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April 23, 2012

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

Subject: Santa Barbara Mesa Lane Beach Access Stairs Project

Dear Chairperson Bosco:

The purpose of this letter is to communicate my support for the City of Santa Barbara's application for Coastal Conservancy grant funding for the replacement of the lower section of Mesa Lane Beach Access Stairs. The lowest section of the stairs is significantly degraded. The City's project will ensure safe public access to the beach.

For more than 30 years, the Mesa Lane Stairs have provided a vital coastal access point and linked a number of important regional open spaces in the 19th Senate District. In addition to miles of public beach, the Mesa Lane Beach Access Stairs provided linkages to Santa Barbara County's Arroyo Burro Beach Park, the City's Douglas Family Preserve, and the 230 acres of Elings Park. Part of the California Coastal Trail, the stairs are a well known and popular location for all types of beach users including families, surfers, runners, walkers, and other beach enthusiasts. These areas accessed by local and state roadways, are also frequently featured as popular coastal visitor destinations.

Since the project design meets the Coastal Commission's minimum 50-year and projected sea level rise requirements, the City's proposal will ensure that this coastal access remains in place for decades. In addition, the reduced footprint of the stairs will benefit the immediate coastal bluff and beach.

I hope you will join me in supporting the project and the City's request for grant funding.

Sincerely,

Tony Strickland
Senator, 19th District

TS: jm

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DAS WILLIAMS
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-FIFTH DISTRICT

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April 13, 2012

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

Re: Santa Barbara Mesa Lane Beach Access Stairs Project

Dear Chairperson Bosco,

I want to express my strong support for the City of Santa Barbara's application for Coastal Conservancy grant funding for the replacement of the lower section of Mesa Lane Beach Access Stairs. The lower section of the stairs is significantly degraded and poses a safety risk to public. The City's project will ensure safe public access to the beach.

For more than 30 years, the Mesa Lane Stairs have provided a vital coastal access point and linked a number of important regional open spaces in the 35th Assembly District. In addition to miles of public beach, the Mesa Lane Beach Access Stairs provide linkages to Santa Barbara County's Arroyo Burro Beach Park, the City's Douglas Family Preserve, and the 230 acres of Elings Park. As part of the California Coastal Trail, the stairs are a well-known and popular location for many beach users, including families, surfers, runners, walkers, and other beach enthusiasts. These areas, accessed by local and state roadways, are also frequently featured as popular coastal visitor destinations. Due to its popularity and concern that further degradation could eliminate access these popular areas, the City has prioritized this project over other recreation needs.

The project design meets the Coastal Commission's minimum 50-year and projected sea level rise requirements, so this proposal will ensure that this coastal access remains in place for decades. The reduced footprint of the stairs will also benefit the immediate coastal bluff and beach.

I hope you will join me in supporting the project and the City's request for grant funding.

Sincerely,

DAS WILLIAMS
Assemblymember, 35th District

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County Supervisor, Second District

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SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

April 5, 2012

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

Subject: Letter of Support for the Mesa Lane Beach Access Stairs Project

Dear Chairperson Bosco:

As the Second District Supervisor for Santa Barbara County, I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the City of Santa Barbara's application for Coastal Conservancy grant funding for the replacement of the lower section of Mesa Lane Beach Access Stairs.

For more than 30 years, the Mesa Lane Stairs have provided a vital coastal access point and linked a number of important regional open spaces including the County's Arroyo Burro Beach Park, the City's Douglas Family Preserve, the 230 acres that comprise Elings Park, and miles of public beach to the east and west. Part of the California Coastal Trail, the stairs are a well known and popular location for all types of beach users including families, surfers, runners, walkers, and other beach enthusiasts. These areas accessed by local and state roadways, are also frequently featured as popular coastal visitor destinations.

Because the project design meets the Coastal Commission's minimum 50-year and projected sea level rise requirements, the City's proposal will ensure that this coastal access remains in place for decades. In addition, the reduced footprint of the stairs will benefit the immediate coastal bluff and beach.

Despite severe funding shortfalls and diminished capital budgets, the City of Santa Barbara's prioritization of the Mesa Lane Stairs project demonstrates its commitment to maintaining public coastal access. I hope you will join me in supporting the project and the City's request for grant funding.

With regards,

Janet Wolf
Santa Barbara County Supervisor
Second District

April 6, 2012

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

Re: Letter of Support for the Mesa Lane Stairs Replacement Project

Dear Chairman Bosco:

The Santa Barbara Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation wholeheartedly supports the City of Santa Barbara's application for State Coastal Conservancy grant funding to replace the lower section of Mesa Lane Stairs.

The Mesa Lane stairway will protect coastal bluff resources and enhance access to a well used and critical public coastal access point throughout the Santa Barbara region. The Improvements will greatly facilitate access and safety for a wide range of community members and visitors to this highly popular accessway including beachgoers, joggers, dog walkers and surfers. With very few access points along this stretch of coastline with steep bluff tops, Mesa Lane provides an important link to Leadbetter Beach, Hendry's Beach and the Douglas Family Preserve.

Over time the stairs have become heavily degraded and are increasingly unsafe. Through the elimination of the concrete block, use of durable steel materials and replacement of the lowest section of concrete stairs, the proposed project will address safety concerns as well as continue to provide critical beach and ocean access.

As a key advocate for public coastal access, the Santa Barbara Chapter Surfrider Foundation enthusiastically endorses this project.

Sincerely,

J Scott Bull
Santa Barbara Chapter
Surfrider Foundation
santabarbara@surfrider.org