



April 27, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Bosco,

The purpose of this correspondence is to express my support for the Trust for Public Land's (TPL) application for a State Coastal Conservancy grant to conserve a 15 acre property on Arroyo Burro Creek adjacent to Elings Park in Las Positas Valley.

Elings Park is a 230 acre urban park and natural area that borders the project and occupies the center of an exceptional landscape of contiguous public open spaces of cultural and environmental significance. Since 1985 the park has provided millions of outdoor recreation experiences to the residents of Santa Barbara and its visitors. Serving more than 250,000 annually, its operations have always been funded solely from user fees, donations and grants. This acquisition promotes greater public access, provides protection of Arroyo Burro Creek, and enhances the public and private investment that has been made in Las Positas Valley.

As it did with the nearby Douglas Family Preserve, the Trust for Public Land has skillfully engaged key stakeholders and defused a long standing local controversy over the valley's development. I have confidence in TPL not only because of their local success, but also because of my professional experiences with the organization as partners on other land conservation projects in Maryland and California.

The acquisition of this small parcel completes a remarkable land conservation project within Las Positas Valley, comprising the active participation of the County and the City of Santa Barbara, as well as, the Elings Park Foundation. We appreciate any consideration you might afford the Trust for Public Land's application.

Sincerely,


Michael Nelson

Executive Director
Elings Park Foundation
1298 Las Positas Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
(805) 569-5611



April 15, 2015

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

RE: Arroyo Burro Creek Resource Lands Acquisition

Dear Mr. Bosco:

This letter is provided for the purpose of expressing the Environmental Defense Center's ("EDC") strong support for the acquisition of the Arroyo Burro Creek property by The Trust for Public Land ("TPL") using California Coastal Conservancy grant funds. EDC is a non-profit public interest environmental law firm working to protect and restore California's Central Coast environment through education and advocacy.

The Arroyo Burro Creek property has long been the subject of community discourse over its disposition, leading to two lawsuits and a ballot measure. Without acquisition and protection, the threat of development hangs over this special property, located near the mouth of Arroyo Burro Creek and popular Hendry's Beach.

Arroyo Burro Creek is an important ecosystem. The perennial creek is home to numerous fish and wildlife species, including the federally endangered Tidewater Goby. Dense riparian vegetation, numerous coast live oak trees and hills adorned with coastal sage scrub make this property biologically-rich and central to the health of the Arroyo Burro Watershed.

The acquisition of the last undeveloped property in the Las Positas Valley of Santa Barbara would enhance Arroyo Burro Creek and allow for additional public access to a number of nearby parks and resource lands. The 15-acre property is strategically located to provide valuable public access, and, if preserved, offers an important link in pedestrian circulation connecting parkland to the shoreline.

In 2012, Santa Barbara City voters overwhelmingly rejected the landowner's attempt to build a vehicular bridge over Arroyo Burro Creek in order to support a sprawling residential development which would have also impacted City parkland. Thanks to the voters, TPL now has the opportunity to preserve forever this scenic property. Preservation would allow for increased public access to Elings Park (located to the east), the Douglas Family Preserve (located to the south), as well as Hendry's Beach (also located to the south), where Arroyo Burro Creek empties

Exhibit 3: Project Letters

into the Santa Barbara Channel, and other nearby parkland. Linking these public lands is a high community priority which this project will effectuate.

The project is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to bring high quality habitat and new parkland into public ownership. Once acquired by TPL and transferred to the City of Santa Barbara, the property would provide opportunities for passive recreation and habitat conservation. Other parcels along City creeks are already developed, so this acquisition represents a unique occasion to provide significant public benefit to local residents and visitors to our community

EDC strongly supports TPL's efforts to accomplish these goals and urges you to support TPL's application for these funds.

Sincerely,



Brian Trautwein,

Environmental Analyst / Watershed Program Coordinator



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Santa Barbara, CA 93103

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April 14, 2015

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

Re: Support for Application by The Trust for Public Land for CA Coastal Conservancy Funds for the Arroyo Burro Creek Property Acquisition

Dear Mr. Bosco:

This letter is to express our support for California Coastal Conservancy funds for the Trust for Public Land's acquisition of the Arroyo Burro Creek property.

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper is a grassroots non-profit organization focused on addressing water quality and aquatic habitat issues in the Santa Barbara region. We utilize a combination of science-based advocacy, education, field work, and enforcement to ensure protection of our local waterways.

The acquisition of this 15 acre property – the last unspoken for and undeveloped property in the Las Positas Valley of Santa Barbara – would provide for the restoration of Arroyo Burro Creek and allow for additional public access to a number of nearby parks and protected recreational lands. Arroyo Burro Creek is plagued with a variety of water quality impairments and is often closed for recreation because it fails to meet basic health standards for fecal indicator bacteria. It is clear that clean-up, restoration and protection efforts are necessary to return this watershed to a healthy state. Once preserved, much needed creek restoration could begin throughout the property. Additionally, TPL's acquisition of this property would be a critical step in the right direction to link several publicly-owned lands and would protect the area from development.

