

California State Senate

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SENATOR
JERRY HILL

THIRTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIR



COMMITTEES
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
CHAIR
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COMMUNICATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GAS
& ELECTRIC INFRASTRUCTURE
SAFETY
CHAIR

November 24, 2014

Janet Diehl, Project Manager
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Pilarcitos Creek Bridge (Half Moon Bay, CA)

Dear Ms. Diehl,

I write in enthusiastic support of the City of Half Moon Bay's request to be granted \$200,000 by Coastal Conservancy in order to facilitate the repair of the John Hernandez Bridge, colloquially known as the Pilarcitos Creek Bridge.

The Pilarcitos Creek Bridge was closed by the California Department of Parks in April citing public safety concerns. This bridge not only serves as an important connector on the California Coastal Trail, but also provides pedestrians a safe route to downtown Half Moon Bay and numerous schools.

I strongly support funding for this project. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry Hill".

Jerry Hill
Senator, District 13



STATE CAPITOL
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Assembly
California Legislature

RICHARD S. GORDON
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEES
BUDGET
BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
REVENUE & TAXATION

SUBCOMMITTEES
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #3 ON
RESOURCES AND TRANSPORTATION

SELECT COMMITTEES
CHAIR: SEA LEVEL RISE AND THE
CALIFORNIA ECONOMY

October 29, 2014

Janet Diehl
Project Manager
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Ms. Diehl,

I write in support of the City of Half Moon Bay's request for \$200,000 to support efforts to replace the damaged John Fernandez (Pilarcitos) Bridge in Half Moon Bay.

Pilarcitos Bridge is unique among the countless assets in the State Parks system- it is used by Coastsiders to commute to their places of business, young people going to school, and residents performing their everyday tasks. I know of no other resource in our State Parks that is a commuter backbone that both reduces traffic on our streets and improves the quality of the lives of those who use it.

Since early this year, the bridge has been closed and residents have had to find alternative ways to get to work and school. Additionally, users of the popular Coastal Trail have not been able to access its full extent.

Given the bridge's vital importance to the community, I hope that the Coastal Conservancy can be a partner in its replacement.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

G

Richard S. Gordon
Assemblyman, Twenty-Fourth District

DON HORSLEY

Board of Supervisors, Third District
County of San Mateo

October 28, 2014

Janet Diehl
Project Manager
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Janet,

It is with great support for the City Council of Half Moon Bay and their efforts to obtain \$200,000 from the Coastal Conservancy to conduct the necessary replacement of the Pilarcitos Creek Bridge that I submit this letter. The replacement of the Pilarcitos Creek Bridge is critical to coastal recreation and quality of life in Half Moon Bay and the San Mateo County Coastside.

As the Coastal Trail is a popular destination for locals and tourists alike, the Pilarcitos Creek Bridge links regional visitor serving destinations and residential neighborhoods. The proximity of the bridge to the coastline makes it the path of choice for tourists and avid recreationists. By way of the Coastal Trail and Pilarcitos Creek Bridge, pedestrians and bicyclists can span the coastline from Half Moon Bay to Princeton-by-the-Sea while accessing popular recreation sites and small businesses along the way.

The Coastal Trail's proximity to Half Moon Bay High School and Cunha Intermediate School also makes the trail and bridge the preferred route for students. Its route and separation from roads, especially Highway 1, makes it the safest route for children going to school. Without the replacement of the bridge, children will be forced to walk and bike to school in immediate proximity to Highway 1 traffic increasing the risk of accidents.

Given the critical role the Pilarcitos Creek Bridge plays in coastal recreation and local quality of life, I urge you to grant the City of Half Moon Bay the \$200,000 to assist in the replacement of the Pilarcitos Creek Bridge. Thank you for your consideration and I am available should you have subsequent questions.

Sincerely,


Don Horsley
Supervisor, 3rd District
San Mateo County

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OCT 31 2014

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF





October 29, 2014

Janet Diehl
Project Manager
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Letter of Support for the City of Half Moon Bay – Pilarcitos Creek Bridge Project

Dear Ms. Diehl:

As the City of Half Moon Bay Parks and Recreation Committee Chair, I am writing in support of the grant funding opportunity from Coastal Conservancy for repair of the Pilarcitos Creek Bridge on the Coastal Trail in Half Moon Bay (HMB).

