

MISSION CREEK MUSEUM AREA RESTORATION PROJECT DESIGN

Agenda Item 5.

September 26, 2002

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Project Summary
September 26, 2002

MISSION CREEK MUSEUM AREA RESTORATION PROJECT DESIGN

File No. 02-083
Project Manager: Mary Travis

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse up to \$110,000 to the Community Environmental Council for site analysis, project design, environmental documentation, and permitting for a watershed enhancement project on Mission Creek in Santa Barbara.

LOCATION: Along Mission Creek at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, about four miles upstream of the creek mouth, in Santa Barbara (Exhibit 1)

PROGRAM CATEGORY: Resource Enhancement

| | | |
|-----------------|---|------------------|
| ESTIMATED COST: | Coastal Conservancy | \$110,000 |
| | County of Santa Barbara | 7,800 |
| | Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History | <u>2,200</u> |
| | Total project cost: | \$120,000 |

The expected source of Conservancy funds for this project is the FY 02/03 appropriation to the Conservancy from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhoods and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 40). Consistent with Proposition 40, the proposed project includes matching funds from other sources.

PROJECT SUMMARY: The Santa Barbara-based nonprofit Community Environmental Council (CEC), working with the Mission Creek Restoration Partnership, seeks to carry out a project to improve habitat and water quality along a 1,200-foot-long stretch of Mission Creek in Santa Barbara. The project would entail restoration and enhancement of streamside vegetation, including removal of exotics; rehabilitation of bioswales draining into the creek and installation of filters to control runoff; and replacement of impervious asphalt with vegetative buffers and permeable surfaces such as porous concrete. The project would also include

installation of interpretive trails and exhibits to educate the public about stream restoration, coastal watersheds, and stormwater management. The proposed authorization of \$110,000 would enable CEC to work with other project participants to undertake pre-project technical analyses of the site, prepare preliminary designs, complete environmental documentation, and apply for necessary permits.

With a watershed of 11.6 square miles, Mission Creek is one of the largest of the many streams draining Santa Barbara County's south coast. The creek arises in the Santa Ynez Mountains, within the boundaries of Los Padres National Forest, and winds through the center of downtown Santa Barbara, entering the ocean at Stearns Wharf. While the upper watershed is fairly pristine, supporting a healthy population of resident steelhead/rainbow trout, urban development has adversely affected both habitat and water quality in the creek's lower reaches. For example, large sections of the lower reach are confined to a concrete channel, which in most years is completely impassable to steelhead attempting to migrate upstream. Also, the creek is listed as an impaired water body under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act because of pathogens and "unknown toxicity."

Still, even within the City limits, much of Mission Creek retains its natural character. One such area is the proposed project site, which consists of 13 acres along the creek's middle reach and includes buildings and grounds of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. This stretch of Mission Creek has natural banks and good instream habitat, including a pool inhabited by a small number of steelhead/rainbow trout, as well as the largest riparian woodland in urban Santa Barbara. However, the site has been invaded by non-native understory, which has degraded its habitat value. Also, there are almost two acres of impervious pavement adjacent to the creek and riparian habitat, including the Museum's main parking lot as well as back-area drives and walks and employee parking areas. Such extensive impervious surfaces in an urban watershed and in close proximity to a stream contribute to degradation of water quality both within the stream and in nearshore waters.

In 2001 the Mission Creek Restoration Partnership (Partnership), comprising local landowners, nonprofit organizations, and City and County agencies, formed to address watershed issues in the middle reach of Mission Creek. With assistance and guidance from CEC, which is involved in watershed planning and restoration work in three other watersheds on the County's south coast, the Partnership developed this project as its initial

restoration effort. The Partnership selected the Museum site because of its size, high habitat value, and existing public use—the site is traversed by trails used by City residents and Museum visitors—and because of the opportunity it presents to incorporate habitat restoration with stormwater best management practices and public education. Also, replacement of the site’s impervious asphalt with porous concrete would serve as a demonstration of a stormwater management technique that is presently underutilized in southern California.

This project is a priority of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (SCWRP) and is included in its 2002-2003 Work Plan. The project would promote several of the regional goals of the SCWRP, and, by integrating stormwater management and water quality, habitat objectives, and interpretive programs, would correspond to several of the “key strategies” identified in the SCWRP Regional Strategy. The project also would help promote a site-specific objective of the Regional Strategy: “Develop and implement community- and land-owner-based restoration projects along a midstream reach of Mission Creek.”

