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California State Senate

SENATOR
JOHN LAIRD

SEVENTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



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COMMITTEE ON RULES

August 16, 2021

Mr. Douglas Bosco
Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, CA 946012

Subject: **Conservation of the Attiyeh Ranch in San Luis Obispo County**

Dear Chairman Bosco:

As the Senator representing California's 17th Senate District, I am writing today to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed grant of \$825,000 by the State Coastal Conservancy to the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County. This last piece of project funding will secure conservation of the almost 8000-acre Attiyeh Ranch – a beautiful, wildlife-rich property located in northern San Luis Obispo County.

The grant funds will be used to purchase conservation easements on the Attiyeh Ranch, which will limit future development and thereby protect wildlife habitat as well as critical watershed lands of the Salinas River. Located above the Lake Nacimiento Reservoir, the Attiyeh Ranch is a major influence on the reservoir's water quality and supply. By providing over 60% of the total water that annually drains to the Salinas River system, the reservoir serves a variety of needs throughout both Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties, including as a source of drinking water, flood protection, groundwater recharge, and agricultural irrigation. Protecting water resources in Lake Nacimiento is also a key factor for the recovery of the threatened South-Central California Coast steelhead.

With 36 legal parcels and abundant water supplies, Attiyeh Ranch is susceptible to large-scale residential development and conversion to more intensive agriculture such as orchards or vineyards. The proposed conservation easement will restrict such development while allowing

low-impact cattle grazing to continue. Two other state funding agencies (the Wildlife Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation) have already committed to providing over 85% of the funds needed for this project.

I urge your consideration of this unique opportunity to conserve 8000 acres of habitat while protecting a key watershed, using funds that are highly leveraged by other sources.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Laird". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "L".

JOHN LAIRD

State Senator, 17th District

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SEP 01 .
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

John Peschong District One Supervisor

August 10, 2021

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

Re: Attiyeh Ranch Conservation Easement


Dear Chair Bosco,

As Supervisor for the First District of San Luis Obispo County, I am writing to express my support for the proposed \$825,000 grant to The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County for the acquisition of conservation easements on the 7,681 acre Attiyeh Ranch in Northern San Luis Obispo County. I support voluntary and landowner initiated Agricultural Conservation Easements and funding through the State Coastal Conservancy makes it possible for these types of projects to move forward. It is critical to enable landowners to protect their land from future non-agricultural development and protect our County's agricultural lands for continued agricultural production.

San Luis Obispo County's First District includes some of our County's most productive, historic, and scenic agriculture lands. We live in a unique county that is faced with serious development pressures as well as declining water supply. The Attiyeh Ranch provides over 60% of the total water that annually drains to the Salinas River system and due to its location is a major influence on the Lake Nacimiento Reservoir water quality and supply.

The Attiyeh Ranch is a productive working cattle ranch, with important water resources and wildlife habitat. This project is critical to protecting the ranch and its resources. Thank you for your commitment to the long-term protection of California's agricultural lands and your consideration of funding for this project. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



John Peschong, Chair
Supervisor, District 1

County of San Luis Obispo Government Center

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