The mission of the Parks and Recreation Committee is to provide the best recreation experience for our community and visitors. The Parks and Recreation Services Department provides a wide variety of activities for residents of all ages and interests. I'm sure you can imagine the benefit of the Coastal Trail for these activities. The Pilarcitos Bridge is integral to the coast side activities often provided to our community and visitors.

I give my full support for the grant funding from the Coastal Conservancy. These funds allow us to bring this valued asset on our Coastal Trail back to functional use while helping to avoid any additional negative impact.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Shahrzad Pantera
Half Moon Bay Parks and Recreation Chair
City of Half Moon Bay
501 Main Street
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
shahrzadp@sbcglobal.net
650-726-8270
650-726-8261 (Fax)

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NOV 03 2014

**COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF**



HALF MOON BAY COASTSIDE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITORS' BUREAU

It's your connection

235 Main Street
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
(650) 726-8380
fax (650) 726-8389

www.hmbchamber.com
www.halfmoonbayecotourism.com

October 28, 2014

Janet Diehl
Project Manager
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Letter of Support for the City of Half Moon Bay – Pilarcitos Creek Bridge Project

Dear Ms Diehl:

As President/CEO of the Half Moon Bay Coastside Chamber of Commerce & Visitors' Bureau, I am writing in support of the grant funding opportunity from Coastal Conservancy for repair of the Pilarcitos Creek Bridge on the Coastal Trail in Half Moon Bay (HMB).

Half Moon Bay State Park's Coastside Trail runs parallel to the Pacific Coast along what used to be the Ocean Shore Railroad. The Coastside Trail is truly a destination trail. It offers sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean, access to several beaches and excellent nature viewing. Bird watching is quite good and a popular activity here. Red-tailed hawks, blue herons and red-winged blackbirds are spotted frequently, and large hawks can often be seen perched on benches and the trail's split-rail fence.

Since the bridge has been closed, we get calls every day at the Chamber from visitors who are not sure they will be coming to our town if they can't walk the Coastal Trail. Tourism in HMB is foundational to the economic growth and stability for the local merchants, business owners and the community in general. Visitors come from around the world to enjoy HMB and especially to experience the Coastal Trail. The Pilarcitos Creek Bridge is a key element of the Coastal Trail. Having the bridge in its current state of disrepair has created a negative impact to tourism for our community in HMB, which is the basis of existence for many of our merchants and business owners.

I give my full support for the grant funding from the Coastal Conservancy. These funds allow us to bring this valued asset on our Coastal Trail back to functional use while helping to avoid any additional negative economic impact.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

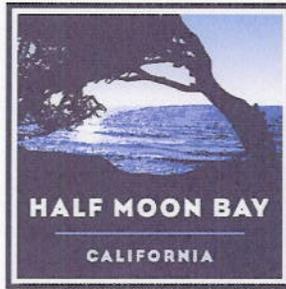
Sincerely,

Charise Hale McHugh, ACE
President/CEO
Half Moon Bay Coastside Chamber of Commerce & Visitors' Bureau
235 Main Street
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
charise@hmbchamber.com
650-726-8380
650-726-8389 (Fax)

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NOV 03 2014

**COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF**



October 28, 2014

Janet Diehl
Project Manager
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Letter of Support for the City of Half Moon Bay – Pilarcitos Creek Bridge Project

Dear Ms Diehl:

On behalf of the Board of The Half Moon Bay Hotel Business Improvement District, we are in support of the grant funding opportunity from Coastal Conservancy for repair of the Pilarcitos Creek Bridge on the Coastal Trail in Half Moon Bay (HMB).

Half Moon Bay State Park's Coastside Trail runs parallel to the Pacific Coast along what used to be the Ocean Shore Railroad. The Coastside Trail is truly a destination trail. It offers sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean, access to several beaches and excellent nature viewing. Bird watching is quite good and a popular activity here. Red-tailed hawks, blue herons and red-winged blackbirds are spotted frequently, and large hawks can often be seen perched on benches and the trail's split-rail fence.

