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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

February 18, 2021

The Honorable Salud Carbajal
U.S. House of Representatives
2331 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Carbajal:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to reiterate support for H.R. 973, the *Central Coast Heritage Protection Act*.

Thank you for introducing H.R. 973, 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. The lands that are proposed for wilderness designation 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.

The *Central Coast Heritage Protection Act* is the product of a multi-year process of study and public participation to improve the management of federal lands in Santa Barbara County and other areas of the Central Coast of California. These lands provide critical watershed, recreation areas, cultural resource protection, and habitat reserves that are vitally important to Santa Barbara County residents.

Please continue to work with your colleagues on the House Natural Resources Committee to extend protection to these important natural resources.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilchrest
Washington Representative

DWG: awg