



**United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Piedras Blancas Light Station  
Outstanding Natural Area  
15950 Cabrillo Highway  
San Simeon, CA 93452-0129  
(805) 927-2968

09/10/12

**Re: Piedras Blancas Campground Design Project, San Luis Obispo County**

Mr. Doug Bosco: State Coastal Conservancy

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing on behalf of Piedras Blancas Light Station and the Bureau of Land Management in support of the proposed \$40,000 Coastal Conservancy grant to the California Department of Parks and Recreation to design and prepare environmental documents for the possible future development of a "walk-in" style campground at the former Piedras Blancas Motel site in San Luis Obispo County.

Walk-in campgrounds have been successful in other recreational areas and provide low cost, low impact accommodations for visitors. At present, camping facilities are not available in the immediate area and a walk-in campground will provide a recreational opportunity for visitors who enjoy a more primitive experience.

The 220 acres of coastal land located immediately south of the proposed campground location has been designated an Outstanding Natural Area (ONA) within the National Landscape Conservation System and is jointly managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the Bureau of Land Management. The ONA is as a day use area and will soon include a segment of the California Coastal Trail that can be accessed at the proposed campground site. The campground would serve an ideal function for visitors to enjoy the Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area (PBONA) by day and have an adjacent campground to spend the night. The campground will dovetail nicely with the day use management of PBONA.

I strongly support the proposal of the grant for a campground study and urge the State Coastal Conservancy to approve it.

Cordially,  
Jim Boucher  
BLM Park Manager  
Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area

# California State Senate

CAPITOL OFFICE  
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SENATOR  
**SAM BLAKESLEE, PH.D.**  
FIFTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICES  
605 SANTA ROSA STREET  
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401  
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September 12, 2012

Mr. Doug Bosco  
Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

## **Re: Piedras Blancas Campground Design Project, San Luis Obispo County**

Dear Chairman Bosco:

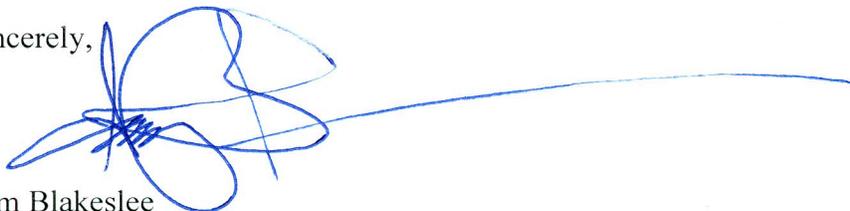
I am writing to express my support for the proposed \$40,000 Coastal Conservancy grant to the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to prepare final design, permit, and environmental review documents for future development of a campground at the Piedras Blancas Motel site in northern San Luis Obispo County.

Low-cost accommodations are scarce along much of the California coast, and particularly along the Big Sur coast. Located on a coastal bluff at the southern gateway to the Big Sur coast and within Hearst San Simeon State Park, the Piedras Blancas Motel site is ideally positioned to serve the growing demand for such accommodation.

Following the state's purchase in 2004 of over 1,000 acres of former Hearst Ranch property along 18 miles of bluffs and beaches west of Highway One, in 2005 the Conservancy invested another \$4.5 million to help DPR acquire the Piedras Blancas property, a 26-acre inholding zoned for commercial and visitor serving uses. Today, DPR is pursuing renovations to the old motel on the site that will provide moderate cost overnight accommodations, along with a café to provide food service to both motel guests and visitors to the planned campground. With a mix of tent sites and tent cabins, the campground will provide an excellent alternative for visitors in the region looking for options to hotels found nearby in the towns.

The proposed Conservancy grant will enable DPR to complete all of the pre-construction tasks and move forward with the eventual development and operation of the campground. I strongly support the proposal and urge your board to approve it.

