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May 16, 2014

California State Coastal Conservancy
Attn: Doug Bosco, Chair
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Chairman Bosco,

The Sierra Club is the nation's oldest and largest grass-roots environmental organization. I am writing to you on behalf of the Club's 2,200 member in San Luis Obispo County to strongly urge the Conservancy to allocate the necessary funds toward the creation of the Pismo Preserve.

We agree with the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County that the preservation of these 900 acres of coastal land is a once-in-a-generation opportunity. Every year in the United States, 1 million acres of open space and productive farm land is bulldozed by sprawl development. Two such projects were proposed for land parcels adjacent to the proposed Pismo Preserve acquisition area in the last five years.

As open spaces are converted into residential subdivisions with sterile lawns or parking lots for more office parks and malls, more plants, birds and butterflies disappear. The acquisition and preservation of such lands prevents development in wetlands or along creeks, allowing those areas to continue to provide flood control services and remove excess nutrients that pollute watersheds and our coastal environment.

In many states, we have seen programs established to stem the loss of farmland and open space via land acquisition or the purchase of conservation easements or development rights languish from neglect and lack of funding. In those places, the quality of life in communities languishes as well. We applaud the Coastal Conservancy for its leadership in ensuring that this has not been the case in California, and we hope you will help to make this landmark opportunity for the preservation of our Central Coast a reality.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Jencks, Chapter Chair
cc: Tim Duff