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
September 26, 2002

MISSION CREEK MUSEUM AREA RESTORATION PROJECT DESIGN

File No. 02-083
Project Manager: Mary Travis

STAFF

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following Resolution pursuant to Sections 31251-31270 of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed one hundred ten thousand dollars (\$110,000) to the Community Environmental Council for site analyses, project design, environmental documentation and permitting for a proposed watershed enhancement project on Mission Creek. Prior to the disbursement of funds, the Community Environmental Council shall submit for the review and written approval of the Conservancy’s Executive Officer a work program, budget and schedule, and the names of any contractors to be employed in carrying out the work.”

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and criteria in Chapter 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code (sections 31251-31270) regarding enhancement of coastal resources.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 24, 2001.
3. Mission Creek has been identified in the certified Local Coastal Programs of the City of Santa Barbara and of Santa Barbara County as requiring public action to resolve existing or potential resource protection problems.

4. The Community Environmental Council is a nonprofit organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the California Public Resources Code.”
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STAFF DISCUSSION:

Project Description: The proposed authorization would enable the Community Environmental Council, a Santa Barbara-based nonprofit organization, to carry out pre-project site analyses, design work, environmental documentation, and permitting for a proposed resource enhancement project along Mission Creek in Santa Barbara.

The project site consists of about 13 acres along the middle reach of Mission Creek, and includes property owned by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, St. Anthony’s Seminary, and St. Mary’s Retreat House (Exhibit 1). The site includes a relatively natural stretch of creek as well as about five acres of riparian and oak woodland. Although the tree canopy is mostly native, the site has been invaded by numerous exotic understory plants. There are also almost two acres of impervious pavement, including the Museum’s main visitor parking lot, situated immediately adjacent to the creek and riparian habitat.

The proposed enhancement project would entail three components. First, CEC proposes to improve habitat quality by removing non-native understory ground cover and shrubs from five acres of stream bank and riparian woodland. The highly invasive Cape ivy and French broom would be eradicated, and non-native trees (particularly eucalyptus) growing on the south bank would be removed. The non-natives would be replaced by native species already present on the site or occurring nearby, such as Santa Barbara honeysuckle and bitter gooseberry.

CEC also proposes to implement a number of best management practices (BMPs) for stormwater and urban runoff. Most significantly, CEC would remove 1.91 acres of impervious asphalt from the Museum grounds and replace it with a combination of vegetative buffers consisting of native riparian species and pervious surfaces that may include gravel, permeable “unit pavers,” and/or porous concrete. “Retrofit” of the site’s paved areas would provide direct benefits to Mission Creek by reducing the volume and rate of stormwater runoff and trapping or removing sediment and pollutants, as well as helping to recharge groundwater. Additionally, replacement of asphalt with

porous concrete would create a demonstration site of a BMP for watershed restoration that has been used successfully in several southeastern states but is underused in southern California.

The project would also include renovation of several existing bioswales draining into the creek. Bioswales, which are vegetated, low-gradient channels for directing surface runoff, can be highly effective at slowing and treating runoff. However, the site's largest bioswale, located at the southwest corner of the Museum parking lot, has become obstructed by concrete debris and overgrown by invasive plants. The swale would be cleared of debris and replanted with native species selected for their uptake capabilities, and check dams would be installed to slow runoff. Several smaller bioswales also would be restored. Additionally, storm drain inserts or media filters would be installed on storm drains entering the creek.

Finally, the project includes a public education and outreach component that takes advantage of the Museum's status as one of the region's most prominent educational institutions. As part of its exhibits program, the Museum would plan and install a kiosk on the parking lot to orient visitors to the site and explain how the project will benefit watershed resources; a trail connecting the kiosk with the main Museum grounds by way of the creek; trailside interpretive panels describing the project's major elements; and a raised walkway that would provide access to sensitive streamside habitat, bioswales, permeable pavement, and other project features. Further, students and community volunteers would be involved in site preparation, planting, and other hands-on restoration work, and CEC would sponsor periodic meetings to inform and update community members on the project.

With funds provided under the proposed authorization, CEC would undertake detailed site analyses, including a topographic survey, a soils analysis, verification of existing drainage patterns, and a biological survey of the proposed restoration area. Based on these, CEC would then prepare preliminary designs for the restoration and stormwater control components. CEC would also prepare documentation necessary under the California Environmental Quality Act and apply for necessary permits, which will likely include grading, land use, and building permits from both the City and the County of Santa Barbara; a streambed alteration agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game; a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit under Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act; and project approval by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

CEC hopes to obtain a grant from the State Regional Water Quality Control Board for project implementation, for which it expects to be ready by late summer 2003.

