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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

February 24, 2020

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
SH-331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to reiterate support for the *Central Coast Heritage Protection Act*.

Thank you for cosponsoring S. 1111, the *Central Coast Heritage Protection Act*, to add 250,000 acres of new and expanded wilderness in the Los Padres National Forest and the Carrizo Plain National Monument, protect wild and scenic rivers, and designate the Condor National Recreation Trail. In addition, the County appreciates your support for including these provisions in the recently introduced S. 3288, the *Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California (PUBLIC) Lands Act*.

The lands that are proposed for wilderness designation in the *Central Coast Heritage Protection Act* will add to and connect with existing wildernesses, thereby increasing and complementing their resource protection value. The addition of Mono Creek, Indian Creek, and Manzanita Creek tributaries to the national wild and scenic designation will provide protection for the watershed, recreation, critical habitat, and endangered species values that these creeks provide. This legislation is the product of a multi-year process of public participation to improve the management of federal lands in the County and other areas of the Central Coast of California.

Enclosed are letters that we have sent to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee urging their support for protecting these essential natural resources. Please continue to work with your colleagues who serve on the Committee to approve the *Central Coast Heritage Protection Act*.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilchrest
Washington Representative

DWG: awg
Enclosures