



January 8, 2020

Mr. George Chapjian, Director  
Community Services Department  
County of Santa Barbara  
123 East Anapamu Street, 2nd Floor  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

SUBJECT: Santa Ynez River Estuary Access at Ocean Park

Dear Mr. Chapjian:

Thank you for joining the multi-agency meeting on July 26, 2019. During this meeting, the group not only discussed, but also tentatively approved allowing Surf Beach to be open year-round, irrespective of the number of violations logged. In addition, the re-establishment of non-motorized boating access to the estuary was also discussed.

During the discussion on estuary access, it was mentioned that at some point in the past, there was a boat launch at Ocean Park. City staff have searched through old files and records, as well as asking if anyone in town has old photos that show the location of the previous access point, but all to no avail.

At this time, the City of Lompoc is formally requesting the County of Santa Barbara construct a new estuary launch site for non-motorized activities, so visitors to the park may take full advantage of the recreational uses that the estuary has to offer. This would be an incredible benefit to all visitors to the park, as it would allow for paddle boards, canoes, kayaks, etc. to be used and enjoyed. In addition to increased park usage, these activities align with the County and City's goal of promoting a healthy population.

The City of Lompoc is requesting funds be appropriated in the next budget cycle, unless there are sufficient funds in the current budget to cover the costs of constructing the estuary access point. The City of Lompoc understands the financial constraints the County may be in, but as this project is deemed a high priority, perhaps funding could be re-appropriated from other projects to this one.

As you are probably aware, the City of Lompoc is considered a regionally isolated, disadvantaged community, and any additional nearby recreational opportunities, especially those offered at low or no-cost, would greatly benefit the citizens of Lompoc.

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I appreciate your time in considering this request and hope there is a possibility that funding will be appropriated such that the project could commence and be completed within the calendar year 2020. It would be a great benefit to the entire Lompoc Valley if this estuary access was implemented at Ocean Park so that both residents and tourists could make the best use of the park.

Thank you for your understanding and assistance to help not only the citizens of Lompoc, but the entire population of Santa Barbara County.

Sincerely,

Jim Throop  
City Manager

cc: Mona Miyasato, County Manager  
Jenelle Osborne, Mayor  
Dirk Starbuck, Mayor Pro-tem  
Victor Vega, Council Member  
Jim Mosby, Council Member  
Gilda Cordova, Council Member