The proposed grantee, CEC, is highly qualified to manage this project. Through its Watershed Restoration Program, CEC has been involved in watershed planning and restoration work in three other watersheds on Santa Barbara County's south coast. Over the past year, CEC staff has worked with the Mission Creek Restoration Partnership to develop this proposal. The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project supports the proposal, and included the project in its 2002-2003 Work Plan.

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|--------------------|---|------------------|
| Project Financing: | Coastal Conservancy | \$110,000 |
| | County of Santa Barbara | 7,800 |
| | Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History | <u>2,200</u> |
| | Total project cost: | \$120,000 |

Total project costs, including this pre-project phase and project implementation, are estimated at \$1,000,000. The Community Environmental Council is seeking implementation funding from the State Water Resources Control Board and/or other sources. Also, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History will contribute a total of \$128,000 to project costs.

Site Description: Mission Creek arises in the Santa Ynez Mountains north of the City of Santa Barbara, flowing about eight miles from its headwaters within Los Padres National Forest to its mouth near Stearns Wharf at Santa Barbara's East Beach. The creek drains an area of 11.6 square miles, making it one of the largest streams on Santa Barbara County's south coast. In its upper and middle reaches Mission Creek is largely unmodified and retains high-quality instream and riparian habitat. Perennial flow in the creek's principal tributary, Rattlesnake Creek, sustains a healthy population of resident steelhead/rainbow trout.

Lower Mission Creek, on the other hand, is constricted by adjacent urban development, and portions are confined to a concrete channel. These channelized portions are almost completely impassible to anadromous southern steelhead attempting to migrate to upstream spawning and rearing habitat. Still, steelhead continue to attempt the journey. In 1999, when streamflows were high after El Niño rains, adult steelhead were observed in Mission Creek at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, well above the lined lower reach. The fish appeared to be returning downstream after spawning, and

the trout now residing in a pool next to the Museum, on the project site, are believed to be their offspring.

The survival of these young trout is evidence of the project site's high habitat value. This 1,200-foot-long stretch of Mission Creek is largely intact, with natural banks and extensive riparian and oak woodland dominated by western sycamore and coast live oak. Despite the prevalence of non-native understory shrubs and ground cover species, a bird survey prepared for the City's recent *Creek Inventory and Assessment Study* found that this reach of Mission Creek has "the best streamside habitat anywhere in the City of Santa Barbara," providing nesting habitat for a number of species and attracting migrant flycatchers, vireos, warblers, tanagers, grosbeaks, and orioles.

The majority of the 13-acre site is owned by the Museum of Natural History. Areas along the south bank of Mission Creek belong to St. Mary's Retreat House (operated by the Episcopal Sisters of the Holy Nativity) and to St. Anthony's Seminary (belonging to the Franciscan Friars of California). The site is partially within the city limits of the City of Santa Barbara and partially within the County's jurisdiction.

Project History: Despite Mission Creek's highly visible location in the heart of Santa Barbara, there is no watershed management plan for the creek, and no planning effort is underway. However, the need to address the creek's water quality is evidenced by its listing as an impaired water body under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act because of pathogens and "unknown toxicity." The City of Santa Barbara's *Creek Inventory and Assessment Study* (September 2000), which provides a baseline analysis of Mission Creek within the City limits, notes that polluted stormwater collects in creeks and flows to the ocean because of the lack of wetlands and riparian buffers that could filter runoff.

In 2001 the Mission Creek Restoration Partnership (Partnership), consisting of local property owners, nonprofit organizations, and local public agencies, formed for the purpose of addressing watershed issues in the middle reach of Mission Creek. The Partnership is an unincorporated group whose members include the three landowners of the proposed project site; the Mission Canyon Association, a neighborhood group representing over 1,000 households in the watershed; CEC; the Santa Barbara Audubon Society; the Urban Creeks Council; the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden; the Santa Barbara County Parks Department; the County Water Agency; and the Creeks Division of the City Parks Department.

The Partnership intends to develop an overall vision and restoration strategy for the middle reach of Mission Creek. With guidance from CEC, the Partnership developed the proposed project as its initial restoration effort. Although the Museum site is four miles upstream of the creek mouth, it presently offers the best opportunity within the watershed to retrofit a large, developed site with improvements for stormwater management and to integrate those improvements with both stream restoration and public education. A major project on the Museum's grounds would offer a unique opportunity to educate the public about stream restoration and stormwater management.

PROJECT SUPPORT: As discussed above, this project came about through the efforts of the Mission Creek Restoration Partnership, whose members include property owners in the watershed, local nonprofit groups, and City and County agencies. In addition to their support, the project has the support of County Supervisor Susan Rose, Assemblymember Hannah-Beth Jackson, and State Senator Jack O'Connell. Letters of support are attached as Exhibit 2.

