#### LOIS CAPPS 24TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE



# Congress of the United States House of Representatives

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SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401
(805) 546-8348

301 EAST CARRILLO STREET, SUITE A SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101 (805) 730–1710

1101 SOUTH BROADWAY, SUITE A SANTA MARIA, CA 93454 (805) 349–3832

January 27, 2016

Proposition 1 Grant Administrators Ocean Protection Council 1416 9th Street, Suite 1311 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear OPC Proposition 1 Review Committee:

I write to express my strong support for the University of California, Santa Barbara's (UCSB's) application for a \$1 million grant through Proposition 1 funds for the North Campus Open Space Coastal Wetland Restoration project in Santa Barbara County. This restoration project is located in a coastal watershed at the eastern gateway to the Gaviota Coast, a nationally significant transition zone, within the 24th Congressional District, which I represent.

This regionally critical coastal wetland project fulfills the intent of Proposition 1 funds by achieving three main goals of the California Water Action Plan including protection and restoration of important ecosystems, expansion of water storage capacity and increasing flood protection. The monies made possible by Proposition 1 funding will assist in leveraging more than \$7 million in secured funding, of which \$5.4 million is a cost share, and will enable this essential project to be implemented before time-constrained funding expires.

The North Campus Open Space Coastal Wetland Restoration project's full vision includes restoration of more than 100 acres of diverse coastal habitats, including 45 acres of estuarine wetlands and 55 acres of upland and freshwater habitats associated with Santa Barbara County's Devereux Slough. Additionally, the project will assist in protecting more than 37 acres of existing estuarine habitats vulnerable to the impacts of sea level rise by providing transgression space. This project will remove more than 350,000 cubic yards of fill placed in the former upper arms of Devereux Slough in 1965 to create a golf course and will retain the soil on the project site in the former borrow areas in order to restore historic

mesa topography and habitats on degraded, weed dominated sub-soils. The fill removal would provide more than 90 acre feet of increased storm water storage capacity that would promote infiltration and support for diverse habitats that might otherwise need to be irrigated. Moreover, the fill removal and relocation of a grade control structure will extensively reduce the flood risk by lowering flood levels by more than 2 feet in Q10 and Q100 modeled storms.

These funds would provide benefits to threatened and endangered fish, wildlife and plants through the creation of tidewater goby habitat. This habitat of seasonally flooded mudflats would support of migratory and nesting shorebirds such as the Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern, and salt marsh habitat for Belding's Savannah Sparrow. Furthermore, the project will notably enhance educational, health, and recreational benefits for an adjacent community, as well as university and elementary school students through the public access components of the project.

As you are aware, I have supported this project since its inception in 2010 when funds for the acquisition of the former estuary were secured and look forward to seeing this project move from vision to implementation. Notably, this project has regional significance and builds on local community, state and national investments, which will ensure the vitality of this unique coastal resource.

I ask you to give UCSB's grant request your full and fair consideration, consistent with all relevant rules and regulations. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Wendy Motta in my Santa Barbara District Office at (805) 730-1710.

Sincerely,

LOIS CAPPS

Member of Congress

CAPITOL OFFICE STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 2032 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 TEL 916 651-4019 FAX 916 651-4919

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY OFFICE 222 E. CARRILLO STREET SUITE 309 SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101 TEL 805-965-0862 FAX 805-965-0701

VENTURA COUNTY OFFICE. 300 E. ESPLANADE DRIVE SUITE 430 OXNARD, CA 93036 TEL 805-988-1940 FAX 805-988-1945



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LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER

January 26, 2016

OPC Proposition 1 Grant Administrators Ocean Protection Council 1416 9th Street, Suite 1311 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: North Campus Open Space Coastal Wetland Restoration Project

Dear OPC Proposition 1 Review Committee,

As the State Senator representing the 19th Senate District, which includes the University of California, Santa Barbara, I am writing in support of the University's application for funding through the Ocean Protection Council's Proposition 1 Grant Program for their North Campus Open Space Coastal Wetland Restoration Project.

This regionally important coastal wetland project falls within two key priority areas for the OPC: reducing coastal and ocean water quality impacts and supporting adaptation to climate change. The project is also a model for the intent of Proposition 1 funds because it meets 6 of 13 goals identified in chapter 6 and achieves three main goals of the California Water Action Plan including: Protection and restoration of important ecosystems, Expansion of water storage capacity, and Increasing flood protection.