The Coastal Trail is a huge draw to the Coast. Tourism in HMB is foundational to the economic growth and stability for the local merchants, business owners and the community in general. Visitors come from around the world to enjoy HMB and especially to experience the Coastal Trail. The Pilarcitos Creek Bridge is a key element of the Coastal Trail. Having the bridge in its current state of disrepair has created a negative impact to tourism for our community in HMB, which is the basis of existence for many of our merchants and business owners.

We give our full support for the grant funding from the Coastal Conservancy. These funds allow us to bring this valued asset on our Coastal Trail back to functional use while helping to avoid any additional negative economic impact.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charise Hale McHugh". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Charise Hale McHugh, ACE
Manager
Half Moon Bay Hotel Business Improvement District
235 Main Street
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
charise@hmbchamber.com
650-726-8380
650-726-8389 (Fax)

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NOV 03 2014

**COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF**

Exhibit 3: Project Letters

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

October 31, 2014

RE: Pilarcitos Bridge in Half Moon Bay

Dear Chairman Bosco,

My name is Walter Sensing. I'm writing to you today on behalf of Fix-the-Bridge in Half Moon Bay. We are an ad hoc committee of 20+ concerned citizens who have gotten together to advocate for a prompt restoration of the John Hernandez Bridge (also known as the Pilarcitos Bridge) that is a critical link in the California Coastal Trail as it passes through Half Moon Bay.

We have been working closely with the City of Half Moon Bay in support of a viable, cost-effective solution to replace the bridge since it was officially closed by the California State Parks back in early April of this year when it partially collapsed. As you are probably aware, this bridge is located on State Parks property. However, due to the importance that this bridge has on our community, the City of Half Moon Bay has stepped up to work with State Parks to garner their support in obtaining as quick a resolution as possible.

The Coastal Trail is a vital transportation link for those of us who live here on the coast. It also serves as a source of recreation for thousands of Bay Area residents and visitors who venture to the Coast throughout the year. Without the use of the John Hernandez Bridge, the Coastal Trail has been severed and a dangerous detour along Highway 1 has become the only alternative route for pedestrian and bike traffic immediately to the north of Half Moon Bay. This detour route onto the Naomi Patridge Trail has resulted in several recent close calls between children biking and cars turning across the trail at various intersections. In addition, many have forged alternate routes through the creek or down the bluffs creating additional environmental impacts.

We understand that the State Coastal Conservancy has offered to help with a grant of \$200,000 for the essential upfront funding to jumpstart the permitting and approval process that will expedite this project. We are greatly appreciative of this effort and want you to know that we, as a group, support the alternative that was developed by the City of Half Moon Bay to provide both a short term, as well as long term, cost-effective solution. We believe that this is money that is well spent in the public's interest and is critical to moving this forward.

Please help us avoid any accidents that might occur resulting from the detour that has become necessary while the John Hernandez Bridge is closed. As you know, the permitting process can be time consuming and the opportunity for a fix to be implemented is constrained to the dry season. That makes it essential that we have all the required permitting in place for the engineering work to start as soon as weather permits. A grant from the Coastal Conservancy would make this possible.

Thank you for work that the Conservancy does and for the improvement that it has brought to California's beautiful coast! Please let me know if I can be of any assistance in your efforts to help us.

Sincerely,



Walter Sensing, Chair
Fix-the-Bridge Committee
439 Kehoe Avenue
Half Moon Bay CA 94019
whsensing@gmail.com

cc:

Janet Diehl, Project Manager, State Coastal Conservancy
Alex Khojikian, Deputy City Manager of Half Moon Bay

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NOV 03 2014

**COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF**

November 1, 2014

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94162

Dear Sir:

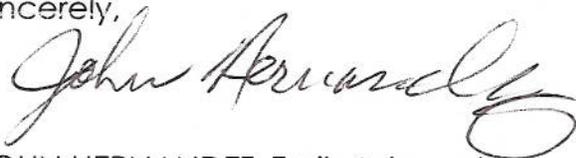
The Pilarcitos Creek Bridge needs your help! This bridge (dedicated in May 1994 as The John Hernandez Bridge, I am honored to point out) is rusting away and needs to be replaced, according to engineers who have surveyed it.

This bridge was an ADA compliant bridge that is a vital link in the California Coast Trail and is used by students getting to school, locals getting to work and many visitors from around the state, as well as foreign visitors.