**CONSISTENCY WITH
CONSERVANCY'S
ENABLING LEGISLATION:**

The proposed pre-project activities would be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code (Sections 31251-31270).

Under Public Resources Code Section 31251, the Conservancy may award grants for the purpose of enhancement of coastal resources that, because of natural or human-induced events, have suffered loss of natural and scenic values. The proposed project is intended to improve streamside habitat and water quality along a portion of Mission Creek, a coastal watershed that has been degraded by urban development.

Section 31251.2(a) states that the Conservancy may award grants to enhance a watershed resource that is partly outside of the coastal zone in order to enhance coastal resources within the coastal zone. The proposed authorization would lead to improvements in water quality in Mission Creek, an important coastal stream whose outflow affects water quality at the City's public beaches and in the nearshore zone.

The proposed authorization is consistent with Section 31252, in that Policy 6.8 of the City of Santa Barbara's certified Local Coastal Program provides for the protection of the City's

creeks, while protection of watersheds is one of the main objectives of Section 3.3.4 of Santa Barbara County's Local Coastal Program. This project would benefit the Mission Creek watershed through enhancement of streamside habitat and implementation of measures to control runoff into the creek.

The proposed authorization is consistent with Section 31253, which states that the Conservancy may provide up to the total cost of any coastal resource enhancement project.

CONSISTENCY WITH
CONSERVANCY'S
PROJECT SELECTION
CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:

The proposed authorization is consistent with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted January 24, 2001, in the following respects:

Required Criteria

Promotion of the Conservancy's statutory programs and purposes: As indicated above, the proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and intent of Chapter 6 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code (Sections 31251-31270), which provides for the Coastal Conservancy's participation in a program of coastal resource enhancement.

Consistency with the purposes of the funding source: It is anticipated that funding for this authorization would come from Proposition 40 funds appropriated to the Conservancy in FY 02/03 for acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration, and protection of land and water resources. The proposed project is consistent with the purposes of Proposition 40 in that (1) it would lead to restoration and enhancement of a portion of Mission Creek; (2) it would include interpretive trails and exhibits; and (3) the project would include matching funds from other sources.

Support from the public: This project enjoys broad public and agency support, including that of members of the Mission Creek Restoration Partnership. The project also has the support of Santa Barbara County Supervisor Susan Rose, Assemblymember Hannah Beth-Jackson, and State Senator Jack O'Connell. Letters of support are attached as Exhibit 2.

Location: Although the proposed project site lies outside the coastal zone, Mission Creek is an important coastal stream whose water quality affects that of public beaches and near-shore waters. The project site presently sustains a number of fish that may be the offspring of anadromous steelhead, a

coastal resource of statewide significance. This project will address habitat and water quality issues that directly affect coastal resources.

Need: This project would achieve several important objectives: it would restore and enhance habitat along a portion of Mission Creek; it would lead to improvements in water quality in a stream that is listed as an impaired water body under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act; it would involve community members in a significant watershed restoration project; and it would help educate the public about watershed restoration. The financial support and participation of the Conservancy are critical for this project because CEC lacks the financial resources to proceed on its own

Greater than local interest: Mission Creek is an important coastal watershed, one of the largest on the County's south coast. Its mouth is adjacent to Stearns Wharf at the City's East Beach, both of which are heavily used by residents and visitors alike. The proposed project site is the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, which attracts 180,000 visitors a year. The project would lead to improvements in the stream's water quality, which will help improve the quality of coastal resources and nearshore waters.

Additional Criteria

Resolution of more than one issue: The proposed project would integrate habitat restoration with stormwater management and public education.

Innovation: CEC intends to examine the feasibility of using porous concrete to replace portions of the Museum site's asphalt. The use of porous concrete at this site would demonstrate a potentially significant stormwater management technique that has been used successfully elsewhere but is presently underutilized in southern California.

Readiness: CEC and its partners are ready to begin the site analyses and other pre-project work immediately.

Cooperation: The project is sponsored by the Mission Creek Restoration Partnership, a community-based group comprising watershed landowners, nonprofit organizations, and City and County agencies. The project involves cooperation among the Conservancy, CEC, and City and County agencies, as well as project site landowners Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, St. Mary's Retreat House, and St. Anthony's Seminary.