An investment by the Ocean Protection Council of one million dollars in Proposition 1 funds will leverage more than \$7 million in secured funds, of which \$5.4 can be considered a cost share, and will enable this important project to be implemented in time to spend time-constrained grant funding from the California Natural Resources Agency.

The North Campus Open Space Coastal Wetland Restoration project's full vision includes restoration of more than 100 acres of diverse coastal habitats including 45 acres of estuarine wetlands and 55 acres of upland and freshwater habitats associated with Santa Barbara County's Devereux Slough. The project will additionally help protect more than 37 acres of existing estuarine habitats vulnerable to the impacts of sea level rise by providing transgression space. The project removes more than 350,000 cubic yards of fill placed in the former upper arms of Devereux Slough in 1965 to create a golf course and retains the soil on the project site in the former borrow areas in order to restore historic mesa topography and habitats on degraded, weed dominated sub-soils.

The fill removal provides more than 90 ac ft. of increased storm water storage capacity that promotes infiltration and support for diverse habitats that might otherwise need to be irrigated. In addition the fill removal and relocation of a grade control structure significantly reduces flood risk by lowering flood levels by more than 2 feet in Q10 and Q100 modeled storms.

Additional benefits to threatened and endangered fish, wildlife and plants will be specifically supported by OPC funds through expansion of tidewater goby habitat, seasonally flooded mudflats in support of migratory and nesting shorebirds such as the Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern, and salt marsh habitat for Belding's Savannah Sparrow. In addition the project will significantly enhance educational, health, and recreational benefits for an adjacent disadvantaged community, university and elementary school students through the public access components of the project.

We have supported this project since its inception in 2010 when funds for the acquisition of the former estuary were being secured and look forward to seeing this project move from a vision to implementation. We believe this is a regionally significant project that builds on significant community, state and national investment in unique coastal resources of this region.

Sincerely,

HANNAH-BETH JACKSON

Harrah feth Jackson

Senator, District 19

STATE CAPITOL P.O. BOX 942849 SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0037 (916) 319-2037 FAX (916) 319-2137

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January 19, 2016

OPC Proposition 1 Grant Administrators Ocean Protection Council 1416 9th Street, Suite 1311 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: North Campus Open Space Coastal Wetland Restoration Project

Dear OPC Proposition 1 Review Committee,

I am writing in support of the North Campus Open Space Coastal Wetland Restoration Project, which is located in a beautiful and ecologically significant place in my Assembly district. This regionally important coastal wetland project falls within two key priority areas for the OPC: reducing coastal and ocean water quality impacts and supporting adaptation to climate change. The project is also a model for the intent of Proposition 1 funds because it meets 6 of 13 goals identified in chapter 6 and achieves three main goals of the California Water Action Plan including: protection and restoration of important ecosystems, expansion of water storage capacity and increasing flood protection.

An investment by the Ocean Protection Council of one million dollars in Proposition 1 funds will leverage more than \$7 million in secured funds, of which 5.4 million can be considered a cost share, and will enable this important project to be implemented in time to spend time-constrained grant funding.

The North Campus Open Space Coastal Wetland Restoration project's full vision includes restoration of more than 100 acres of diverse coastal habitats including 45 acres of estuarine wetlands and 55 acres of upland and freshwater habitats associated with Santa Barbara County's Devereux Slough. The project will additionally help protect more than 37 acres of existing estuarine habitats vulnerable to the impacts of sea level rise by providing transgression space. Project removes more than 350,000 cubic yards of fill placed in the former upper arms of Devereux Slough in 1965 to create a golf course and retains the soil on the project site in the former borrow areas in order to restore historic mesa topography and habitats on degraded, weed dominated sub-soils.

The fill removal provides more than 90 acre feet of increased storm water storage capacity that promotes infiltration and support for diverse habitats that might otherwise need to be irrigated. In addition the fill removal and relocation of a grade control structure significantly reduces flood risk by lowering flood levels by more than 2 feet in Q10 and Q100 modeled storms.

Additional benefits to threatened and endangered fish, wildlife and plants will be specifically supported by OPC funds through expansion of tidewater goby habitat, seasonally flooded mudflats in support of migratory and nesting shorebirds such as the Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern, and salt marsh habitat for Belding's Savannah Sparrow. In addition the project will significantly enhance educational, health, and recreational benefits for an adjacent disadvantaged community, university and elementary school students through the public access components of the project.

