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SIMI VALLEY, CA 93065
TEL (805) 306-8886
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225 E. CARRILLO STREET
SUITE 302
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101
TEL (805) 965-0862
FAX (805) 965-0701

California State Senate

SENATOR
TONY STRICKLAND
ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER
NINETEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



STANDING COMMITTEES
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
VICE-CHAIR
HEALTH
VICE-CHAIR
ENERGY, UTILITIES &
COMMUNICATIONS
GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATION
HUMAN SERVICES

April 20, 2012

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's "Education and Conservation Center"

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing in support of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's Education and Conservation Center grant proposal. Over one thousand 4th, 5th, and 6th graders from Ojai and Ventura area schools use Ojai Valley Land Conservancy preserves every year for outdoor environmental education programs. The development of an Education and Conservation Center at the OVLC's Ventura River Steelhead Preserve would enhance the educational opportunities available for Ojai and Ventura area youth by creating an indoor classroom complement to the "outdoor classroom" of the preserves. The Education and Conservation Center would benefit Ventura County adults as well by hosting OVLC's well-liked "Wild about Ojai" community education series.

I encourage the Coastal Conservancy to look favorably on the OVLC's current grant application.

Sincerely,

Tony Strickland
Senator, 19th District

cc: Sam Jenniches, Project Manager

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APR 30 2012

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



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

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

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
STEVE BENNETT
LINDA PARKS
KATHY I. LONG
PETER C. FOY
JOHN C. ZARAGOZA

April 3, 2012

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

Re: The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's "Education and Conservation Center"

Dear Chairman Bosco and Board Members:

I am pleased to once again be contacting you in support of Coastal Conservancy funding for an Ojai Valley Land Conservancy (OVLC) project of the highest merit. The partnership between the Coastal Conservancy and the OVLC has been long and fruitful, and I am deeply appreciative of all that you and your Board have made possible in the Ventura River Watershed.

Development of the OVLC Education and Conservation Center will be far more than the icing on a cake- it will be the dessert course of a multi-course conservation feast. This center will enable the public to understand and appreciate, in ways not previously possible, the Ventura River flora and fauna, the Ventura River Parkway vision, watershed conservation issues such as the planned removal of Matilija Dam, the historical significance of the Hollingsworth Ranch, and the need to support ongoing conservation programs.

Located at the jewel of the OVLC holdings, the Steelhead preserve and historic Hollingsworth Ranch, the Education and Conservation Center is certain to draw unprecedented visitorship to the conservation lands, and create unparalleled learning and appreciation for the mission of the OVLC and the California Coastal Conservancy.

There is no other such river/watershed learning center in Ventura County, and one is sorely needed. As a locally based nonprofit organization, the OVLC is uniquely suited to successfully convey the message of citizen participation in conservation and restoration efforts and the larger picture of statewide conservation programs to the 1-million residents who live within an hour of the center.

You have my deepest appreciation for your support of the OVLC projects and conservation in the Ventura River watershed.

Cordially,

Steve Bennett,
Supervisor, First District

RECEIVED

APR 05 2012

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Cc: Sam Jenniches, Project Manager



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Region
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

APR 17 2012

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

Dear Chairman Bosco:

We are writing to express the National Marine Fisheries Services' support for the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's Education and Conservation Center grant proposal.

The Education and Conservation Center will serve the important purpose of raising awareness and understanding of the important habitat values on the Ventura River. This will ultimately support the conservation of the federally endangered southern California steelhead and other species through the advancement of direct land protection, and implementing critical recovery actions in the watershed, including our shared goal of removing Matilija Dam.

Your past support for the acquisition of Ventura River habitat, for the advancement of the Ventura River Parkway vision, and for your ongoing support of the removal of Matilija Dam are very much appreciated. We encourage the Coastal Conservancy to look favorably on the OVLC's grant proposal which will mutually benefit all of these endeavors.

Sincerely,

For Chr E Yea

Rodney R. McInnis
Regional Administrator

RECEIVED

APR 19 2012

**COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.**

cc: Penny Ruvelas, NMFS, Long Beach, CA
Mark H. Capelli, NMFS, Long Beach, CA





DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Channel Coast District
911 San Pedro Street
Ventura, California 93001

Ruth Coleman, Director

April 4, 2012

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

RE: Ojai Valley Land Conservancy – Education and Conservation Center

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of California State Parks, I am writing to express the support for the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's (OVLC) Education and Conservation Center grant proposal. The development of an Education and Conservation Center at the OVLC's Ventura River Steelhead Preserve would enhance the recreational and educational opportunities available for Ventura and Santa Barbara County residents and visitors to our state parks in this area.

Currently hundreds of school children are served every year in OVLC's environmental education program. An Education and Conservation Center would benefit this program as well as programs targeted at adults and families such as OVLC's well-liked "Wild about Ojai" community education series, and other community conservation and education activities.

An Education and Conservation Center would help advance the vision of a Ventura River Parkway, promote research on riparian ecology and climate change adaptation, and also help advance conservation of habitat for numerous rare, threatened and endangered species including the southern California steelhead. It is a sound investment for raising awareness of the watershed's richness and local stewardship responsibilities.

