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# California State Legislature

SENATOR  
**HANNAH-BETH JACKSON**  
NINETEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



CHAIR  
SENATE JUDICIARY  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN,  
WORK & FAMILIES  
VICE CHAIR  
JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEES  
HUMAN SERVICES  
LABOR, PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT  
& RETIREMENT  
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER  
PUBLIC SAFETY  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
CALIFORNIA'S WINE INDUSTRY

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

January 28, 2020

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

## **RE: Request for Santa Maria Levee Trail Feasibility Study**

Dear Chairman Bosco:

As the State Senator representing the 19<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes the City of Santa Maria, I am writing to express my strong support for a feasibility study of a proposed Santa Maria Levee Trail which would connect Guadalupe to Santa Maria. The 6.7 mile trail under consideration would help support safe public access to recreation and a walking and cycling route to the coast.

The north parts of Santa Barbara County are challenged with minimal outdoor spaces, which results in residents increasingly spending more time indoors and less time in nature. Furthermore, it is severely lacking in open space for residents to run, bike, walk, or hike outdoors. Compared to its neighboring cities of Santa Barbara, 60 miles south, and San Luis Obispo, 30 miles north, the cities of Santa Maria and Guadalupe have only 8 combined miles of open space trails compared to over 90 in each of the fore-mentioned neighboring cities with significantly lower populations.

This trail, if deemed feasible, would create an important community asset. Local parks, trails and open space provide an opportunity for youth, adults and families to adopt an active lifestyle. More importantly, increasing evidence shows that spending time in nature improves physical and mental well-being.

The Cities of Guadalupe and Santa Maria have both submitted letters of support for the Santa Maria Levee Trail Feasibility study and the trail between the two cities is already included in each city's General Plan.

I urge your support for the feasibility study of the Santa Maria Levee Project that will connect Santa Maria

to Guadalupe. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hannah-Beth Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Hannah-Beth Jackson  
State Senator, 19<sup>th</sup> District