

LOIS CAPPS
23RD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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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
- 301 EAST CARRILLO STREET, SUITE A
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101
(805) 730-1710
- 2675 NORTH VENTURA ROAD, SUITE 105
PORT HUENEME, CA 93041
(805) 985-6807

April 1, 2010

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

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I would like to express my strong support for The Trust for Public Land's application to the State Coastal Conservancy for funding to help acquire the 63-acre Ocean Meadows property, located at the eastern edge of the Gaviota Coast in Santa Barbara County.

The Ocean Meadows property is the site of historic wetlands at Devereux Slough and retains 1.4 acres of wetland in the form of Devereux Creek. These existing wetlands are currently used by a variety of wildlife, including the federally endangered tidewater goby and California least tern and the federally threatened western snowy plover. Acquisition of this site will result in the immediate protection of existing habitat for these endangered and threatened species.

Acquiring the property will also preserve an unprecedented opportunity to restore the grade, vegetation and hydrology of 57 acres of wetland habitat and 6 acres of transitional upland habitat. I was pleased to support the \$1 million National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant that the Coastal Conservancy received from the US Fish and Wildlife Service in December, half of which will be used to start restoring the property as soon as it is acquired.

I urge you to give The Trust for Public Land's grant request your full and fair consideration, consistent with all relevant rules and regulations. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rachel Kondor in my Santa Barbara District Office at (805) 730-1710. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lois Capps".

LOIS CAPPS
Member of Congress

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 4062
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4019
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DISTRICT OFFICES
2655 FIRST STREET
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610 ANACAPA STREET
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SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101
TEL (805) 965-0862
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California State Senate

SENATOR
TONY STRICKLAND
ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER
NINETEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



STANDING COMMITTEES
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ORGANIZATION
HUMAN SERVICES

April 5, 2011

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

Re: Ocean Meadows Resource Lands Acquisition Project

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my strong support for The Trust for Public Land's application to the State Coastal Conservancy for funding to help acquire the 63-acre Ocean Meadows property, located adjacent to Devereux Slough in Santa Barbara County is in a coastal watershed at the eastern gateway to the Gaviota coast, a significant biological transition area in the Coastal Zone.

The overall goal of the project is to acquire the Ocean Meadows property within the Devereux watershed for conservation and restoration purposes, thus permanently protecting it from the threat of future development. Acquisition of the 63-acre Ocean Meadows property places the last piece of the land conservation puzzle in a complex of protected properties that provide for the protection of natural resources, open space, aesthetic values, public access, passive recreation and education in perpetuity.

Furthermore, acquisition of this property will provide for an unprecedented opportunity to restore the property to its original wetland condition. Restoration of this property, believed to be the single most significant action that could be taken to restore wetland habitat in southern Santa Barbara County and the driving force behind the urgency to acquire this land, will provide sustainable and lasting benefits that will substantially impact the larger regional coastal ecosystem. Restoration will expand wetland and riparian habitats, result in improved water quality for the entire estuary and reconnect critical wildlife dispersal corridors.

Over the past four decades, there has been a concerted effort by local municipalities, conservation organizations, and state and federal partners to improve conditions of coastal estuaries, particularly at Goleta and Devereux Sloughs. This project represents a rare, time-sensitive opportunity to accomplish those goals. Thank-you for your consideration of the Ocean Meadows acquisition project, if you have any questions please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

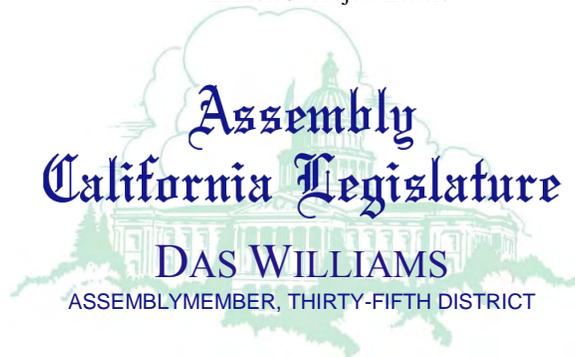
Tony Strickland
Senator, 19th District

TS:jm

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

DISTRICT OFFICE
101 WEST ANAPAMU STREET
SUITE A
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101
(805) 564-1649
FAX (805) 564-1651