California State Parks encourages the Coastal Conservancy to actively support the creation of this facility and to look favorably on the OVLC's grant application.

Respectfully,

Richard Rozzelle
District Superintendent

cc. Greg Gamble, Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

RECEIVED

APR 09 2012

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



April 16, 2012

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

RE: Letter of Support for the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's Education and Conservation Center

Dear Mr. Bosco:

As the Ventura River Watershed Coordinator, I am writing in support of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's Education and Conservation Center grant proposal. The Education and Conservation Center would be an asset in the development of a shared vision for the management of the Ventura River watershed, and the Ventura River Parkway. The Ventura River Steelhead Preserve is a central location in the watershed at which meetings of the Ventura River Watershed Council could be held.

The Ventura River Watershed Council—composed of agencies, organizations, and individuals with a stake in water supply, water quality, flood control, or aquatic habitat conservation in the watershed—has been meeting since 2006 to address important water-related issues. The Council serves as the stakeholder group for a variety of local planning efforts, including the development of an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) for Ventura County. Watershed education and the provision of recreational and access opportunities on the river, are specifically identified in the Ventura County IRWMP as priorities in the Ventura River Watershed.

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy is a key player in our efforts to improve the health and sustainability of the Ventura River Watershed, and in providing watershed educational opportunities. The Conservancy has a long and stable track record, and has proven they have the organizational capacity to manage a project of this scope and importance.

This project will provide many important benefits to our watershed. On behalf of the Ventura River Watershed Council, I enthusiastically offer our support for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lorraine Walter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Lorraine Walter

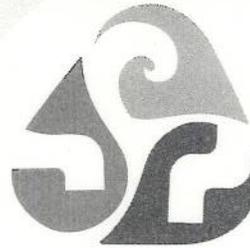
Ventura River Watershed Coordinator

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APR 19 2012

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Trusted life source for generations



VENTURA
WATER™

www.venturawater.net

April 9, 2012

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

RE: Ojai Valley Land Conservancy Proposed Education and Conservation Center on the Ventura River

Dear Mr Bosco:

Ventura Water extends our support to the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy (OVLC) in their efforts to obtain grant funding for an Education and Conservation Center on the Ventura River. The development of the center at OVLC's Ventura River Steelhead Preserve would enhance the recreational and educational opportunities available to Ventura's 103,000 residents. Strategically located between the cities of Ventura and Ojai, the facility would provide educational opportunities to area residence such as, school outreach programs and access to OVLC's community education series - "Wild about Ojai".

In addition, the Education and Conservation Center would help advance the vision of a Ventura River Parkway, as well as, promote research and conservation efforts throughout the watershed. Therefore, we encourage the Coastal Conservancy to financially support OVLC's grant proposal and the opportunity it will provide for all who live and enjoy the watershed.

If you should have any questions please contact me at 652-4518.

Sincerely,



Shana Epstein
General Manager

cc Sam Jenniches, Project Manager

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APR 12 2012

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



environmental
DEFENSE CENTER

April 13, 2012

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

Re: Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's Education and Conservation Center

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to express the Environmental Defense Center's support for the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's ("OVLC") Education and Conservation Center grant proposal. The Environmental Defense Center is a public interest law firm that protects and enhances the environment through education, advocacy and legal action. We are part of a partnership, including the Coastal Conservancy, to advance the vision of a Ventura River Parkway. OVLC's proposed Education and Conservation Center will further this shared vision.

Over one thousand 4th, 5th, and 6th graders from Ojai and Ventura area schools use OVLC's preserves every year for outdoor environmental education programs. The development of an Education and Conservation Center at the OVLC's Ventura River Steelhead Preserve would enhance the educational opportunities available for Ojai and Ventura area youth by creating an indoor classroom complement to the "outdoor classroom" of the preserves. The Education and Conservation Center would also benefit Ventura County adults by hosting OVLC's well-liked "Wild about Ojai" community education series.

For these reasons, we urge the Coastal Conservancy to support OVLC's application.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Kraus
Staff Attorney

cc: Sam Jenniches
Project Manager

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APR 16 2012

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



Surfrider Foundation
Ventura County Chapter – Matilija Coalition
PO Box 1028, Ventura, CA 93002
(805) 667-2222 www.matilija-coalition.org



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

RE: Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's "Education and Conservation Center"

Dear Chair Bosco,

I am writing in support of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's Education and Conservation Center grant proposal. The development of an Education and Conservation Center at the OVLC's Ventura River Steelhead Preserve would enhance the recreational and educational opportunities available for Ventura County residents. In addition to the hundreds of school children served every year in OVLC's environmental education program, the Education and Conservation Center would benefit area adults as well by hosting OVLC's well-liked "Wild about Ojai" community education series, and other community conservation and education activities.