I have supported this project since its inception in 2010 when funds for the acquisition of the former estuary were being secured and look forward to seeing this project move from a vision to implementation. I believe this is a regionally significant project that builds on significant community, state and national investment in unique coastal resources of this region.

Sincerely,

DAS WILLIAMS

Assemblymember, 37<sup>th</sup> District

11

# **DOREEN FARR**Third District Supervisor



## OFFICE OF THE THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

County Administration Building 105 East Anapamu Street Santa Barbara, California 93101 Telephone: (805) 568-2192 Fax: (805) 568-2883 www.countyofsb.org

## **COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

January 29, 2016

OPC Proposition 1 Grant Administrators Ocean Protection Council 1416 9th Street, Suite 1311 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear OPC Proposition 1 Review Committee,

Regarding: North Campus Open Space Coastal Wetland Restoration Project

As the Third District Supervisor of Santa Barbara County, I have supported this critically important project from its inception, including this application for funds to implement the restoration of the Devereux Slough through the North Campus Open Space Coastal Wetland Restoration Project. This regionally important coastal wetland project fulfills the intent of Proposition 1 funds by achieving three main goals of the California Water Action Plan including: Protection and restoration of important ecosystems, Expansion of water storage capacity and Increasing flood protection.

An investment by the Ocean Protection Council of one million dollars in Proposition 1 funds will leverage more than \$7 million in secured funds, of which \$5.4 can be considered a cost share, and will enable this important project to be implemented in time to spend time-constrained grant funding.

The North Campus Open Space Coastal Wetland Restoration project's full vision includes restoration of more than 100 acres of diverse coastal habitats including 45 acres of estuarine wetlands and 55 acres of upland and freshwater habitats associated with Santa Barbara County's Devereux Slough. The project will additionally help protect more than 37 acres of existing estuarine habitats vulnerable to the impacts of sea level rise by providing transgression space. Project removes more than 350,000 cubic yards of fill placed in the former upper arms of Devereux Slough in 1965 to create a golf course and retains the soil on the project site in the former borrow areas in order to restore historic mesa topography and habitats on degraded, weed dominated sub-soils. The fill removal provides more than 90 ac ft of increased storm water storage capacity that promotes infiltration and support for diverse habitats that might otherwise need to be irrigated. In addition the fill removal and relocation of a grade control structure significantly reduces flood risk by lowering flood levels by more than 2 feet in Q10 and Q100 modeled storms.

Additional benefits to threatened and endangered fish, wildlife and plants will be specifically supported by CDFW funds through expansion of tidewater goby habitat, seasonally flooded mudflats in support of migratory and nesting shorebirds such as the Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern, and salt marsh habitat for Belding's Savannah Sparrow. In addition the project will significantly enhance educational, health, and recreational benefits for an adjacent disadvantaged community, university and elementary school students through the public access components of the project.

The County's support for this project began in 2010 when funds for the acquisition of the former estuary were being secured and now include a commitment of \$100,000 in matching funds for a Department of Water Resources grant through the Urban Streams Program. We are committed to seeing this project achieve its full vision because of the broad diversity of benefits it will provide.

We believe this is a regionally significant project that builds on significant community, state and national investment in unique coastal resources of this region.

Sincerely,

Doreen Farr

Third District Supervisor

Vorcen Faux

Santa Barbara County



February 23, 2016

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CITY MANAGER Michelle Greene OPC Proposition 1 Grant Administrators

Ocean Protection Council 1416 9th Street, Suite 1311 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: North Campus Open Space Coastal Wetland Restoration Project

Dear, OPC Proposition 1 Review Committee

The purpose of this letter is to express the City's support for the UC Santa Barbara's application for a \$1 million grant from the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) Proposition 1. The grant would support restoration at the UC Santa Barbara-owned North Campus Open Space, located adjacent to the City and contiguous to the City's Ellwood Mesa-Sperling Preserve coastal open space.