A couple of days recently, as I was at one end or the other seeing for myself what the condition of the bridge was, dozens of people rode or walked up and asked. "Why is the bridge closed?" Many of them continued across the bridge, ignoring the warnings and barriers.

Please help fill this gap by approving the \$200,000 grant from the Conservancy to the City of Half Moon Bay to begin the preparation for the replacement of this important part of our Coastal Trail.

Sincerely,



JOHN HERNANDEZ, Trails Advocate
former San Mateo County Trails Committee Chair
2912 Pullman Avenue
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
650-726-3024
trailteam@yahoo.com

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NOV 03 2014

**COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF**

Exhibit 3: Project Letters

Paulette Eisen
439 Kehoe Ave
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

To: Douglas Bosco, Chairman
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94162

November 1, 2014

We have been doing whatever we can for the past 6 months since this bridge broke down, to get it fixed. Every Wednesday, when I pick up my 6 year old grandson and take him to my house from his school by bicycle, I am in a state of high anxiety that we get there safely. We end up on the bike path along Hwy 1 instead of the much safer route that we used to take along the beach trail where I did not have to worry about traffic. This is not an exaggeration. If you know this area, you would understand. The beach pathway is a vital artery to and from the town of Half Moon Bay. We have been severely impacted by the closure of this bridge and we must get it fixed!

I have been part of a group of residents in Half Moon Bay that has met frequently to strategize as to what we could do to influence the powers that be to give this matter serious attention and to make it a top priority. I was very happy to discover that the Coastal Conservancy had stepped in to offer 200,000.00 to help with funding for fixing this bridge.

I know that my fellow "Fix the Bridge Committee" as we have called ourselves, want to contact you and thank you for your help. Is an email, such as this one adequate or do we need to send this by post?

Please let me know so that I can communicate this to the rest of the group.

Again, my gratitude and thanks.

Sincerely,

Paulette Eisen



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NOV 03 2014
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94162

November 4, 2014

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen living in the Casa del Mar neighborhood of Half Moon Bay, which is immediately adjacent to the Pilarcitos Creek Bridge. I am also a 20-yr resident of Half Moon Bay, a real estate broker and a health care provider. I urge you and your fellow California State Coastal Conservancy Board members to provide a \$200,000 grant to the City of Half Moon Bay towards the costs of planning and permitting for the replacement of the Pilarcitos Creek Bridge.

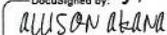
As you know, this bridge has been closed for the past 8 months due to irreparable damage inflicted by a California State Parks worker driving a tractor over the bridge. The CA State Parks has put up barricades to deter people from crossing the bridge, which now has gaping holes in its collapsing walkway. But children and adults alike hop over the barricades on a daily basis and have cut the chain link fencing repeatedly to gain access to the bridge, as there is no other viable route across Pilarcitos Creek. This has created significant safety and liability issues for the City and the State. People have also created new paths through previously protected habitat and have caused significant erosion along the coastal bluffs in search of alternative routes to the beach.

In the meantime, the State has detoured pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians inland to a segment of the Naomi Patridge Trail along Hwy 1, which has created its own set of safety issues. My neighbors and I have all witnessed several near misses between people using the Patridge Trail and traffic entering and exiting the Casa del Mar neighborhood via Kehoe Ave.. And with the recent time change, it is only a matter of time before a child or a bicyclist is killed or injured by a driver who can't see them in the dark crossing Kehoe as they are turning onto or off of Hwy 1. The bridge closure also limits beach access for disabled persons and emergency vehicles, creating additional risks to public safety.

According to the California State Conservancy 2013 Strategic Plan, the Conservancy's **#1 Goal** is to develop the California Coastal trail as a major recreational amenity, tourist attraction, and alternative transportation system. *"Public access is one of the major programs of the Conservancy. Public access projects expand opportunities for all Californians and all visitors to California to enjoy the coast...Coastal access projects support the tourism economy...the **California Coastal Trail** is both a recreational feature and in some areas a means of alternative transportation."*

I couldn't agree with you more! Your financial support of the bridge planning and permitting process will help to expedite the construction of a replacement for the bridge, and to restore this vital transportation link to improve access and safety for visitors and Coastside residents alike.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by


Allison Akana

792 Pilarcitos Ave.

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

Michael Akana
324 Correas Street
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
mike@akana.net

November 4, 2014

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94162

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I ask the Coastal Conservancy to approve a \$200,000 grant to the City of Half Moon Bay to help with the replacement of the John Hernandez/Pilarcitos Creek Bridge.