Sincerely,



Sam Blakeslee  
Senator, 15<sup>th</sup> District

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Assembly  
California Legislature



KATCHO ACHADJIAN  
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, THIRTY THIRD DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
VICE CHAIR: BANKING AND  
FINANCE  
ACCOUNTABILITY AND  
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW  
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT,  
SPORTS, TOURISM, AND  
INTERNET MEDIA  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
TRANSPORTATION

JOINT COMMITTEES  
ARTS  
FAIRS, ALLOCATION, AND  
CLASSIFICATION

SELECT COMMITTEES  
ACROSPACE  
CALIFORNIA-MEXICO BI-NATIONAL  
AFFAIRS  
STATE HOSPITAL SAFETY  
WINE

September 21, 2012

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612-2512

**Re: Piedras Blancas Campground Design Project, San Luis Obispo County**

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to urge your board's support for the proposed \$40,000 Coastal Conservancy grant to the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to prepare final design, permit, and environmental review documents for future development of a campground at the Piedras Blancas Motel site in northern San Luis Obispo County.

Low-cost accommodations are scarce along much of the California coast, and particularly along the Big Sur coast. Given the high numbers of annual visitors to the Big Sur coast and an increasing coastal population will continue to increase. Located on a coastal bluff at the southern gateway to the Big Sur coast and within Hearst San Simeon State Park, the Piedras Blancas Motel site is ideally positioned to serve the growing demand for such accommodation.

Following the state's purchase in 2004 of over 1,000 acres of former Hearst Ranch property along 18 miles of bluffs and beaches west of Highway One, in 2005 the Conservancy invested another \$4.5 million to help DPR acquire the Piedras Blancas property, a 26-acre inholding zoned for commercial and visitor serving uses. Today, DPR is pursuing renovations to the old motel on the site that will provide moderate cost overnight accommodations, along with a café to provide food service to both motel guests and visitors to the planned campground.

With a mix of tent sites and tent cabins, the campground will provide an excellent alternative for visitors in the region looking for options to the more traditional motel/hotel/inn facilities found nearby in the towns of San Simeon and Cambria. It is expected that the campground will also attract long distance bicyclists traveling along the Big Sur coast.

The proposed Conservancy grant will enable DPR to complete all of the pre-construction tasks and move forward with the eventual development and operation of the campground. I strongly support the proposal and urge your board to approve it.

Sincerely,

Khatchik H. "Katcho" Achadjian  
33rd Assembly District



## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Janelle Beland, Acting Director

San Luis Obispo Coast District  
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San Simeon, CA 93452  
(805) 927-2065 telephone  
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September 17, 2012

Mr. Doug Bosco  
Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

**Re: Piedras Blancas Campground Design Project, San Luis Obispo County**

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to urge your board's support for the proposed \$40,000 Coastal Conservancy grant to the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to prepare final design, permit, and environmental review documents for future development of a campground at the Piedras Blancas Motel site in northern San Luis Obispo County.

Low-cost accommodations are scarce along much of the California coast, and particularly along the Big Sur coast. Located 8 miles north of Hearst Castle on a coastal bluff at the southern gateway to the Big Sur coast and within Hearst San Simeon State Park, the Piedras Blancas Motel site is ideally positioned to serve the growing demand for such accommodations.

Following the 2004 donation of over 1,000 acres of Hearst Ranch property along 18 miles of bluffs and beaches west of Highway One, the Conservancy in 2005 invested funds to help DPR acquire the Piedras Blancas property, a 26 acre in-holding zoned for commercial and visitor serving uses. DPR is completing renovations of the "Cappuccino Cove" Café building at the motel site and hopes to soon begin work on the motel building in partnership with a concessionaire that would provide moderate cost overnight accommodations and provide food services at the Cafe to motel guests and visitors to the planned campground and planned California Coastal Trail.

With a mix of tent sites and tent cabins, the campground will provide an excellent alternative for visitors in the region looking for affordable options to the more traditional motel/hotel/inn facilities found nearby in the towns of San Simeon and Cambria. It is expected that the campground will also attract long distance bicyclists traveling along the Big Sur coast.

The proposed Conservancy grant will enable DPR to complete all of the pre-construction tasks and move forward with the eventual development and operation of the campground. I strongly support the proposal and urge your board to approve it.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Franco, District Superintendent  
San Luis Obispo Coast District