

Theresa Sinicrope Talley, PhD
California Sea Grant Extension Program
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
La Jolla, California 92093-0232
Email: tsalley@ucsd.edu
Phone: 858.534.4600, Fax: 858.534.2231



Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
Attention: Julia Elkin

Re: Letter of support for Ocean Discovery Institute

14 January 2016

Dear Mr. Bosco,

On behalf of California Sea Grant's Extension Program, I enthusiastically support Ocean Discovery Institute's project "Building Climate Resilience of Urban Waters, Ecosystems, and Communities."

The California Sea Grant Extension Program works with state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, local businesses, and members of the California coastal community to identify emerging marine resource problems and opportunities, conduct applied scientific research, and share findings with stakeholder groups. Environmental stewardship and responsible use of California's resources is at the heart of our mission. The project proposed by Ocean Discovery Institute fulfills two of our three Strategic Goals, achieving Healthy Coastal Ecosystems and Resilient Coastal Communities.

We are, therefore, pleased to support this project, which uses a science-based approach to improve water quality and address climate change vulnerabilities today and into the future. Specifically, the project will measure the effects of restoration and trash abatement on water quality and climate change resilience in urban ecosystems. This information will directly benefit Manzanita Canyon, a seasonal creek in the Chollas Creek subwatershed, and the disadvantaged community of City Heights, where the project activities will take place. Further, this project will benefit the greater region and field of restoration science by revealing scientific connections between restoration, water quality, and climate resilience.

I am pleased to partner with Ocean Discovery Institute on this project as a scientist who will:

- Ensure the best available science is integrated into the project design and adaptive management decisions.
- Measure trash management and restoration progress to evaluate project progress toward goals of improving water quality and climate resiliency.
- Disseminate project goals and lessons to the public and local and regional decision-makers.

As a California Sea Grant Coastal Specialist working to advance the field of ecology, address coastal environmental issues, train tomorrow's leaders and raise public awareness of our local natural ecosystems, I am particularly appreciative of the State Coastal Conservancy's support of initiatives that seek to improve urban ecosystems *and* communities in order to sustainably improve water quality and climate change resilience.

We appreciate your consideration of this exciting proposal. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Theresa Sinicrope Talley
Coastal Specialist

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0070
(916) 319-2080
FAX (916) 319-2180

DISTRICT OFFICE
1350 FRONT ST, SUITE 6022
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101
(619) 338-8090
FAX (619) 338-8099

WEB SITE
www.asm.ca.gov/gonzalez



COMMITTEES
ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND
TOXIC MATERIALS
HEALTH
INSURANCE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

SELECT COMMITTEE
CHAIR: WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE

January 8, 2016

Mr. Douglas Bosco
Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
ATTENTION: Julia Elkin

RE: GRANT APPLICATION – OCEAN DISCOVERY INSTITUTE, MANZANITA CANYON PROJECT:
“BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE OF URBAN WATERS, ECOSYSTEMS AND COMMUNITIES”

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I write you in support of Ocean Discovery Institute’s project “Building Climate Resilience of Urban Waters, Ecosystems and Communities” for which they are applying for a State Coastal Conservancy grant.

I am honored to represent the 80th Assembly District, which includes the community of City Heights, where I happen to reside, and Manzanita Canyon, the main area of focus for this project. After having the opportunity to visit the site of Ocean Discovery Institute’s future Living Lab numerous times, I’ve become very familiar with Manzanita Canyon and the many issues surrounding its degraded habitat and limited community use and access. This project will be a critical step toward improving the water quality and climate resilience of this area’s ecosystem, ensuring the long-term care of the canyon and enabling students and their families to take ownership of these rare, natural spaces.

I recognize the incredible potential this project has to serve and unite this unique community. There are too few opportunities in City Heights for residents, many of whom come from challenging, refugee backgrounds, to interact with one another and with nature. The transformation of this canyon into a healthy, vibrant environment will provide a major resource for the entire community—a safe, peaceful place where residents can connect, learn and spend quality time with their families and neighbors.

I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact Ocean Discovery Institute has had on the City Heights community—educating, engaging and empowering residents of all ages and backgrounds. I have no doubt that the institute will successfully execute the Manzanita Canyon Project. I respectfully ask that the State Coastal Conservancy support this initiative with any available funding, and thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lorena", written in a cursive style.

LORENA GONZALEZ
Assemblywoman, 80th District



San Diego Canyonlands

◆ 3552 Bancroft Street San Diego, CA 92104 ◆ 619-284-9399 ◆
◆ www.sdcanyonlands.org ◆

January 8, 2016

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
Attention: Julia Elkin

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of San Diego Canyonlands, I am pleased to submit this letter supporting Ocean Discovery Institute's proposed project "Building Climate Resilience of Urban Waters, Ecosystems, and Communities".

San Diego Canyonlands mission is to promote, protect, and restore the natural habitats in San Diego County's canyons and creeks. We do this by fostering education and ongoing community involvement in stewardship and advocacy, and by collaborating with other organizations. During the past nine years, we have been very pleased partner with Ocean Discovery Institute. Together we have engaged thousands of community members in canyon restoration and collaborated with diverse stakeholders (including local government agencies, non-profit organizations, youth groups, and neighborhood associations) to achieve our goals of improving ecosystem health and connecting important urban ecosystems for the community to enjoy, learn from, and steward.

We are enthused that the proposed project will take place in the "disadvantaged" community of City Heights as this area suffers from degraded habitat and slopes, trash accumulations, and high volume storm water flows. We believe that the proposed Proposition 1 project will significantly address these issues and improve water quality and climate resilience by revegetating and re-establishing native habitat and reducing the amount of trash. Importantly, this project engages the surrounding community and local stakeholders in its implementation as the health of the watershed is dependent on building resiliency of both the urban community and the canyon ecosystem.

As part of our partnership, San Diego Canyonlands works with Ocean Discovery to:

- 1) Develop and manage restoration plans that are integrated across canyon ecosystem, build on best practices and available science, and include community stewardship.
- 2) Implement on-the-ground restoration efforts which require technical experience and time commitment beyond the capabilities of volunteers
- 3) Participate in a cross-sector collaboration to reach our vision of having the cultural, economic, education, and social systems of City Heights integrated with their local natural environment.

We appreciate the State Coastal Conservancy's consideration of this project and I'm certain that it will have long-lasting benefits for water quality and the climate resilience of an urban ecosystem and community. What we learn in Manzanita Canyon will also be applied to our canyon enhancement efforts throughout the city. Please contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric Bowlby".

Eric Bowlby
Executive Director
San Diego Canyonlands
eric@sdcanyonlands.org