201 EAST FOURTH STREET
SUITE 209A
OXNARD, CA 93030
(805) 483-9808
FAX (805) 483-8182



April 5, 2011

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

Re: Ocean Meadows Resource Lands Acquisition Project

Dear Mr. Bosco,

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Furthermore, acquisition of this property will provide for an unprecedented opportunity to restore the property to its original wetland condition. Restoration of this property, believed to be the single most significant action that could be taken to restore wetland habitat in southern Santa Barbara County and the driving force behind the urgency to acquire this land, will provide sustainable and lasting benefits that will substantially impact the larger regional coastal ecosystem. Restoration will expand wetland and riparian habitats, result in improved water quality for the entire estuary and reconnect critical wildlife dispersal corridors.

Over the past four decades, there has been a concerted effort by local municipalities, conservation organizations, and state and federal partners to improve conditions of coastal estuaries, particularly at Goleta and Devereux Sloughs. This project represents a rare, time-sensitive opportunity to accomplish those goals. Thank-you for your consideration of the Ocean Meadows acquisition project, if you have any questions please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

DAS WILLIAMS
Assemblymember, 35th District

DOREEN FARR
Third District Supervisor



**OFFICE OF THE
THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR**
County Administration Building
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101
Telephone: (805) 568-2191
Fax: (805) 568-2883
www.countyoofsb.org

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 24, 2011

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

RE: Support of the Devereux Slough Coastal Wetland Project

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I want to take this opportunity to express my strong support for The Trust for Public Land's application to the State Coastal Conservancy for funding to help acquire the 63-acre Ocean Meadows property, located adjacent to Devereux Slough in Santa Barbara County. This project falls in the County's Third Supervisorial District, which I represent.

The 63-acre Ocean Meadows property is located at the eastern gateway to the Gaviota Coast, just north of the University of California's Coal Oil Point Reserve and east of the Sperling Preserve at Ellwood Mesa which the Conservancy helped to protect in 2005. This particular site is extremely significant because it connects the upper and lower arms of the Devereux Slough. Acquiring this property will fill in the last piece of the land conservation puzzle in a complex of protected properties that provide for the permanent protection of natural resources, open space, aesthetic values, public access, passive recreation and education. Finally, acquiring this land will secure a once in a lifetime opportunity to restore 57 acres of coastal wetlands and 6 acres of upland habitat immediately adjacent to Devereux Slough.

Last September, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors gave this project its resounding support by approving a \$750,000 grant from the Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund (CREF), established by the county in 1987 to help mitigate the impacts off offshore oil and gas development. I strongly supported that grant because this acquisition is exactly the type of project that CREF was intended to fund.

Again, I urge you to approve TPL's grant request to help acquire the Ocean Meadows property. Should you have any questions about my support for this project, please feel free to contact me at (805) 568-2192. I look forward to working with you to bring this unique project to completion.

Sincerely,

Doreen Farr
Third District Supervisor
DF:ch



Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B, Goleta, CA 93117

(805) 964-1468

March 25, 2011

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

RE: **Support for the Ocean Meadows Acquisition Project**

Dear Chairman Bosco:

As President of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, a chapter of National Audubon, I am pleased express our strong support for The Trust for Public Land's (TPL) application to the State Coastal Conservancy for funding to help acquire the 63-acre Ocean Meadows property in Santa Barbara County.

Founded in 1963, the mission of the Santa Barbara Audubon is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focussing on birds and other wildlife, for the benefit of humanity and biodiversity. The chapter is active in education, science and conservation and sponsors numerous field trips and habitat restoration projects, including on the adjacent Coal Oil Point Reserve.

