

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
PATRICIA C. BATES  
THIRTY-SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT



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APPROPRIATIONS  
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SENATOR.BATES@SENATE.CA.GOV  
WWW.SENATE.CA.GOV/BATES

July 9, 2015

The Honorable Douglas Bosco  
Chairman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

As the Senator for California's 36<sup>th</sup> Senate District (Orange and San Diego Counties), I support OC Parks' plan for the development of a new visitor center at Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park. This project will create a much needed enhancement to the park currently used by many cyclists and hikers.

The visitor center will create new recreational opportunities for the public where visitors and students can learn about the history of the area, gain environmental awareness, and understand the importance of the local watershed that support the plants and animals living in this sensitive natural area. To create these educational programs, OC Parks will be partnering with area schools, non-profit organizations, and volunteers.

OC Parks has recently completed improvements to expand the park's front entrance allowing more parking for visitors of all ages and abilities, as well as school bus drop-off points to access the park. It is also uniquely located within the Aliso Creek watershed surrounded by a lush and wooded natural space. Future plans will provide trail access to nearby Aliso Beach along the Southern California coast.

This new project will require funding, hard work, and partnerships, as well as community support. Working together we can make this worthwhile project successful, and I hope you are able to help fund this project as it will be enjoyed and appreciated by future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia C. Bates".

PATRICIA C. BATES  
Senator, 36<sup>th</sup> District

cc: Stacy Blackwood, Director, OC Parks  
Debbie Cavers, Grants Manager, OC Parks



**CITY of LAGUNA NIGUEL**

30111 Crown Valley Parkway • Laguna Niguel, California 92677  
Phone/949•362•4300 Fax/949•362•4340

**CITY COUNCIL**

Laurie Davies  
Elaine Gennawey  
Jerry McCloskey  
Fred Minagar  
Jerry Slusiewicz

August 4, 2015

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

This letter is to support OC Parks' plan for the development of a new Visitor Center at Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park. This project will create a much needed enhancement to the park currently used by many cyclists and hikers. The visitor center will create new recreational opportunities for the public where visitors and students can learn about the history of the area, gain environmental awareness and understand the importance of the local watershed that support the plants and animals living in this sensitive natural area. To create these educational programs, OC Parks will be partnering with area schools, non-profit organizations and volunteers.

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I offer my support to this project as a representative of City of Laguna Niguel and this letter reflects our enthusiasm towards this goal.

Sincerely,

Fred Minagar  
Council Member

CC: Stacy Blackwood, Director, OC Parks  
Debbie Cavers, Grants Manager, OC Parks  
Dennis Shaffer, Operations Manager, OC Parks



**CITY of LAGUNA NIGUEL**

30111 Crown Valley Parkway • Laguna Niguel, California 92677  
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August 4, 2015

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

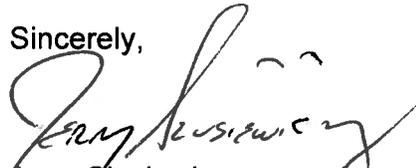
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Sincerely,

  
Jerry Slusiewicz  
Council Member

CC: Stacy Blackwood, Director, OC Parks  
Debbie Cavers, Grants Manager, OC Parks  
Dennis Shaffer, Operations Manager, OC Parks

"EXPERIENCE IT ALL"



# ALISO VIEJO

**MAYOR**

PHILLIP B. TSUNODA

**MAYOR PRO TEM**

WILLIAM A. PHILLIPS

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

CARMEN CAVE, PH D.

ROSS CHUN

MIKE MUNZING

**CITY MANAGER**

DAVID A. DOYLE

**CITY ATTORNEY**

SCOTT C. SMITH

**CITY CLERK**

SUSAN A. RAMOS

**CITY OF ALISO VIEJO**

INCORPORATED JULY 1, 2001

12 JOURNEY • SUITE 100

ALISO VIEJO

CALIFORNIA 92656-5335

WWW.CITYOFALISOVIEJO.COM

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FAX

949.425.3899

August 5, 2015

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

This letter is to support OC Parks' plan for the development of a new Visitor Center at Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park. This project will create a much needed enhancement to the park currently used by many cyclists and hikers.

The visitor center will create new recreational opportunities for the public where visitors and students can learn about the history of the area, gain environmental awareness and understand the importance of the local watershed that support the plants and animals living in this sensitive natural area. To create these educational programs, OC Parks will be partnering with area schools, non-profit organizations and volunteers.

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This new project will require funding, hard work and partnerships, as well as community stakeholder support. Therefore we must work together to make this worthwhile project successful, and hope you are able to help fund this project as it will be enjoyed and appreciated by many future generations.