The City of Goleta has been partnering with UC Santa Barbara and the County of Santa Barbara on the larger Ellwood-Devereux Open Space that includes the North Campus Open Space area and meets quarterly to coordinate management. This restoration project will provide many benefits to the City of Goleta residents including increased public access, wetland functions such as flood abatement, water quality improvements, aesthetics and habitat, and a more diverse and resilient coast in an area that is currently inaccessible.

This regionally important coastal wetland project fulfills the intent of Proposition 1 funds by achieving three main goals of the California Water Action Plan including: Protection and restoration of important ecosystems, Expansion of water storage capacity and Increasing flood protection.

An investment by the Ocean Protection Council of \$1 million in Proposition 1 funds will leverage more than \$7 million in secured funds, of which \$5.4 can be considered a cost share, and will enable this important project to be implemented in time to spend time-constrained grant funding.

The North Campus Open Space Coastal Wetland Restoration project's full vision includes restoration of more than 100 acres of diverse coastal habitats including 45 acres of estuarine wetlands and 55 acres of upland and freshwater habitats associated with Santa Barbara County's Devereux Slough. The project will additionally help protect more than 37 acres of existing estuarine habitats vulnerable to the impacts of sea level rise by providing transgression space. The project would provide benefits to plants and wildlife such as expansion of tidewater goby habitat and other wetland and estuarine species that are important to our coastal ecosystem. In addition the project will significantly enhance educational, health, and recreational benefits for an adjacent disadvantaged community, university and elementary school students through the public access components of the project.

We believe this is a regionally significant project that builds on significant community, state and national investment in unique coastal resources of this region and support the OPC in releasing funds to UC Santa Barbara for the North Campus Open Space Restoration Project. If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter of support, do not hesitate to contact me or Anne Wells at (805) 961-7500.

Sincerely,

Michelle Greene City Manager

cc: Lisa Stratton, Director of Ecosystem Management, CCBER, UCSB



February 1, 2016

OPC Proposition 1 Grant Administrators Ocean Protection Council 1416 9th Street, Suite 1311 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: North Campus Open Space Coastal Wetland Restoration Project

Dear Ocean Protection Council Proposition 1 Review Committee,

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support for the North Campus Open Space ("NCOS") Coastal Wetland Restoration Project. The Environmental Defense Center ("EDC") has been involved in protecting the important coastal and wetland resources in the larger Ellwood Devereux Coastal Open Space area since 1989, and helped convince local and state planning agencies to set aside more than 652 acres for open space and recreation. The NCOS Coastal Restoration Project builds on that work and takes it a step further by implementing the unspoken vision of restoring a degraded golf course into its historic function as an estuarine wetland. The combination of ecological, educational and functional benefits that this project will provide to the dense south coast of Santa Barbara County are unprecedented in size and value.

The NCOS Coastal Wetland Restoration Project falls within two key priority areas for the Ocean Protection Council: reducing coastal and ocean water quality impacts, and supporting adaptation to climate change. The project is also a model for the intent of Proposition 1 funds because it meets 6 of 13 goals identified in chapter 6 and achieves three main goals of the California Water Action Plan including: protection and restoration of important ecosystems, expansion of water storage capacity, and increasing flood protection.

EDC has invested time in this project since 2010 when the Trust for Public Land began working towards purchasing the property for restoration. We believe that this project is one of the most valuable regional opportunities to realize the benefits intended by Proposition 1. The project's full vision includes restoration of more than 100 acres of diverse coastal habitats, including 45 acres of estuarine wetlands and 55 acres of upland and freshwater habitats associated with Santa Barbara County's Devereux Slough. The project will additionally help protect more than 37 acres of existing estuarine habitats vulnerable to the impacts of sea level

rise by providing transgression space. The project removes more than 350,000 cubic yards of fill placed in the former upper arms of Devereux Slough in 1965 to create a golf course and retains the soil on the project site in the former borrow areas in order to restore historic mesa topography and habitats on currently degraded and weedy sub-soils. The fill removal provides more than 90 acre-feet of increased storm water storage capacity that promotes infiltration and support for diverse habitats that might otherwise need to be irrigated. In addition, the fill removal and relocation of a grade control structure significantly reduces flood risk by lowering flood levels.

The project carefully balances a range of wetland types which will maximize water quality, stormwater management and habitat benefits into the future through an integration of groundwater data and sea level rise models in the project design. In addition, the project will significantly enhance educational, health, and recreational benefits for an adjacent disadvantaged community, as well as for university and elementary school students through the public access components of the project.

