which may be a wonderful experience, but how will they learn to appreciate and thus help protect the habitats that surround them? Students at this camp will not be distracted by television, electronic gadgets nor the jarring notes of motorcycles, jet boats, etc, as experienced in touristy campgrounds. Because this is a very special and beautiful location it will also be a popular retreat destination for businesses and organizations.

We have watched and supported the efforts of the Napa Regional Park and Open Space District since the district was established four years ago. The District has made superb progress in opening up new natural areas for the community to experience and enjoy and accomplished this with very limited staff and funding. It is our hope that our organization will be able to participate in offering nature education in Camp Berryessa’s unique setting. We recommend that you support this funding request.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl Harris". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Cheryl Harris
President, Napa Solano Audubon
(707 224-6133)

www.napasolanoaudubon.com

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



Chairman Douglas Bosco
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

January 26, 2011

Subject: Support for Camp Berryessa Grant

I am a public high school teacher at Vintage High School in Napa, California. I am writing a letter of support for the local environmental education camp grant at Lake Berryessa. I teach Environmental Chemistry and a new class called Alternative Energy Design and Construction with Physics.

My students are always very eager and enthusiastic to be able to explore the environment through field trips and real hands on learning experience. Unfortunately, we don't have too many options for that in this area. An environmental education camp at Lake Berryessa would be excellent curriculum support for my classes and other teachers in the Napa area. Our school also has a California Partnership Academy Green grant which has a pathway of environmental classes for student that would be a perfect match for a camp like this one.

I hope that the environmental education camp grant for Lake Berryessa will be supported. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding education of the environment or public school activity in the Napa area.

Sincerely,

Ms. Heather Jackson
Environmental Chemistry and ROP Alternative Energy Design and Construction Teacher
Vintage High School
1375 Trower Avenue Napa, CA. 94558

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

December 27, 2010

To: Whom it may concern

From: Steve Konakis

RE: Camp Berryessa Support Letter

I am happy to be able to write a letter of support for the creation of an environmental education center at Lake Berryessa. I have long felt that it would be a great addition to the educational offerings in Napa County.

I have been a teacher with the Napa Valley Unified School District for the past 15 years and have seen through my own son and daughter going through the grades, and I know that there is a need for local environmental education here. Students in Napa usually have to go out of the area at least 2 hrs and up to 4 hrs away for any sort of overnight outdoor education experience. Camp Berryessa will provide a local place to learn about the environment that is less than an hour from town, reducing a trip's carbon footprint as well as educating students about the local plants and animals.

Lake Berryessa has many unique qualities that make it a great place to have an environmental education center. The variety of habitat types that surround the lake make for a wide pallet to draw from to educate visitors. The interesting history of the area also makes for valuable information to bring the significance of this place home to students of all ages.

Regards,

Steve Konakis

Industrial Arts Instructor

Vintage High School

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

PERINI RANCH

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

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JAN 04 2011

NAPA CO. CONSERVATION
DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING DEPT.

Dear Chairman Bosco,

This letter is in support of the development of Camp Berryessa by the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District. We operate a small farm that includes an agricultural tourism element in Lake County. Our primary clientele is families from Sacramento and San Francisco Bay Area. Most of these clients are interested in an educational experience focused on food and farming within the context of a natural ecosystem. Many of these guests don't think about the vital role that water plays on the farm and in the natural environment that supports the farm. They are surprised to learn that the watershed we farm in provides water that eventually finds its way into the Cache Creek, Putah Creek, the Sacramento River, Delta, San Francisco Bay and eventually the Pacific Ocean. Making these connections with people, especially urban citizens, will be critical in building a citizenry that understands and supports wise land and water management.

We also host school groups at our small farm, most of which have an interest in geology, biological sciences, agriculture, Native American culture and history or some combination of these. I believe these same groups would be interested in the opportunity to camp and study in similar landscapes in the coastal mountains of our region, particularly at Lake Berryessa. I also believe that Camp Berryessa could provide the framework for similar educational ventures across the region.

In my former academic life with the University of California I spent many years designing and evaluating educational programs for children and young adults focusing on science and ecological literacy. In our research, and that of colleagues across the country and around the world, it became evident that many science and environmental educational programs were successful in building awareness; but frequently not in changing or shaping values and behavior. To change behavior requires authentic engagement. Achieving that engagement in the classroom (school) is very difficult. However when schools, families, or community groups have access to the kind of educational resource that is proposed for Camp Berryessa, then the awareness created in the classroom can be applied in the real world. That experience achieves engagement and the result is real learning that shapes values and changes behaviors. The educational program at Camp Berryessa would also be a wonderful opportunity to teach about watersheds which will be a critical concern in the years ahead.

It is my hope that the Coastal Conservancy will be able to support the development of Camp Berryessa as an important step in protecting and enhancing watersheds, streams, rivers, and wetlands.