CONSISTENCY WITH
THE COASTAL ACT:

The proposed authorization is consistent with the planning and management policies of the Coastal Act (Division 20 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 30000 *et seq.*). Although the project site lies outside the coastal zone, river and land uses outside of the coastal zone have an effect on coastal zone resources. The proposed enhancement project at the Museum site is intended to improve both habitat and water quality in Mission Creek, a coastal resource that is listed as an impaired water body under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. This is consistent with Public Resources Code Section 30231, which states that “the biological productivity and the quality of coastal waters, streams, wetlands, estuaries and lakes . . . shall be maintained and, where feasible, restored”

CONSISTENCY WITH
LOCAL COASTAL
PROGRAM POLICIES:

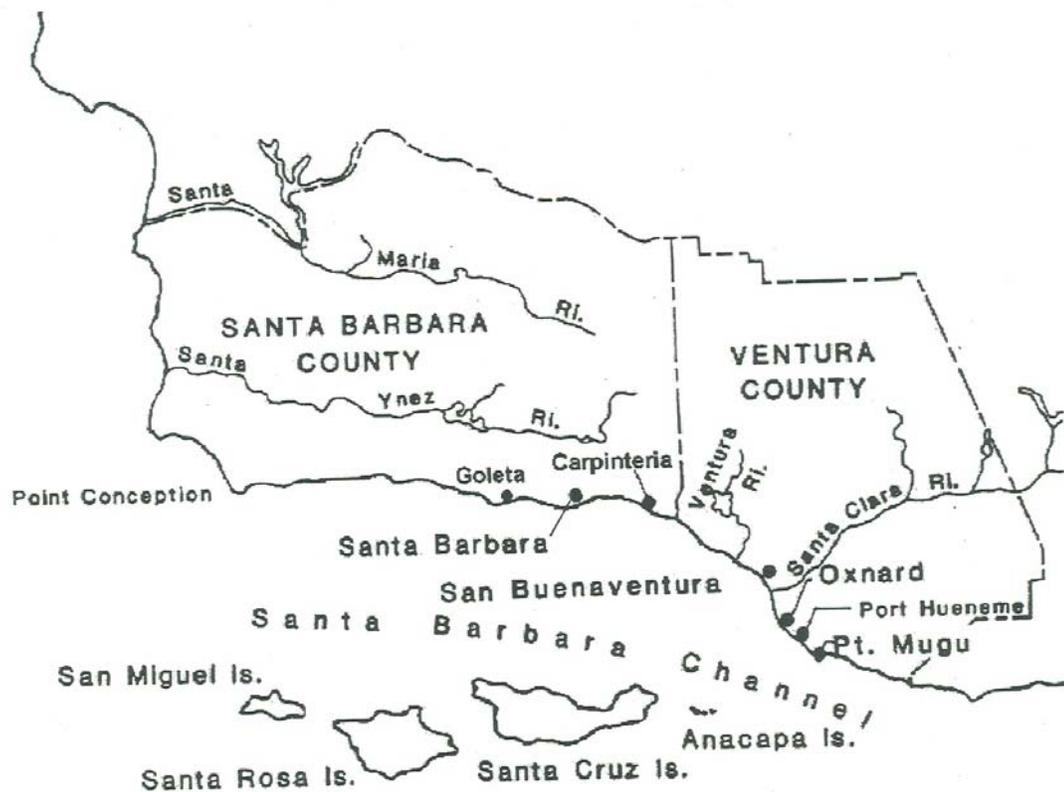
The project is consistent with the certified Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) of both the City of Santa Barbara and Santa Barbara County. Policy 6.8 of the City’s LCP provides, “The riparian resources, biological productivity, and water quality of the City’s coastal zone creeks shall be maintained, preserved, enhanced, and, where feasible, restored.” The LCP notes that “upstream development can adversely impact the lower reaches of the streams” Similarly, Section 3.3.4 of the County’s LCP observes that watersheds “have potential for impacts on coastal streams, wetlands, [and] estuaries,” and states that protection of watersheds is necessary to “insure continued biological productivity of coastal streams and wetlands.” Thus, although the specific project area of this recommendation is not in the coastal zone, the proposed authorization is consistent with City and County LCP policies calling for protection of entire watersheds because of their hydrologic and biologic links to coastal zone resources.

