

DON HORSLEY

Board of Supervisors, Third District
County of San Mateo

Dec. 22, 2015

Kelly Malinowski
Project Manager, San Francisco Bay Area
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Kelly:

I am wholeheartedly endorsing the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's request for funding from the Coastal Conservancy for the Milagra Battery Trail project in Pacifica.

As you know, the permits for the residential development of Connemara included access to the Milagra Battery area in what was a successful compromise arrangement.

Now, the GGNRA is seeking to improve the overall trail design in the Milagra Battery area and I believe it will be a much improved trail project, expanding its accessibility while still avoiding sensitive habitat area.

The addition of fencing in key areas will prevent the usage of social trails and keep people on dedicated trails, enabling GGNRA to more effectively maintain the area for future generations. New signage will also enhance the educational value of the trail.

The GGNRA is a good neighbor in San Mateo County and the various projects in the area highlight the natural beauty and value of the environment. This Milagra Battery Trail improvement will add to that reputation.

I appreciate your consideration of the GGNRA's grant application.

Sincerely,



Don Horsley, Third District Supervisor
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors



Exhibit 3: Project Letters



Doug Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor,
Oakland, CA 94612
RE: Funding request, Milagra Battery Trail construction

January 20, 2016

Dear Chair Bosco,

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council strongly supports a grant proposal to fund construction of the Milagra Battery Trail on the Milagra Ridge unit of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) in San Mateo County. This short section of trail will be a critical Ridge Trail link.

Our mission is to plan, promote and sustain a connected hiking, cycling and equestrian trail on the ridgelines around San Francisco Bay. 2/3 of the trail (365 of about 550 miles) is complete, including over 40 miles in San Mateo County. Completion of the Milagra Battery Trail will close a short gap between dedicated Ridge Trail in upper Milagra Ridge and the urban route in Pacifica. But completing the Milagra Battery Trail will do much more than close a short gap.

Milagra Battery Trail will link 2 long sections of dedicated Ridge Trail to result in one continuous trail over 80 miles long, from Highway 92 in San Mateo to Big Rock Ridge in Marin - to date the longest completed Ridge Trail section.

About three years ago the Ridge Trail Council got agreement from all parties on a route through Milagra Ridge and Pacifica that included the planned Milagra Battery Trail. GGNRA's plans called for a hiking trail, but our advocacy for multi-use Ridge Trail led to agreement to upgrade the plan to allow cycling and equestrian access on the trail in addition to hikers.

The new trail is designed to avoid sensitive habitat, and fencing will be installed to aid protection of sensitive areas. Revegetation with locally cultivated native plants is included in the plan.

The Ridge Trail Council heartily endorses funding for this new trail, and we hope to celebrate its opening with your board and staff this year!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bern Smith". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bern Smith
Peninsula, South and East Bay Trail Director