Many of southern California's coastal watersheds and estuaries have experienced significant reductions in the extent and functionality of their wetlands in recent decades and yet these vital habitats still support numerous sensitive species of wildlife including federal and state listed species. The Ocean Meadows property is a case in point. The entire upper Devereux Slough was located on the project site prior to the development of the golf course in the 1960's; there are great opportunities to re-expand the wetlands on this property. The project area is within a critical area for coastal-dependent or migratory birds. According to the Point Reyes Bird Observatory Conservation Science Southern Pacific Shorebird Conservation Plan, "The (Devereux Slough) area is used by hundreds of migrating and wintering shorebirds and an adjacent beach is an important wintering and potential nesting area for the Snowy Plover." The Devereux Slough is part of the "Goleta Coast" Important Bird Area designation; this Audubon chapter nominated the IBA in 1998.

Approval of a grant from the Coastal Conservancy will allow TPL to take advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity to permanently protect this site and to allow for future restoration of its coastal wetland habitat values. The acquisition and restoration of this site represent the largest available wetland and upland protection and restoration opportunity in this biologically diverse and ecologically significant stretch of the Ellwood-Devereux Coast. In addition, the future restoration of the project site will further an existing restoration on an adjacent parcel which can use the excess soil, resulting in a significant cumulative benefit of restoring a total of 117 acres of diverse native habitat adjacent to the slough.

It is for all of these reasons that the Santa Barbara Audubon Society is strongly supporting this project and urging you to approve funding for this rare opportunity.

Should you have any questions about our support for this project, please feel free to contact me at (805) 692-2008. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Darlene Chirman, President

<http://www.audubon.org/chapter/ca/santabarbara>



March 29, 2011

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

RE: **Support for the Ocean Meadows Acquisition Project**

Dear Chairman Bosco:

On behalf of the Environmental Defense Center (EDC), I want to express strong support for The Trust for Public Land's (TPL) application to the State Coastal Conservancy for funding to help acquire the 63-acre Ocean Meadows property, located adjacent to Devereux Slough in Santa Barbara County.

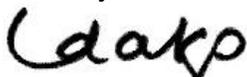
The EDC is a public interest law firm headquartered in Santa Barbara that represents community organizations dedicated to a wide variety of environmental causes. Since 1997, the EDC has worked to advance environmental protection efforts in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo Counties, including the community's successful effort to protect the Ellwood-Devereux ecosystem. TPL has been a great partner in multiple conservation efforts throughout the County, including the Ellwood preservation effort, and we are honored to support this current effort.

Approval of this grant will contribute towards making this once in a lifetime opportunity, to permanently protect this site and allow for future restoration of its coastal wetland habitat values, a reality. This site represents the largest available wetland and upland restoration opportunity (57 acres of wetland and 6 acres of transitional/upland habitat) in this biologically diverse and ecologically significant stretch of coastline. In fact, this project has the potential to be one of the most significant actions to restore coastal wetland habitat along the entire south central California coast.

Furthermore, the Ocean Meadows parcel is a critical component of the larger overall effort to restore the Devereux-Ellwood ecosystem. Situated immediately east Ellwood Mesa and north of UCSB's "South Parcel" at Devereux, Ocean Meadows is an irreplaceable piece of a larger ecosystem that provides habitat for many endangered and threatened plant and animal species. EDC and our clients have worked for more than 20 years to protect and restore this unique coastal treasure. In fact, the Ocean Meadows restoration project will directly benefit existing restoration efforts next to the Devereux Slough by providing soil for that project and helping restore a total of 117 acres of diverse native habitat.

It is for all of these reasons that the EDC strongly supports this project and urges you to approve a grant to fund this rare opportunity. Should you have any questions about the EDC's support for this project, please feel free to contact me at (805) 963-1622. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Linda Krop, Chief Counsel



March 16, 2011

Post Office Box 1099
Goleta, CA 93116
(805) 683-6633
gavicoast@silcom.com

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

RE: **Support for the Ocean Meadows Acquisition Project**

Board of Directors

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- Colleen Beall
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- Virginia Gardner
- Bob Hazard
- Phil Mekenna
- Guene Laurin
- Bob Keats
Emeritus
- Linda Krop
Emeritus

Dear Chairman Bosco:

On behalf of the Gaviota Coast Conservancy (GCC), I am very pleased to submit this letter expressing our strong support for The Trust for Public Land's application to the State Coastal Conservancy for funding towards the acquisition of the 63-acre Ocean Meadows property, located adjacent to Devereux Slough in Santa Barbara County.

