

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 25, 2013

The Honorable Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Chairman Bosco,

We write in full support of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's (MROSD) application for grant funding for the Mt. Umunhum Environmental Restoration and Public Access Project (Staging Area and Trail Phases). This project will allow Bay Area residents to access one of the most incredible view locations in the region, increase local awareness of Cold War history, and attract new users to open space and the Ridge Trail.

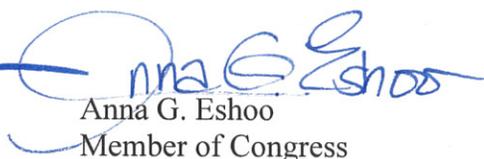
This grant would fully fund the construction of trails, benches, and other visitor amenities at the summit of Mount Umunhum, a 40-60 stall parking lot along Mt. Umunhum Road, and a new segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail that will allow the public to access this incredible open space destination. The parking lot plan includes a restroom and other basic trailhead amenities and the trails would be open to hikers, bikers, and equestrians.

We have supported the District from the beginning in their mission to clean up and restore Mount Umunhum for safe public use. We continue to support them now in asking you to grant the District's application for funding so that the next set of necessary steps in the restoration and public access project can occur.

Future phases of this project will provide new opportunities for regional trail connections and public access to this unique and historical natural area. We strongly recommend that you approve grant funding for this project.

Most gratefully,

  
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

  
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Honda  
Member of Congress



Bay Area  
Ridge  
Trail  
Council

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
Attn: Matt Gerhart  
Jeff Melby  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

January 7, 2012

Dear Chair Bosco,

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council (Council) is pleased to serve in partnership with the Coastal Conservancy, assisting with a competitive grant program offering State funds for acquisition, planning, and construction of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. We are creating an uninterrupted 550+ mile multi-use path on the ridgelines around San Francisco Bay and over 340 miles are now dedicated to enjoy today and protected for future generations.

The Ridge Trail Council heartily endorses a funding request from the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) for up to \$1,000,000 to help fund staging area and trail construction on Mt Umunhum, an iconic ridgetop feature of Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve, in Santa Clara County. This new Ridge Trail spur will provide the long-awaited first public access to the top of the mountain, with views of 11 counties from Napa to Monterey. Mt Umunhum's summit, at 3500 feet, will be one of the highest points on the entire 10-county Ridge Trail.

Grant funds would support construction of:

- a large new staging area and trailhead at Bald Mt. on the Preserve
- approximately 1.5 miles of Ridge Trail spur connecting the staging area to the summit of Mt Umunhum
- a vista point at the summit

Conservancy funds would be matched by approximately \$1.9 million to cover costs of environmental restoration of the former Almaden Air Force Station at the summit, and one other enormously popular task - stabilizing the "Cube" – the huge radar antenna tower - visible from over 30 miles away. The Cube is an historic remnant of the extensive network of ICBM tracking facilities developed during the Cold War. Hundreds of Air Force veterans have spoken in support of preserving the Cube and public access to the mountaintop.

Opening Mt enjoys enthusiastic public support. The Council is pleased to endorse this grant request based on significance for the Ridge Trail, and the opportunity to provide public access to the summit of Mt Umunhum, one of the most scenic vista points in the Bay Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janet McBride".

Janet McBride, Executive Director  
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council