The EDC has supported this project since its inception and look forward to seeing this project move from a vision to implementation. We believe this is a regionally significant project that builds on diverse community, state and national investment in unique coastal resources of this region. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (805) 963-1622, x106, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Linda Krop Chief Counsel

P.O. Box 5508 Santa Barbara, CA 93150 www.santabarbaraaudubon.org

January 26, 2016

OPC Proposition 1 Grant Administrators Ocean Protection Council 1416 9th Street, Suite 1311 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear OPC Proposition 1 Review Committee,

Regarding: North Campus Open Space (NCOS) Coastal Wetland Restoration Project

The Santa Barbara Audubon Society, in concert with National Audubon, have recognized the unique value of the Devereux Slough habitat for many years and designated the wetland as an "Important Bird Area" in acknowledgement of its importance to the region's avifauna. Since the late 1990's, Audubon members have been promoting a shared vision of restoring the full extent of the former estuary. We are certain that the NCOS Coastal Wetland Restoration project maximizes the long term value of this coastal wetland to avifauna and the larger food web by restoring a wide diversity of wetland types, by providing, but delineating, public access, and by sustainably designing the project to work within the naturally variable hydrology of this intermittent tidal system.

The NCOS Coastal Wetland Restoration Project falls within two key priority areas for the OPC: reducing coastal and ocean water quality impacts and supporting adaptation to climate change (another priority focus for both National and Santa Barbara Audubon.) The project is also a model for the intended use of Proposition 1 funds because it meets 6 of 13 goals identified in chapter 6 and achieves three main goals of the California Water Action Plan including: protection and restoration of important ecosystems, expansion of water storage capacity, and increasing flood protection.

The Audubon Society is committed to helping to interpret the benefits of the restoration to the public and to integrating the open space project into on-going work to monitor and protect unique populations of coastal birds such as the Western Snowy Plover.

The project's full vision includes restoration of more than 100 acres of diverse coastal habitats including 45 acres of estuarine wetlands and 55 acres of upland and freshwater habitats associated with Santa Barbara County's Devereux Slough. The project will additionally help protect more than 37 acres of existing estuarine habitats vulnerable to the impacts of sea level rise by providing transgression space. It removes more than 350,000 cubic yards of fill placed in the former upper arms of Devereux Slough in 1965 to create a golf course, and retains the soil on the project site in the former borrow areas in order to restore historic mesa topography and habitats on currently degraded and weedy sub-soils. The fill removal provides more than 90 ac ft of increased storm water storage capacity that promotes infiltration and support for diverse habitats that might otherwise need to be irrigated. In addition the fill removal and relocation of a grade control structure significantly reduces flood risk by lowering flood levels by more than 2 feet in Q10 and Q100 modeled storms.

The project carefully balances a range of wetland types, which will maximize water quality, storm water management and bird and other fauna habitat benefits into the future through an integration of ground water data and sea level rise models in the project design. In addition the project will significantly enhance educational, health, and recreational benefits for an adjacent disadvantaged community, as well as for university and elementary school students through the public access components of the project.

The Audubon Society has supported this project since its inception and we look forward to seeing this project move from a vision to implementation. We believe this is a regionally significant project that builds on diverse community, state and national investment in unique coastal resources of this region. Because of its thoughtful, sustainable design, this project will provide a treasure to the community for generations to come, and will send a message of hope to inspire similar efforts in other communities.

Sincerely,

Dolores Pollock, President Santa Barbara Audubon

Dolores Pollock

805-681-8661

dolores.pollock@verizon.net

Cherie Topper, Executive Director Santa Barbara Audubon

805-451-1389

Director@SantaBarbaraAudubon.org



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# The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County

& protecting natural lands and our agricultural heritage &

January 26, 2016

OPC Proposition 1 Grant Administrators Ocean Protection Council 1416 9th Street, Suite 1311 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear OPC Proposition 1 Review Committee,

## Re: North Campus Open Space (NCOS) Coastal Wetland Restoration Project

The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County holds a conservation easement on a portion of the project encompassed by the NCOS restoration project. As a result, we have enthusiastically partnered with the University of California Santa Barbara in their efforts to restore and enhance the exceptional ecologic and hydrographic character of land of great importance to the residents of the surrounding community. In our capacity as administrators of a grant in support of this project from the California Department of Water Resources Urban Streams program, the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County has deep familiarity with the place, its resource values and the comprehensively beneficial quality of the University's restoration plans.