The City of Santa Barbara plans to manage and steward this property, once acquired, for passive recreation and habitat conservation. Due to development-related impacts to the Santa Barbara area's oak uplands and riparian corridors, the opportunity to purchase and restore the Arroyo Burro Creek property is one that should be seized. Santa Barbara Channelkeeper strongly supports TPL's efforts to preserve, restore, and provide public access to this unique area and urges you to approve California Coastal Conservancy funds to support this important initiative. Should you have any questions about our endorsement for this project, please feel free to contact me at (805) 563-3377. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

Kira Redmond, Executive Director



PO Box 31241
Santa Barbara, CA 93130-1241
April 29, 2015

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

Re: Support for Application by The Trust for Public Land for a Coastal Conservancy Grant for the Arroyo Burro Creek Property Acquisition

Chair
David Gold

Dear Mr. Bosco:

Vice-Chair
Jim Hines

The Sierra Club strongly supports the acquisition of the Arroyo Burro Creek property by the Trust for Public Land, and supports TPL's State Coastal Conservancy grant application to achieve this goal.

Secretary
Gerry Ching

Creating parkland of this important 15-acre property would provide a vital hiking linkage between Elings Park, the Douglas Preserve, and Hendry's Beach, where Arroyo Burro Creek meets the ocean.

Treasurer
Richard Hunt

At Large
Michael Stubblefield

The creek is biologically rich and important habitat for the federally endangered Tidewater Goby, along with many other species of fish and wildlife. Acquisition of this property would play a key role in the protection and restoration of the lower reach of the creek. In addition, the beautiful property is rich with riparian vegetation and coast live oaks.

At Large
Fran Farina

At Large
Nina Danza

Our membership would quickly take advantage of the opportunity to hike between these areas if it became available. Central to the Club's mission is the expansion of public access to these kinds of resources. We hold many hikes in the Las Positas Valley, but are constrained in this specific spot. We would very much welcome this vital linkage expanding access between these beautiful sites.

SB Group Rep
Katie Davis

Arguello Group Rep
Gerald Connor

The unusual availability of a parcel like this is too good an opportunity to pass up, given the development pressures on the lower riparian corridors of coastal Santa Barbara County. We strongly support TPL's efforts to ensure the protection and preservation of this land.

Conejo Group Rep
Hugh Warren

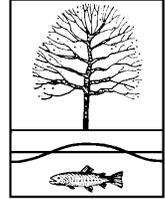
Respectfully submitted,

David Gold
Chair, Los Padres Chapter, Sierra Club

SANTA BARBARA URBAN CREEKS COUNCIL

P.O. Box 1467, Santa Barbara, CA 93102 (805) 962-8260 sbucc@silcom.com

www.sb-urbancreeks.org



April 28, 2015

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

Re: The Trust for Public Land's Arroyo Burro Creek Acquisition Project

Dear Mr. Bosco,

The Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council recognizes the important role that the Conservancy plays in the preservation of rare natural resources and open space on Santa Barbara County's south coast. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit group that is appreciative of the benefits that have been derived from past projects that you have funded. The Carpinteria Creek Restoration Project is an example of how Coastal Conservancy funding can enhance and restore irreplaceable watershed resources. There are wildlife linkages and movement corridors that extend up and downstream along the lower reaches of creeks and drainages along the County's south coast. These corridors are the life support system for complex ecosystems that support birds, mammals, reptiles and fish. High quality examples of this habitat type, those with potential to bring great diversity of wildlife to a coastal valley ecosystem, have become increasingly rare within the urban boundary.

We are pleased to say that there is one such property remaining that fits that description. And we are very pleased that you are considering a funding proposal made by The Trust for Public Land to help them to purchase the Arroyo Burro Creek property for preservation as Santa Barbara City Park land. For many years we have been aware of the possible public benefit and the potential for restored natural open space that exists on the property above Alan Rd on Arroyo Burro Creek.

We feel that this acquisition will be of great benefit to the community, and a unique opportunity for the City of Santa Barbara to further develop their vision for the creek and the watershed. We will support them by providing volunteer help in restoring the meadow to a functional and diverse habitat linkage between the coastal sage scrub covered hillsides and the riparian forest bordering the creek.

Please commit to funding this important acquisition. This is an opportunity to ensure that a rare and valuable natural area can be preserved in perpetuity, for the enjoyment of people and for the success of wildlife populations in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eddie Harris".

Eddie Harris
President