Sincerely,



Dan Desmond

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



Douglass Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612.

January 7, 2011

Dear Chairman Bosco,

The Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the application of the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District for funding for the Camp Berryessa Environmental Education Center.

Camp Berryessa has a long and positive history here at the lake. It would be a wonderful extension of that history to create such a unique educational resource for students and families well into the future.

Camp Berryessa will provide a hands-on demonstration of sustainable living and become an important part of the renewal of Lake Berryessa.

We expect there to be synergy between the environmental education program at Camp Berryessa and the practical application of those environmental principles under real-life recreational conditions. Each of the new resorts now being developed at the lake will have environmental sustainability as a major objective.

You can be assured that our local business community is fully in support of Camp Berryessa. We hope that you will support it also.

Sincerely,

Dee Cuney

President

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



1700 Soscol Ave., Suite 20
Napa, CA 94559
(707) 265-9205

January 11, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Bosco:

This letter is to express the support of the Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area (BRBNA) Conservation Partnership for the funding request from the Napa County Regional Parks and Open Space District for capital improvements for Camp Berryessa, located on Putah Creek near Lake Berryessa in Napa County. The Partnership welcomes the initiative taken by the Napa County RPOSD to bring the site back into use for youth programs and camping opportunities, both of which are sorely needed in this region. Creating a facility that can accommodate a variety of youth groups around the region will offer an important educational venue to teach children about the important conservation values of the BRBNA and likewise enable much needed outdoor experiences for underserved youth in the Napa and Fairfield areas.

As you are aware, the BRBNA encompasses over 800,000 acres of wild, coast range lands that extend southward from the Mendocino National Forest to include portions of Lake, Napa, Solano, Yolo, and Colusa counties. The region contains the Putah and Cache Creek watersheds, both tributaries within the Sacramento River hydrologic basin. Close to half of the BRBNA is in public ownership, with lands and lakes managed under the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the California Department of Fish & Game, and State Parks. The BRBNA Conservation Partnership is a collaborative group of public agencies, landowners and non-profit organizations working together to conserve the natural and working landscape on both public and private lands of the BRBNA, an area rich in biodiversity and relatively untouched by urban development. Started in 1998, the Partnership has been a leader for over a decade in efforts to promote large-scale landscape protection and planning.

Environmental education is a key component of our conservation vision for this region. If we are to ensure a long-term effort to protect this landscape, opportunities to experience it first hand by the next generation of residents in neighboring communities are essential. In addition, the commitment to sustainable, climate friendly facilities will set an important example for youth and other visitors. The Napa RPOSD is an active participant and supporter of the Partnership and will continue to convey the larger landscape vision of which Camp Berryessa is a part.

We very much encourage the CA State Coastal Conservancy to support this important project. The Partnership also appreciates the continuing support for many projects within the BRBNA.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Easton, Director

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

BERRYESSA TRAILS AND CONSERVATION

Stewards of Napa County's Lake District

www.berryessatrails.org
707.966.5211

901 Cape Cod Ct
Napa, CA 94558

January 10, 2011

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

Re: Grant Request for Camp Berryessa - Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District

Dear Mr. Bosco:

We write to support the application of the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District for a \$1,500,000 grant for construction of an outdoor education camp at Lake Berryessa.

As you know, we have been advocating for the development of nature-based recreation facilities at Lake Berryessa for some time. This campground will facilitate recreational access to the lake, and provide opportunities for educational programs in a natural setting.

As technology and multi-tasking take over our lives, it becomes ever more important to provide children and youth with a place they can experience nature and pursue active recreation.

And as the climate begins changing, it is equally important to instill in our younger citizens a love of nature and knowledge of what needs to be done to protect local plants and wildlife, and a respect for the scarcity of fresh water resources. The proposed camp at Lake Berryessa will help in this regard not only by the opportunities to interact with nature that it affords but by the example set by its sustainable design.

This campground is a much-needed facility for the Bay Area and we urge you to support the grant application for its development.

Sincerely,



Carol A. Kunze
Executive Director
carol@berryessatrails.org

cc: Sam Jenniches, State Coastal Conservancy
John Woodbury, Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



The Lake Berryessa News



Your Best Source for News of Lake Berryessa and our Napa Valley Back Roads!

www.LakeBerryessaNews.com

Douglass Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612.

January 7, 2011

Dear Chairman Bosco,

As owner and editor of the Lake Berryessa News, I urge you to approve the application of the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District for funding for the Camp Berryessa Environmental Education Center.

Camp Berryessa will fulfill an important educational need and provide a unique recreational resource for our County and for the local Lake Berryessa community. It would be a shame to let this unique location remain unused.

I can assure you that Lake Berryessa News readers are fully in support of this project.

Sincerely,

Peter Kilkus

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Peter Kilkus 1515 Headlands Drive Napa, CA 94558 415-307-6906
PKilkus@LakeBerryessa.net