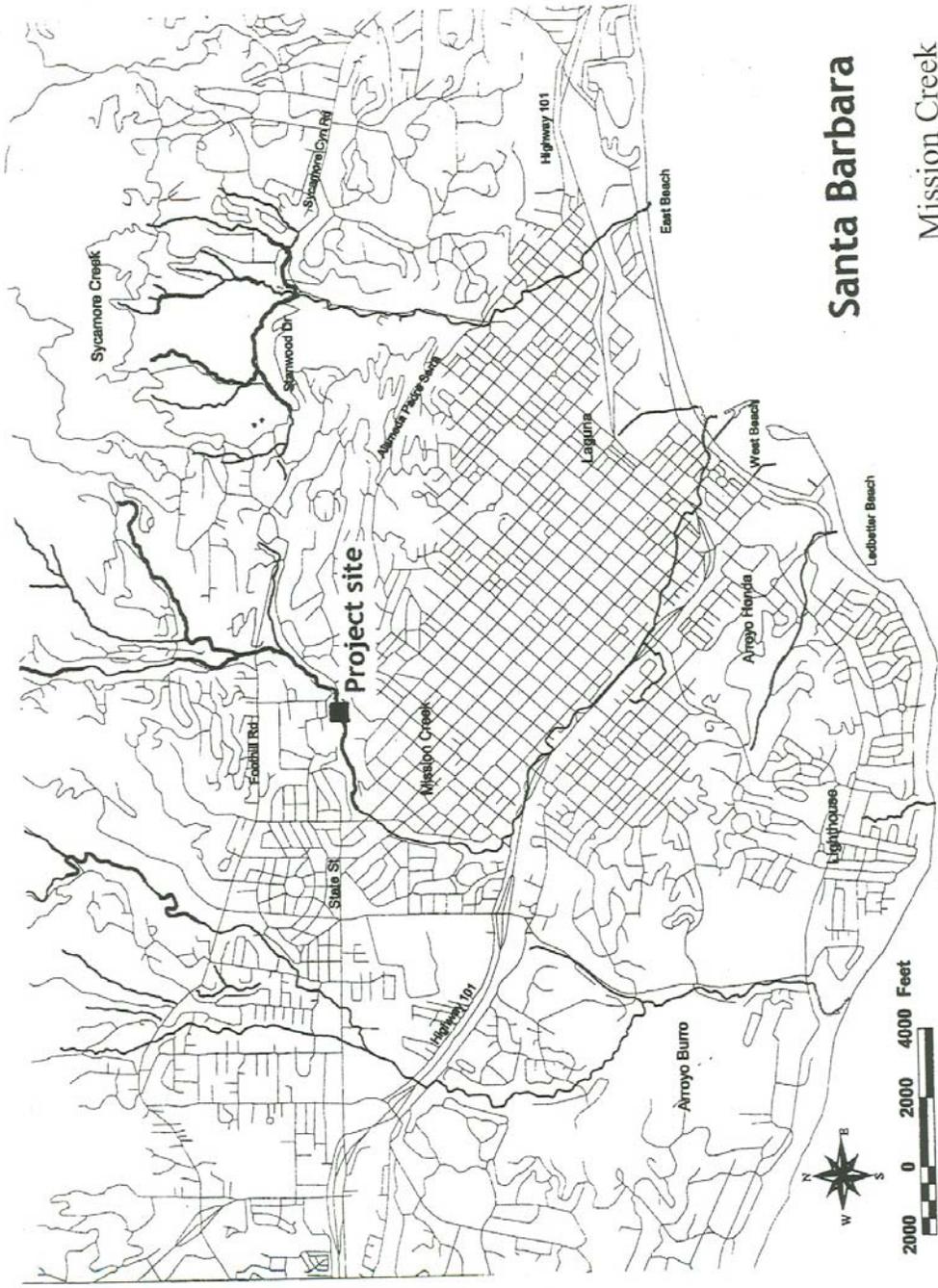
COMPLIANCE
WITH CEQA:

The proposed pre-project activities are statutorily exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to 14 Cal. Code of Regulations Section 15262, in that they would involve only feasibility analyses for projects that have not yet been approved. Consistent with that section, the environmental effects of the proposed future projects will be considered. The proposed activities are also categorically exempt under Section 15306, which exempts basic data collection and resource evaluation activities. Upon Conservancy approval of the project, staff will file a Notice of Exemption.