The Education and Conservation Center would help advance the vision of a Ventura River Parkway, promote research on riparian ecology and climate change adaptation, and also help advance conservation of habitat for numerous rare, threatened and endangered species including the southern California steelhead. We appreciate the Coastal Conservancy's past support for critical habitat acquisition projects on the Ventura River, and its role in the Matilija Dam removal project. We encourage the Coastal Conservancy to look favorably on the OVLC's Education and Conservation Center proposal, which would help advance both of these efforts.

Sincerely,

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

A. Paul Jenkin, M.S.

Coordinator, Matilija Coalition
Environmental Director, Surfrider Foundation, Ventura County Chapter
(805) 648-4005 paul@matilija-coalition.org

cc Sam Jenniches, Project Manager

visit our website at: www.matilija-coalition.org



CITY OF OJAI

401 SOUTH VENTURA STREET
P.O. BOX 1570 / OJAI, CA 93024
TELEPHONE (805) 646-5581
FAX (805) 646-1980

April 18, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Bosco,

The City of Ojai is writing in support of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's Education and Conservation Center grant proposal. Each year hundreds of students grades 4, 5, and 6 from Ojai area schools use Ojai Valley Land Conservancy preserves for outdoor, environmental education programs. The development of an Education and Conservation Center at the OVLC's Ventura River Steelhead Preserve would enhance the educational opportunities available for Ojai youth by creating an indoor classroom complement to the "outdoor classroom" of the preserve. The Education and Conservation Center would benefit Ojai adults as well by hosting OVLC's well-liked "Wild about Ojai" community education series.

The City of Ojai has appreciated the Coastal Conservancy's support for past OVLC land acquisitions which have created preserves that thousands of Ojai residents enjoy every year. We encourage the Coastal Conservancy to look favorably on the OVLC's current grant application.

Sincerely,

Betsy Clapp
Mayor

RECEIVED

APR 23 2012

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Oak Grove School

awakening intelligence

April 13, 2012

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

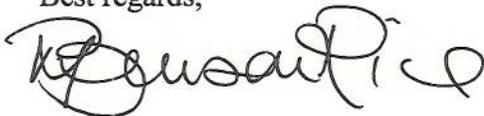
Re: Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's "Education and Conservation Center"

Dear Chairman Bosco,

As Head of School at Oak Grove School, I am writing in support of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's Education and Conservation Center grant proposal. Oak Grove School supports the Once Upon a Watershed environmental education program which serves Oak Grove students and hundreds of other students from area public schools. Once Upon a Watershed utilizes Ojai Valley Land Conservancy nature preserves for the outdoor component of the education program, and we feel that the development of an Education and Conservation Center at OVLC's Steelhead Preserve would greatly enhance learning opportunities for our students valley-wide and beyond and provide a notable benefit to our community.

In partnership with the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy and two other local non-profits, the Oak Grove School sponsors and hosts the community's annual Earth Day celebration we call "EarthPlay." Through this event and otherwise, we witness a great deal of enthusiasm for conservation issues in the Ventura River watershed, and we believe this Education and Conservation Center will benefit more than our students – it will serve all of us in this community, plus provide a model for other communities. I encourage the Coastal Conservancy to look favorably on the OVLC's grant application.

Best regards,



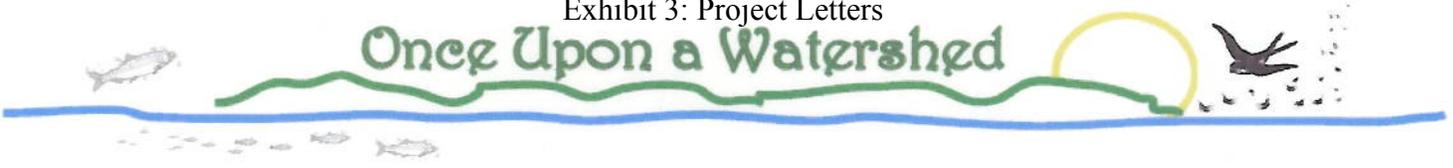
Meredy Benson Rice
Head of School
Oak Grove School

cc Sam Jenniches, Project Manager

RECEIVED
APR 13 2012
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Oak Grove School of the Krishnamurti Foundation of America
High School, Junior High, Elementary & Early Childhood Programs

Once Upon a Watershed



Douglas Bosco
Chairman of the Board
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
April 10th, 2012

cc: Sam Jenniches, Project Manager

David R. White PhD
Program Director

re: Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's "Education and Conservation Center".

On behalf of the Once Upon a Watershed environmental education program, I am writing in support of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's Education and Conservation Center grant proposal. Once Upon a Watershed serves over one thousand 4th, 5th, and 6th graders from public schools in the Ventura River watershed. We use Ojai Valley Land Conservancy preserves for the restoration and exploration component of our outdoor environmental education programs. These programs would benefit greatly from the development of an Education and Conservation Center at the OVLC's Ventura River Steelhead Preserve. This Center would create an indoor classroom and lab space which would both complement and enhance our outdoor education program. I encourage the Coastal Conservancy to look favorably on the OVLC's current grant application.

Yours Sincerely,

David R. White PhD

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APR 11 2012

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.