I offer my support to this project as a representative of the City of Aliso Viejo and this letter reflects our enthusiasm towards this goal.

Sincerely,

William A. Phillips

Mayor

cc: Aliso Viejo City Council  
Stacy Blackwood, Director, OC Parks  
Debbie Cavers, Grants Manager, OC Parks



## CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS

*City Council*

**MAYOR**

*Dore J. Gilbert, M.D.  
MAYOR PRO TEMPORE  
Barbara Kogerman*

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

*Andrew Blount  
Melody Carruth  
Don Sedgwick*

August 13, 2015

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

**RE: GRANT APPLICATION FOR VISITOR CENTER AT ALISO AND WOOD  
CANYONS WILDERNESS PARK**

Dear Chairman Bosco:

This letter is in support of OC Parks' plan for the development of a new Visitor Center at Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park. This project will create a much needed enhancement to the park currently used by many cyclists and hikers.

The visitor center will create new recreational opportunities for the public where visitors and students can learn about the history of the area, gain environmental awareness, and understand the importance of the local watershed that supports the plants and animals living in this sensitive, natural area. To create these educational programs, OC Parks will be partnering with area schools, non-profit organizations, and volunteers.

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This new project will require funding, hard work, and partnerships as well as community stakeholder support. Therefore we must work together to make this worthwhile project successful, and hope you are able to help fund this project as it will be enjoyed and appreciated by many future generations.

Grant Application Aliso and Wood Canyons

August 13, 2015

Page 2

I offer my support to this project as a representative of the City of Laguna Hills and this letter reflects our enthusiasm towards this goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Gilbert', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Dore J. Gilbert, M.D.

Mayor

c: Stacy Blackwood, Director, OC Parks  
Debbie Cavers, Grants Manager, OC Parks  
Tim Shaw, OC Parks



**CITY of LAGUNA WOODS**

**Cynthia Conners**  
*Mayor*

August 17, 2015

**Noel Hatch**  
*Mayor Pro Tem*

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

**Bert Hack**  
*Councilmember*

**Shari L. Horne**  
*Councilmember*

Dear Chairman Bosco,

**Carol Moore**  
*Councilmember*

**Christopher Macon**  
*City Manager*

As Mayor of the City of Laguna Woods and Vice Chair of the Coastal Greenbelt Authority, I am submitting this letter in support OC Parks' plan for the development of a new Visitor Center at Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park. This project will create a much needed enhancement to the park currently used by many cyclists and hikers.

The visitor center will create new recreational opportunities for the public where visitors and students can learn about the history of the area, gain environmental awareness and understand the importance of the local watershed that support the plants and animals living in this sensitive natural area. To create these educational programs, OC Parks will be partnering with area schools, non-profit organizations and volunteers.

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This new project will require funding, hard work and partnerships, as well as community stakeholder support. Therefore we must work together to make this worthwhile project successful, and we hope you are able to help fund this project as it will be enjoyed and appreciated by many future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia S. Conners".

Cynthia Conners, Mayor

CC: Stacy Blackwood, Director, OC Parks  
Debbie Cavers, Grants Manager, OC Parks

## KEEP IT WILD!

### **Advisory Council**

Howard Adler  
Patricia C. Bates  
Marian Bergeson  
Sarah L. Catz  
Paul Egly  
Walter B. Gerken  
Samuel Goldstein  
Samuel B. Goldstein  
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Constance Morthland  
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Larry Ulvestad  
Thomas W. Wilson

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Clara Frantz  
Renee Raithel Gabbard  
Robert Ring  
Hugh A. Sanders  
Laura Tarbox

### **Executive Director**

Hallie Jones

*Tax ID #33-0441816 501(c)(3) Non-  
profit status determined by IRS letter of  
6/14/91, submitted 11/90*

July 16, 2015

Chairman Douglas Bosco  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

We are writing in support of OC Parks plan for the development of a new visitor center at the entrance to Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park. This project will create new recreational opportunities for the many hikers and cyclists who use this park, giving them a greater sense of the history of the area and the wonderful environmental resources the park holds. It will provide education on our sensitive species, and encourage responsible use of our wilderness. As OC Parks nonprofit partner, Laguna Canyon Foundation currently runs public education programs and school field trips in this area, and we are thrilled at the possibility of reaching even more members of the public with this very important environmental education message.

The recently completed improvements to the park's front entrance have provided more parking, safer ingress and egress, and ample room for school buses for the field trips that will inspire our future environmental leaders.

We are proud to partner with OC Parks, and we are thrilled to write this letter in support of their project.

