



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Channel Coast District
911 San Pedro
Ventura, California 93001

Major General Anthony L. Jackson, USMC (Ret), Director

February 14, 2014

Santa Barbara County Supervisors Carbajal, Wolf, Farr, Adam, and Lavagnino
105 E. Anapamu St.
Santa Barbara, California 93101

To the Board of Supervisors, Santa Barbara County:

I am writing in response to staff comments regarding the application for CREF grant funds, submitted by California State Parks and our cooperating association, Friends of Channel Coast State Parks. This letter is specifically in regard to agenda item 14-00027 for the meeting scheduled for February 18, 2014, and the subsequent decision to be made by the board by March 4, 2014.

The staff report states the project at Refugio State Beach clearly meets almost all of the criteria set forth by the request for proposals (CREF 2014 Cycle Staff Report, Pg. 31). However, the project was downgraded because it was determined by County staff that \$3,750 of the request fell under the category of "maintenance and repair" (Criterion #4). After reviewing the comments in the report California State Parks is willing to increase our contribution by \$3,750.

Reducing the overall request for CREF funds also addresses the issue brought up by County staff regarding Criterion #5 and 7; the original request for funding came in at just under 47% of the total cost of the project. With the reduction indicated above, the County's portion of this project would be reduced to only 35% of the project cost, improving the ratio and addressing these criteria as well.

Permitting for this project is already underway, and Friends of Channel Coast State Parks has already contributed \$10,000 to State Parks in support of the project. With approval of the CREF funding, work on this project can commence immediately, and the renovated campfire center can be ready in time for this year's summer camping season.

This is a high-impact, visible project that satisfies all criteria set forth in the request for funding. It is a project that can be completed on time and on budget. It is an excellent use of CREF funds in Santa Barbara County, as it is a capital improvement project with

an educational focus, a strong and clear connection to the coast, tremendous impact on tourism, comes with matching funds and in-kind support, and will require no ongoing commitment from the County of Santa Barbara. The Campfire Center will not only serve tourists from out of the area, but will also be utilized by local Santa Barbara County residents who take advantage of the Junior Lifeguard program and other educational programs held at Refugio State Beach. Many of the local day-use visitors and Junior Lifeguard participants come from the surrounding communities of Goleta, Lompoc, Santa Maria, and Buellton, making this a project with county-wide impact.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. Wilson".

for Richard Rozzelle
District Superintendent