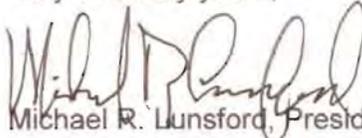
As always, acquisitions on the Gaviota Coast are opportunity driven. This is a rare opportunity to expand protection within the Devereux watershed; the eastern-most watershed of the Gaviota Coast. With its proximity to the Coal Oil Point Reserve and the Sperling Preserve at Ellwood Mesa, acquisition of this property would permanently protect the linkage between upland portions of the Devereux watershed with the estuary, creating a more cohesive natural unit for management. The property's central location and the fact that Devereux Creek runs through it make it an especially critical physical and biological link to these other protected properties.

In addition to providing an important opportunity for habitat restoration, this project also provides significant passive recreational opportunities, thus directly benefiting thousands of appreciative members of our community, as well as visitors from all over California.

I hope you agree that as we attempt to preserve our nationally significant biodiversity, funding opportunities such as this—to permanently protect increasingly rare coastal wetlands—are paramount.

Again, we strongly urge you to approve a Coastal Conservancy grant to help fund the acquisition of the Ocean Meadows property. Should you have any questions about the GCC's support for this project, please feel free to contact me at (805) 967-5828. Thank you for your consideration.

Very sincerely yours,


Michael R. Lunsford, President

Advisory Board

- Edward Cassano
- Lindsay Duncan
- Wayne R. Ferrey, Jr.
- Sharyn Mann
- Marc McGinnes
- Dan Olson
- Paul Relis
- Selma Rubin
- Paul Shaw
- Col David Van Mullen
USAF (Ret.)
- Diane Wondolowski



Friends of the Ellwood Coast

Phone: (805) 682-0854

Email: monarchsrule@yahoo.com

April 11, 2011

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

RE: Support for the Ocean Meadows Acquisition Project

Dear Chairman Bosco:

As President of Friends of the Ellwood Coast (FOTEC), I want to express strong support for The Trust for Public Land's (TPL) application to the State Coastal Conservancy for funding to help acquire the 63-acre Ocean Meadows property, located adjacent to Devereux Slough in Santa Barbara County.

FOTEC was formed in 1999 with the express purpose of working to permanently preserve the Ellwood Coast for its coastal natural, scenic, recreational and cultural resources and to preserve this unique coastline for public use, mainly through acquisition. FOTEC worked with TPL from 2003-2005 as its local partner in the successful effort to acquire the Ellwood Mesa property, in which the Coastal Conservancy also participated.

As defined by FOTEC, the Ellwood Coast includes the lands within the coastal zone between Coal Oil Point on the East and Sandpiper Golf Course on the West. As such, acquisition of the Ocean Meadows property, the last available privately owned property within this area, is a high priority for FOTEC. The overall goal of the Ocean Meadows acquisition project is to acquire the property for conservation and restoration, thus permanently protecting it from the threat of future development.

In addition to preserving the existing habitat associated with Devereux Creek, permanent protection of this property will also provide an unprecedented opportunity to create a wildlife corridor linking the Goleta Slough to the east with the existing protected lands to the west and south of the project site. In the past two years, two different California black bear observations have been made on either side of this potential corridor. In addition, bobcats and coyote are known to use the project site, as well as areas to the east and west.

Finally, the future restoration of the Ocean Meadows parcel will also further an existing restoration on the adjacent University of California at Santa Barbara's South Parcel, resulting in a significant cumulative benefit of restoring a total of 117 contiguous acres of diverse native habitat along the Ellwood Coast.

It is for all of these reasons that FOTEC strongly supports this project and urges you to approve a grant to fund this rare opportunity. Should you have any questions about FOTEC's support for this project, please feel free to contact me at 805-682-0854. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Lange, President
Friends of the Ellwood Coast