The NCOS Coastal Wetland Restoration Project falls within two key OPC priority areas by reducing coastal and ocean water quality impacts, and by supporting adaptation to climate change. It meets 6 of 13 goals identified in Chapter 6 of the Proposition 1 fund guidelines and also addresses three main goals of the California Water Action Plan: (1) protection and restoration of important ecosystems, (2) expansion of water storage capacity, and (3) increasing flood protection. An investment by the OPC of one million dollars in Proposition 1 funds will leverage more than \$7 million in secured funds, of which \$5.4 can be considered a cost share, and will enable this important project to be implemented in time to spend time-constrained grant funding from the California Natural Resources Agency's Urban Greening program.

The project's full vision includes restoration of more than 100 acres of diverse coastal habitats including 45 acres of estuarine wetlands and 55 acres of upland and freshwater habitats associated with Santa Barbara County's Devereux Slough. The project will help protect more than 37 acres of existing estuarine habitats vulnerable to the impacts of sea level rise by providing transgression space. The project provides for the removal of more than 350,000 cubic yards of fill that was placed in the former upper arms of Devereux Slough in 1965 to create a golf course; and restores historic mesa topography and habitats on currently degraded and weedy subsoils by retaining the excavated spoils on the project site and replacing them in the former borrow areas.

Excavation and restoration of the slough's original intertidal profile provides more than 90 acre feet of increased storm water storage capacity and simultaneously promotes infiltration and support for diverse habitats that might otherwise need to be irrigated. Planned relocation of a grade control structure significantly reduces flood risk by lowering flood levels more than 2 feet in Q10 and Q100 modeled storms.

Additional benefits to threatened and endangered fish, wildlife and plants will be supported by OPC funds through expansion of tidewater goby habitat, seasonally flooded mudflats of benefit to migratory and nesting shorebirds such as the Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern, and expansion of salt marsh habitat for Belding's Savannah Sparrow. In important ways, the project will significantly enhance educational, health, and recreational benefits for an adjacent disadvantaged community, university and elementary school students through the public access and interpretive signage.

We have supported this project since its inception. As an organization with deep experience in the implementation of major, successful wetland restoration projects in Carpinteria Salt Marsh and in the CDFW West Goleta Slough Ecological Reserve, we have identified the NCOS Coastal Wetland Restoration Project as an undertaking with exceptional potential. We whole-heartedly encourage the Ocean Protection Council to support UCSB as it seeks to restore unique coastal resources by employing diverse community, state and national investment in a project of regional importance.

Sincerely,

Chet Work

**Executive Director** 

1/1/5/1



Friends of Ellwood/Devereaux Open Space (North Campus Open Space) 7017 Marymount Way, Goleta, California 93117

February 16, 2016

OPC Proposition 1 Grant Administrators Ocean Protection Council 1416 9th Street, Suite 1311 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear OPC Proposition 1 Review Committee,

RE: North Campus Open Space (NCOS) Coastal Wetland Restoration Project

Friends of North Campus Open Space have worked with staff planners from the Trust for Public Land and the University of California Santa Barbara since the original concept for estuarine restoration was proposed (to us) in January 2012. At that time, and for many meetings after, our group of homeowners, renters and Homeowner Association representatives met with TPL and UCSB staff and discussed the concerns of the local community and agreed to work together to support and enhance future planning efforts for a restored estuary and public park.

It is our understanding that OPC grant goals are to reduce coastal and ocean water quality impacts, support adaptation to climate change, protect and restore important ecosystems, expand water storage capacity and increase flood protection. The proposed NCOS Coastal Wetland Restoration Project of UCSB will meet and exceed these goals while integrating unique public access, education and ongoing monitoring which few institutions other than UCSB could provide.

The project was designed with extensive public input. Educational and passive recreational benefits for the adjacent neighborhoods are taken into consideration while balancing and addressing storm water, habitat, potential sea rise, and water quality impacts and issues for wetlands.

Our neighborhood group supports and endorses this project for its many benefits to our community and surrounding region.

Sincerely.

Annie Linn

annie Jim

Friends of Ellwood/Devereaux Open Space (North Campus Open Space)