EXHIBIT 1

Project Location





Santa Barbara

Mission Creek

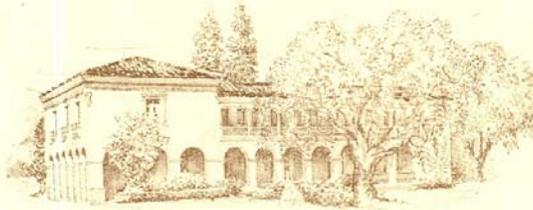
EXHIBIT 2

Letters of Support

Additional letters will be mailed separately and/or hand-carried to the Board meeting

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
620 LAGUNA STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 1990
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93102-1990
TELEPHONE: (805) 564-5418
FAX NUMBER: (805) 564-5480
www.ci.santa-barbara.ca.us



ADMINISTRATION
PARKS
RECREATION
GOLF
CREEK RESTORATION

August 23, 2002

Paul Morabito, Chair,
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

**SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE MISSION CREEK MUSEUM AREA
RESTORATION PROJECT**

Dear Mr. Morabito:

The Mission Creek Restoration Partnership is currently spearheading an effort to restore a section of Mission Creek adjacent to the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum. The City of Santa Barbara's Creek Restoration and Water Quality Division, which is an active member of the Partnership, supports this creek restoration effort.

The Mission Creek Museum Area Restoration Project is consistent with the goals and objectives of the City's Creek Restoration and Water Quality Program, which include improving water quality in City creeks, improving riparian and aquatic habitat along City creeks, and providing public education concerning water quality and restoration. The project, which includes construction of bioswales and a permeable parking lot, will help to reduce runoff during storm events and will prevent pollutants from entering the creek. The project also includes the removal of invasive non-native plant species and planting of native plant species. This will improve habitat along the creek and help reduce soil erosion. The installation of interpretive trails and signage is also proposed as part of the project and will provide educational opportunities for children and adults who visit the natural history museum.

Through the implementation of the Mission Creek Museum Area Project, the Partnership will enhance the efforts of the City and the Community to restore habitat along Mission Creek, improve water quality and educate the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill E. Zachary". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jill E. Zachary
Creeks Restoration/ Clean Water Manager

cc: Mary Travis, Coastal Conservancy
Bob Thiel, Community Environmental Council
Richard Johns, Parks and Recreation Director

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AUG 29 2002

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



Santa Barbara County Flood Control & Water Conservation District and Water Agency

123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, California 93101
(805) 568-3440 Fax: (805) 568-3434
Web: <http://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/water>

Phillip M. Demery
Public Works Director

Thomas D. Fayram
Deputy Public Works Director

August 27, 2002

Paul Morabito, Chair,
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: *Letter of support*
Mission Creek/Museum Site Restoration Project
Santa Barbara

Dear Mr. Morabito:

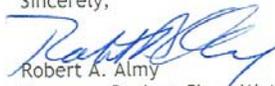
I am writing to urge the Coastal Conservancy Board to approve the proposed Wetlands Recovery Project grant to the Community Environmental Council for the Mission Creek/Museum Site Restoration Project, a grant to be considered by the Board at your September 2002 meeting.

Santa Barbara County is an active member of the Mission Creek Restoration Partnership, which is working to implement this project. Project Clean Water, the county's water quality improvement program, is contributing staff time for to prepare a creek function analysis utilizing the new, locally developed HGM guidebook. In addition, PCW is contributing funds for site analysis.

This project will provide an important and highly visible demonstration site for the use of permeable paving, bioswales, and restoration applications. In addition, it will provide an excellent education opportunity, due to the proximity of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. An effort such as this helps the County/Project Clean Water to meet its goals of improving water quality and the health of the environment, while at the same time encouraging public participation and education.

We urge you to support this community-based effort to improve water quality and restore the health of Mission Creek, while also providing an important demonstration project. If you have any questions, please contact me at (805) 568-3542.

Sincerely,


Robert A. Almy
Manager, Project Clean Water

Cc: **Janet Diehl,**
Coastal Conservancy

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AUG 30 2002

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

SACRAMENTO OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 5035
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 445-5405

SAN LUIS OBISPO OFFICE
1260 CHORRO STREET, SUITE A
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401
(805) 547-1800

SANTA BARBARA OFFICE
228 WEST CARRILLO, SUITE F
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(805) 966-2296

VENTURA OFFICE
89 S. CALIFORNIA STREET, SUITE E
VENTURA, CA 93001
(805) 641-1500

California State Senate

SENATOR
JACK O'CONNELL
EIGHTEENTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



CHAIR
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
COASTAL CAUCUS
MAJORITY CAUCUS
MEMBER
BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
EDUCATION
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
JUDICIARY

September 5, 2002

Paul Morabito, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Chairman Morabito:

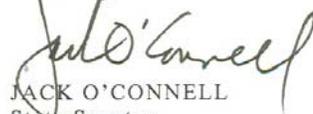
It has come to our attention that the Community Environmental Council (CEC) and the Mission Creek Restoration Partnership are requesting a \$110,000 grant from the State Coastal Conservancy to improve habitat and water quality along 1200 feet of the middle reach of Mission Creek in Santa Barbara. We want to express our strong support for this grant request.