The bridge is a vital link on the coastal trail providing both passage as well between Wave Crest and Francis Beach to Venice and Dunes Beaches to the north...as the Wave Crest project had claimed ""the new wheelchair-accessible trail will connect to four miles of Coastal Trail to the north." But even that was out of date at the time of the application. The four miles trail no longer exists and didn't exist at the time of the funding proposal for the WaveCrest trail because of the failure of the John Hernandez/Pilarcitos Creek Bridge.

The bridge is in itself an attraction for viewing of the foliage and wildlife in the Pilarcitos Creek as described in books and online guides on cycling, birding and dog walking. Dog Trekker, for example, says "Stop at the Frenchman's Creek or John Hernandez bridges for birding and keep your eyes open along the trail for jackrabbits."

The bridge was the safest option for accessing the beaches and viewing the bluffs and trails allowing pedestrians, bicyclists and dogs to bypass the Snowy Plover preserve to the west and cross above Pilarcitos Creek.

Access for those with dogs, or those needing ADA accommodation are even more limited. The loss of the bridge makes the trail guides obsolete:
Dog Trekker, for example listed "Dogs are allowed only at Blufftop Coastal Park. Frenchman's Creek Bridge and the John Hernandez Bridge over Pilarcitos Creek offer the best bird watching. The Coastside Trail is popular with dog-walkers, cyclists and families."

The State's: "A Wheelchair Rider's Guide to the California Coast" on accessible parks, trails, historical sites, and other points of interest is obsolete in the statement that "The paved Coastside Trail runs for nearly 3.5 miles behind the beaches, from Mirada Road, one mile south of Pillar Point Harbor, to Poplar Street, .5 miles south of Francis Beach. Numerous benches along the trail offer unobstructed ocean views." and so

resources at www.wheelingcalscoast.org and access.parks.ca.gov are misguiding those with ADA needs to a trail that is not as friendly as it was a year ago.

I have the bridge when working with volunteers with Kiwanis International, Key Clubs from Region 17 and Division 34 and with family members volunteering at Francis Beach and Venice Beach helping to eradicate invasive non-native species of plants.

Several time a week I would use the bridge to access the full length of developed trail to the north and the full length of developed trail to the south, now making use of the new Wavecrest trail. However, now that the trail closed at the broken John Hernandez/Pilarcitos Creek Bridge pedestrians and bicyclists alike are without a safe option or accessing the full length of the trail. We have crossed the creek barefoot, we have carried our bikes on the beach and we have used the combinations of streets, crosswalks and paths such as the Highway one frontage Naomi Patridge Trail--but none of these options are safe or realistic alternatives to replacing the bridge.

Please support City of Half Moon Bay's efforts to develop a replacement for this vital link on the Coastside Trail. Both the money and leadership of the Coastal Conservancy is important in the development of a timely solution.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Michael Akana

cc Janet Diehl
Alex Khajikyan
oFTB Friend of the Beaches

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NOV 10 2014
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Lisa Heath

407 Wave Ave • Half Moon Bay, CA 94019 • Phone: 650-773-3366 •
E-Mail: lisheath@aol.com



Date: 11/01/2014

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th fl
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing in support of urgent replacement of the Pilarcitos Bridge on the coastal trail in Half Moon Bay.

My family lives in a neighborhood adjacent to the coastal trail, north of downtown Half Moon Bay. We typically use the trail multiple times per day, both on weekends and weekdays, for recreation, errands, school commuting, and events.

Since the bridge was broken by State Parks staff in spring 2014, and subsequently closed to use, we are using our vehicles much more frequently to ensure the safety of all of us. There are no more commutes to Cunha Intermediate School via bicycle- the Naomi Partridge trail along Highway 1 is not safe, with far too many crossings as well as vehicular accidents that have impacted the trail. (You may not know that our town has no school bus system- any time we can take a car off the road to and from school is a bonus!). There are no more Saturday family bicycle trips to the downtown Half Moon Bay Saturday Farmers Market, or to other events such as the Pumpkin Festival. We are cut off from safe, easy, non-vehicle visits to friends in neighborhoods to the south of the Pilarcitos Bridge. We no longer see our many south-living trail using acquaintances during our pre- and post-work exercise routines, so we have lost many casual friendships, and the networking that is so important in our small town. All of our recreational use is to the north, now.

