



COAL OIL POINT RESERVE  
NATURAL RESERVE SYSTEM



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To: Supervisor Doreen Farr  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

4/29/15

Dear Supervisor Doreen Farr,

I am writing to address the concerns you and the other members of the Board of Supervisors, expressed at the Board of Supervisors meeting on April 14, 2015, regarding the Coal Oil Point Reserve application for CREF funds to support the renovation of the Reserve's proposed Nature Center.

Your main point was that it appears that UC Santa Barbara is not supporting the project. You noted that you would like to see better support from the UCSB since the Nature Center is on campus and not in the Reserve boundary. It is important to realize that the Reserve is part of the University and the University administration strongly supports this project. The University has provided the 5,400 sq. ft. building for the Reserve's exclusive use. In addition, the University is providing permanent funding for the operations of the Nature Center, including staff and maintenance. The University is also providing \$100,000 in cash for the required renovations. The California Coastal Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Board will provide more than 70% of the renovation budget. The Reserve has also received funding from foundations and private donors.

Sources of support the Coal Oil Point Reserve Nature Center project.

1. Applicant's Funding Sources	
a. University of California Santa Barbara	\$ 100,000*
b. Foundations and Private Donors	\$ 85,000
2. California Coastal Conservancy	\$ 300,000
3. Wildlife Conservation Board	\$ 505,000
4. CREF Request (County of Santa Barbara)	\$ 150,000
<b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,140,000</b>

*\*The cost of the 5,400 sq ft building is not listed above because its value has not been assessed. Yet, the building itself is a significant contribution from UCSB.*

We maintain that the Nature Center is a collaborative project between the University and several agencies, including the County of Santa Barbara, because the COPR Nature Center's education programs will serve a broad range of visitors, including the people of Santa Barbara County. We are excited to provide this service to the County and, if you consider the total


contributions represented by the building, the cash contributions, and the staff, you will see that the contribution that we are requesting from the County is relatively small.

I appreciated your comment at the Board of Supervisor's meeting that the project has merit. Education, research, conservation, and interpretation of oil development in Santa Barbara will be the main services provided through the Nature Center. I would also like to point out that this project has a very strong connection with the impacts of oil development in the County because of its location in relation to Platform Holly and the Ellwood Marine Terminal. I cannot think of a more deserving project for funding that is intended to mitigate oil development which fulfills the spirit of the CREF fund. ("The CREF is designed specifically to mitigate, to the maximum extent feasible, impacts to coastal recreation, aesthetics, tourism, and/ or sensitive environmental resources." CREF Guidelines 2014.)

In summary, this project has merit, the appropriate matching funds, the strong support of the UCSB administration and other interested parties, and it serves the people of Santa Barbara. I ask that you and the Board of Supervisors reconsider the recommendation at the Board of Supervisors' meeting and support this project.

If you have any more questions about this project or UC Santa Barbara's support and contribution, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
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cc:

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