Sincerely,

Hallie Jones  
Executive Director

# COASTAL GREENBELT AUTHORITY

13042 Old Myford Road  
Irvine, CA 92602

July 20, 2015

Chair Douglas Bosco  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Regarding: Grant Application for Visitor Center at Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park

Dear Chair Bosco and member of the Coastal Conservancy Board,

The Coastal Greenbelt Authority, the cooperative management authority for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, on a unanimous vote, urges the Coastal Conservancy to approve the grant request by the Orange County Community Resources – OC Parks for \$1 million funding to build a Visitor Center at Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park.

The Coastal Greenbelt Authority (CGA) is mandated to provide oversight and monitoring of park operations to insure consistency with the adopted facilities and management plan. The park's Resource Management Plan calls for a number of park improvements including permanent structures for a visitor center and ranger station.

The park offers many opportunities for recreation use, including hiking, running, mountain cycling, equestrian use, nature viewing, birding, painting, photography, and wilderness education with an extensive network of trails. The park is part of a 22,000 acre coastal canyons system of parks and preserves in south Orange County.

OC Parks has recently completed an important RMP recommended action with the major improvement to the main park entry and transition zone. This improvement was possible through a Proposition 12 grant from the Coastal Conservancy. The next step is to provide permanent structures for a visitor welcome center, educational areas and ranger station. These improvements will help park visitors to understand the natural and cultural resources abundant in the park. With this understanding the hundreds of thousands of visitors per year will become more environmentally aware and better stewards of these heritage southern California coastal canyons.

On behalf of the Coastal Greenbelt Authority, thank you for supporting this grant application.

Sincerely,  
*Mary Feграus*  
Mary Feграus, Chair  
Coastal Greenbelt Authority

cc: CGA Members, CC Staff – Joan Cardellino, Deborah Ruddock, OC Parks - Stacy Blackwood, Director and Debbie Cavers, Grants Manager



Laguna Greenbelt, Inc.

a non-profit corporation

Chair Douglas Bosco  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

August 3, 2015

Re: Grant Application for Visitor Center at Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park

Dear Chair Bosco and member of the Coastal Conservancy Board,

Laguna Greenbelt, Inc., is a long time grassroots organization, dedicated since 1968 to the preservation and public ownership of natural lands in Orange County, especially in the coastal canyons near Laguna Beach. Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park is part of a 22,000-acre system of state and county parks and preserves known locally as the Laguna Greenbelt.

We have long history of support for interpretive activities in this park, including designing its first self-guiding natural history trail. A few years ago we supported the construction of the new main entrance to the park, recently completed. We are now happy to support the construction of an adequate visitor center near the main entrance for its many visitors.

This park has some of the richest fossil sites in Orange County. Some years ago there was a natural history museum trailer with displays of local fossils in this location. We look forward to expanded interpretive displays in a permanent visitor center.

We urge you to support the OCParks application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'EMBrown', with a long, sweeping underline.

Elisabeth M. Brown, Ph.D., President  
Laguna Greenbelt, Inc.  
lagunagreenbelt@gmail.com



July 29, 2015

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1200  
Oakland, CA 94612

RECEIVED

'15 AGO -3 P12 :39

OC PARKS  
HEADQUARTERS

Dear Chair Bosco:

The purpose of this letter to you is to encourage your support of OC Parks plans for a new visitor center at Aliso and Woods Canyon Park. The visitor center would be sited on park property within the city limits of Laguna Niguel, CA.

I have an interest in supporting the proposed center as the Orange Coast Watershed and Environmental Center (OCWEC) is located in Aliso and Woods Canyon Park in a temporary trailer. This would be removed to then allow us to have space in the proposed center for our outreach to the community and, specifically, school age children.

OCWEC conducts seminars and tours for school groups to tour the park and learn about water conservation and the importance of the local watershed. We partner with OC Parks in these endeavors. The County of Orange as well as local water utilities have supported our efforts. We are a 501(c)(3) organization.

OC Parks has already completed improvements to the entry to the park which makes it more convenient for the public to gain access and experience the natural beauty of the park. What is lacking is a visitor center to highlight the beauty of the natural area.

The proposed visitor center is worthy of your support. I intend to solicit additional support from local government, local agencies and the public. Your help in funding this project would go a long way in demonstrating its importance to our community.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry McCloskey". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jerry McCloskey  
President, Orange Coast Watershed & Environmental Center  
Mayor, City of Laguna Niguel, California

CC:  Stacy Blackwood, Director OC Parks  
 Debbie Cavers, Grants Manager, OC Parks