Our neighborhood is also much more greatly impacted by tourist vehicles and "lost bicyclist" traffic, people searching for the way to get around the closed bridge (State Parks has poor signage). Visitors to the coastside no longer have a wonderful and beautiful scenic throughway.

The loss of our continuous, safe trail has a huge impact on our daily lives. If you speak to any homeowners who live near the trail, you would learn that most of us purchased homes here because of the trail... truly, we did. We hope that the California Coastal Conservancy will provide significant monetary support for the bridge and help us get to a replacement as quickly as possible. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Lisa Heath, DVM

cc: Janet Diehl, Project Manager, California Coastal Conservancy
cc: Alex Khojikian, Deputy City Manager, Half Moon Bay

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NOV 05 2014

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF

November 1, 2014

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

Re: Grant Funding Environmental And Permitting Costs
To Replace Pilarcitos Bridge in Half Moon Bay

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I write to request your assistance in funding the repair of the Pilarcitos Creek Bridge, the pedestrian/bicycle bridge that crosses Pilarcitos Creek on the California Coastal Trail between Venice Beach and Francis Beach in Half Moon Bay. This bridge was closed by the California State Parks Department in April 2014 due to damage caused by a State Parks employee who, on April 4, against instructions, drove a tractor across the bridge causing a 20 foot section of the bridge's wood plank floor to move away from the railing.

The bridge has now been closed for more than six months. For those of us who live and work in Half Moon Bay, this bridge is a main commute corridor for us to bike to work and for our children to bike to school. The closure of the bridge has had a devastating impact on the persons in our community who regularly used the trail to bike to work and similar impact on our children who used it to bike to school. We are now required to use our cars during morning and evening commute times to drive to work and take our children to school on Highway 1, or bike to work and have our children bike to school using the dangerous Naomi Patridge Bicycle Trail alongside Highway 1, on which a cyclist was killed earlier this year.

The City of Half Moon Bay and State Parks have now developed a plan to replace the bridge and I understand that the State Coastal Conservancy has offered to help begin the permitting process with a grant of \$200,000 to fund the environmental review and permitting necessary to replace the Bridge. I want you to know that we greatly

Grant For Pilarcitos Bridge in Half Moon Bay

appreciate your efforts in this regard, that this money will be spent in the public interest, and is critical to moving this project forward . As you are well aware, the permitting process for a project like this is time consuming and the opportunity to repair the bridge is restricted to the dry season. In these circumstances, we need to have the required permitting in place so that the engineering work can begin as soon as the weather permits. A grant from the Coastal Conservancy will make this possible.

Thank you in advance for considering my request.

Very truly yours,



Robert J. Buffin
351 Magnolia Street
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

cc: Janet Diehl, Project Manager,
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway 13th fl
Oakland CA 94612

Alex Khojikian, Deputy City Manager
City of Half Moon Bay
501 Main St
Half Moon Bay CA 94019

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NOV 04 2014

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



VA Palo Alto Health Care System
Stanford University School of Medicine
 Anesthesiology and Perioperative Care Service (112A)
 3801 Miranda Avenue
 Palo Alto, CA 94304



Juliana Barr, MD, FCCM
 Associate Professor in Anesthesia
 Medical Director, VA ICU Nurse Practitioner Program
 Medical Director, Respiratory Therapy Services

PAGER (650) 723-8222, #13230
 PHONE (650) 493-5000, x64452
 FAX (650) 852-3423
 E-MAIL: barrj@stanford.edu

November 3, 2014

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
 Coastal Conservancy
 1330 Broadway, 13th floor
 Oakland, CA 94162

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to strongly urge the State Coastal Conservancy to provide a \$200,000 grant to the City of Half Moon Bay to prepare plans, permits and construction documents for replacing the collapsed **Pilarcitos Creek Bridge** at Half Moon Bay State Beach. The Pilarcitos Creek Bridge (aka, the John Hernandez Bridge) was closed indefinitely in April, 2014, following its partial collapse after a California State Parks worker drove over the bridge with a tractor. A recent engineering assessment commissioned by California State Parks has determined that the bridge has extensive corrosion damage and will need to be replaced rather than repaired, which is a considerable expense beyond the fiscal resources of either our community or the California State Parks alone. This proposed funding from the State Coastal Conservancy would help to expedite the permitting process and replacement of this vital transportation asset in our community, and reduce the safety risks to citizens and the environment that the damaged bridge currently poses.

