



August 20, 2012

Honorable Doreen Farr, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
123 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Support for The Trust for Public Land/Devereux Creek Properties Lot Split

Dear Honorable Chair Farr and Supervisors:

The Environmental Defense Center (EDC) submits this letter of support for the Ocean Meadows acquisition project and Devereux Creek Properties Lot Split. The EDC is a public interest law firm headquartered in Santa Barbara that represents a variety of community organizations dedicated to a wide variety of environmental causes. Since 1997, the EDC has been proud to advance environmental protection efforts in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo Counties.

It has been EDC's pleasure to support the Ocean Meadows acquisition project on which The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has been working for the past 3 years. This residentially zoned property is currently being used as a golf course but, due to its zoning, could be converted to residential use. A far better use of the land would be to return the property to its original wetland status which is TPL's vision in acquiring the property. This project will result in habitat restoration, public access, reduced flooding in the area and will join several hundred acres of protected lands adjacent to the property. In order to acquire the property and convey it to a long term steward, expected to be the University of California, Santa Barbara, TPL needs to create a legal parcel, hence this application. Since this lot split allows for the acquisition and permanent protection of the property, EDC supports this parcel map.

EDC, therefore, urges you to uphold the decision of the Zoning Administrator and the Planning Commission and vote to deny the appeal (as recommended by staff). I regret that EDC will not be able to attend the hearing on August 21. However, please feel free to contact me at (805) 963-1622 should you have any questions about this letter. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Krop". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Linda Krop
Chief Counsel