Specifically, the project will entail restoration and enhancement of streamside vegetation, including the removal of exotics, rehabilitating bioswales and installing filters to control runoff. Plans are also in place to replace impervious surfaces, such as asphalt, with vegetative buffers and permeable surfaces. The project area's proximity to the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum provides the perfect opportunity for the use of interpretive trails and exhibits to educate the public about stream restoration, coastal watersheds and stormwater management. Mission Creek, one of largest creeks on Santa Barbara County's South Coast, supports a watershed of 11.6 square miles. While some of its sections have been channelized, much of Mission Creek, including the project area, retains its natural character.

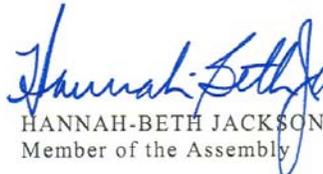
Approval of these funds today is critical because it will allow the CEC to begin pre-project technical analyses of the site, as well as preliminary design work and to complete environmental documentation and the necessary permit applications. The balance of the funds needed to complete the project is being raised from a number of sources, including Santa Barbara County and the Museum of Natural History. The project is supported by a partnership of landowners and nonprofit organizations, as well as City and County agencies. Finally, this effort is also a priority of the Southern California Wetlands Project and is included in the Project's 2002-2003 Work Plan.

It is for all of these reasons that we, again, want to urge your approval of this grant request. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,


JACK O'CONNELL
State Senator

JO:HBJ:cdf
R2


HANNAH-BETH JACKSON
Member of the Assembly

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SEP 09 2002

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

SUSAN ROSE
County Supervisor
Second District

ALISSA HUMMER
Executive Staff Assistant

RACHEL L. COUCH
Administrative Assistant



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Telephone (805) 568-2191
FAX: (805) 568-2283

E-mail: srose@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

August 29, 2002

Paul Morabito, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Letter of support
Mission Creek / Museum Area Restoration Project
Santa Barbara.

Mr. Morabito,

As co-chair of the SB County Task Force of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, I am writing to urge funding for the Mission Creek/Museum Area Restoration Project in Santa Barbara County.

This project involves restoration of streambanks and riparian woodlands, rehabilitation of several bioswales, and replacement of impervious surfaces adjacent to a 1,200-foot reach of Mission Creek in Santa Barbara. The project site encompasses property owned by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, St. Mary's Retreat House, and St. Anthony's Seminary.

The project would integrate habitat restoration with stormwater management and public education.

The project is sponsored by the Mission Creek Restoration Partnership, an unincorporated, community-based collaborative of residential and institutional landowners, nonprofit organizations, and agencies of the City and County of Santa Barbara. In addition to the owners of the project site, the Partnership includes the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Urban Creeks Council, Community Environmental Council (CEC), County Parks, the County Water Agency, the City of Santa

Barbara's Creeks Division, and the Mission Canyon Association, a neighborhood association that represents more than 1,000 households in the watershed. The Partnership was formed six months ago to address watershed issues on the middle reach of Mission Creek

This very promising project is one that I hope you will consider supporting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan J. Rose" followed by a stylized flourish.

Susan J. Rose
Santa Barbara County Task Force Co-Chair and Public Advisory Committee
member,
Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project

Cc: Mary Travis, Coastal Conservancy staff



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September 9, 2002

Mr. Paul Morabito, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Morabito:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposal for the Mission Creek Restoration Project submitted by the Mission Creek Restoration Partnership of Santa Barbara.

As Executive Director of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, I am delighted that a group of like-minded organizations and individuals have come together to form this partnership. Mission Creek is an exceptionally important urban watershed, which empties into the Santa Barbara Channel near the heart of downtown Santa Barbara.

The aim of the proposed project is simultaneously to improve water quality and riverine and riparian habitats and to offer a powerful educational experience in environmental restoration and conservation.

The Museum of Natural History is very fortunate in owning a significant portion of land along Mission Creek. This provides us with an unusual opportunity to expand our educational programs outdoors and use the attractiveness of our woodlands along Mission Creek as a compelling learning experience.

We are enthusiastic participants in the Mission Creek Restoration Partnership and highly appreciative that such a large coalition has come together in choosing Mission Creek as the lead effort in watershed restoration in our area. I hope sincerely that the Coastal Conservancy will find it possible to support this extremely worthwhile project, which will benefit both the coastal environment and the human communities of the South Central Coast.

With many thanks for your consideration and support,

Karl L. Hutterer
Executive Director

cc: Mary Travis

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

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