The closure of this bridge has had a significant negative economic, environmental and safety impact on our community. Over a million visitors come annually to Half Moon Bay and the surrounding coastal communities. As part of their coastal experience, many visitors make use of the Coastsides Trail, a 7 mile pathway that runs north and south through the greenbelt along the coastal bluffs overlooking Half Moon Bay State Beach and Pillar Point Harbor to the north. This trail is also used daily by residents of the coast as an alternate pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian route, for commuting to schools and businesses. The Pilarcitos Creek Bridge is located roughly at the midpoint of the Coastsides Trail and spans Pilarcitos Creek, which is otherwise impassable during the rainy season. The closure of this bridge has basically bisected our community, detouring bicyclists, pedestrians, and horseback riders out to highway 1, and causing more people to get into their cars for short trips along the coast, and to bypass coastal businesses. The bridge closure has also had significant environmental impacts on the area. People are now creating new paths through the greenbelt areas and down the bluff faces to access the beach to the north and south of the bridge, thereby hastening coastal erosion and disturbing wildlife habitat and vegetation. Finally, the bridge currently poses a significant safety risk to the community. Many people (including children) routinely jump the barrier fence and "illegally" cross the bridge on a daily basis, risking serious injury as they make their way across the broken walkway and rusty, twisted metal scaffolding. The bridge walkway was also originally constructed of pressure treated lumber, containing *chromated copper arsenic*, a significant human carcinogen and environmental toxin which leeches out of the wood and into the surrounding soil and water, and can be absorbed through the skin with direct contact.

The closure of this bridge has also affected me and my family personally. My wife, Allison Akana, and I have lived in the Casa Del Mar neighborhood of Half Moon Bay immediately east of the Pilarcitos Creek Bridge for nearly 20 years. Before the bridge closure, we would walk or ride our bikes along the coastal trail and across this bridge to the beach on a frequent basis. But the bridge closure has basically eliminated pedestrian access to the beach for our entire neighborhood.

Funding provided by the State Coastal Conservancy for the permitting process would jumpstart the process of building a permanent replacement for this bridge, with construction funds to be provided by the City of Half Moon Bay and the State of California. We respectfully urge you and other members of the Coastal Conservancy Board to vote in favor of funding this important project.

Sincerely,

Juliana Barr
 Juliana Barr, MD, FCCM

J.C. and Nanette H. Orman, M.D.
820 Pilarcitos Avenue
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

(650) 726-7750

November 3, 2014

Mr. Douglas Bosco
Chairman
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94162

Re: Coastal Conservancy Grant Offer to Expedite Replacement of Coastal Trail Bridge
in Half Moon Bay

Dear Mr. Bosco,

As you know, the John Hernandez Bridge (also known as the Pilarcitos Bridge) serves as a crucial link in the California Coastal Trail in Half Moon Bay. Earlier this year, the bridge collapsed and now needs prompt replacement.

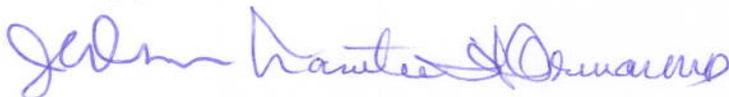
Clearly, the Coastal Trail is a major asset to local residents and the many visitors who desire access to the beaches and contiguous wildlife areas.

Equally evident, the collapse of the Pilarcitos Bridge severed the Coastal Trail that is the major arterial used by hikers and bicyclists for this highly desirable access. The trail also is used by residents for access to local schools and employment. We live adjacent to the trail and witnessed the many people benefitting from the trail every day before the bridge failure. Please note there is no safe, convenient detour available to bypass the collapsed bridge.

