



City of Carlsbad

Planning Department

August 29, 2007

Ms. Deborah Ruddock
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11TH Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR BATIQUITOS LAGOON FOUNDATION ACQUISITION OF THE MITSUUCHI PROPERTY AT BATIQUITOS LAGOON

Dear Ms. Ruddock:

I am writing in support of the acquisition of the Mitsuuchi property at the Batiquitos Lagoon by the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation.

The City of Carlsbad and the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation ("BLF") are working together on enhancing trails and open space at the lagoon. The acquisition of the Mitsuuchi will greatly assist in realizing these priorities in several ways. First, purchasing this property would constitute a major step in the completion of the Batiquitos Lagoon North Shore Trail, which is the most frequently used area for public access at the lagoon. Second, further enhancement of the lagoon will be possible because of erosion control measures and invasive species removal that are needed on this property. Finally, this property contains wetland and upland habitat that will buffer the lagoon from surrounding urban development. The City of Carlsbad appreciates the value of buffering the lagoon to help protect the investment made through the 1996 lagoon enhancement program.

The BLF is a small 501(c)3 corporation that was formed in 1982 by a group of citizens concerned about the future of the lagoon. The BLF, as the only citizens group at the lagoon, has been instrumental in the restoration and public access projects that have been completed. The BLF is a volunteer-driven organization without the funds to pursue acquisition. Financial assistance from the State Coastal Conservancy would allow them to pursue the actions necessary to protect and enhance the ecological health and public enjoyment of the lagoon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Grimm".

MICHAEL GRIM
Senior Planner
HMP Implementation

C: Don Neu
Chris DeCerbo