We understand the Coastal Conservancy is proposing to help expedite the replacement of the Pilarcitos Bridge with a \$200,000 grant to cover up-front costs of permitting and planning/design. The benefits of Coastal Conservancy assistance are manifold, including the completion of this preliminary work to permit construction at the earliest possible time.

We hereby voice our support for the Coastal Conservancy to make this grant to help us all with this major Coastside asset. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



J. C. and Nanette H. Orman

cc: Janet Diehl, Project Manager, Coastal Conservancy
Alex Khojikian, Deputy City Manager of Half Moon Bay

Exhibit 3: Project Letters

Richard and Joanna Parness
664 Terrace Avenue.
Half Moon Bay CA 94019

November 2, 2014

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94162

Attention: Janet Diehl, Project Manager

Re: Pilarcitos Bridge – Half Moon Bay

Dear Mr. Chairman

We are residents of Half Moon Bay. The Coastal Trail is important to us in our daily lives – we walk or bike on the trail almost daily. The loss of the Pilarcitos Bridge has had a significant impact on our near daily exercise.

We are aware of neighborhood children who use the trail regularly, and are now forced to travel to Highway 1 between Kehoe Ave. and Kelly St. This detour is riskier route, especially for children, as it forces us to confront heavy, fast traffic – especially at cross streets of Highway 1.

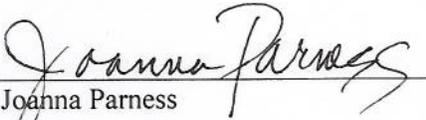
We believe the outage of the bridge, particularly for the length of time it has been and will be unusable, is not only an inconvenience to many residents and visitors who use the trail, but an embarrassment in that it is a reflection of our governing bodies to take care of day-to-day business.

We understand that the Coastal Conservancy has offered \$200,000 in support of fixing the Pilarcitos Bridge problem. We urge you to honor this pledge, and help us correct this inconvenient and unsafe situation as soon as reasonably possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Richard Parness


Joanna Parness

RECEIVED

NOV 04 2014

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Diehl, Janet@SCC

From: Curt Harris [curt_harris@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2014 3:21 PM
To: Diehl, Janet@SCC; dbosco@scc.ca.gov
Cc: Nicole.Fernandez@sen.ca.gov; pez4444@comcast.net; Anna.Ko@asm.ca.gov
Subject: California Department of Parks & Recreation: Fix Pilarcitos Creek Bridge Now! - Sign the Petition!

Mr. Bosco,

Through social media, I have come to learn that the California Coastal Conservancy is considering a \$200,000 grant to help fix John Hernandez Bridge over Pilarcitos Creek in Half Moon Bay. When the bridge collapsed, I started a [petition](#) on Change.org that shows the importance of this bridge to the Half Moon Bay community as not just a coastal trail, but a safe corridor to commute to school or work.

It was discouraging when we realized the mountain of bureaucracy and red tape in front of us. However, support has only grown through community efforts and city council meetings. In the past few weeks, we've seen some very positive steps. News that the Coastal Conservancy is considering contributing to these efforts is another big step in the right direction.

I am hoping that the Conservancy can continue the momentum by approving this grant. Your consideration and efforts are much appreciated. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help.

Thanks,

Curt Harris
Half Moon Bay, CA
(650) 560-9688

Diehl, Janet@SCC

From: Kirsten Jaeb [kjaeb@apr.com]
Sent: Saturday, November 01, 2014 10:22 AM
To: Diehl, Janet@SCC
Subject: Pilarcitos Bridge

Hello,

I live very near the Pilarcitos Bridge and miss my regular walks to the south along the coastal trail. Please provide the \$200K funds towards repair of the bridge so local citizens and visitors can enjoy the trail in the future.

Thank you,

Kirsten Jaeb

1300 Pilarcitos Avenue
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

650-504-1469

Diehl, Janet@SCC

From: Judy Taylor [jt@judytaylor.com]
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2014 2:37 PM
To: Diehl, Janet@SCC
Subject: Pilarcitos Bridge

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94162

Please provide grant funds for the Pilarcitos Bridge, Half Moon Bay.

Judy Taylor

Alain Pinel Realtors

42 N Cabrillo Hwy

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

office: 650.712.1199x284

direct: 650.479.1284

fax: 650.712.1191

DRE: 00603297

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