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August 12, 2013

925 Seacoast Dr.
Imperial Beach, CA 91932
(619) 423 8665 (ext. 202)

The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Chair
Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee
1020 N Street, Suite 160
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 319.2196

RE: California State Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee Hearing on the Water Bond

Dear Assembly Member Rendon,

On behalf of WILDCOAST, and thousands of our members and volunteers, I write in support of the reauthorization of the Water Bond and more specifically to reauthorize funding for the California River Parkways program that has helped to restore crucial areas of our state's most important river parkways.

River parkways, especially in urban environments, provide crucial access to open space and clean water throughout California and also contain valuable ecological and recreational resources. The state's Natural Resource Agency has exhausted funding from Prop. 84 and previous bond acts for the California River Parkways program. The Water Bond provides an important opportunity to re-fund this important program and continue funding for River Parkways and multi purpose floodway projects throughout the state.

In South San Diego County, WILDCOAST is working to restore two urban river parkways. These include the Otay River Valley Regional Park as well as the Tijuana River Regional Park and Estuary. In the case of the Otay Valley Regional Park, the Water Bond and River Parkways program has played a crucial role in restoring a river watershed and park once deemed a garbage dump.

The Otay Valley Regional Park is now a national model for urban restoration and demonstrates how the Water Bond and River Parkways program resulted in the creation of green jobs, provided secure access to healthy open space and clean water to underserved communities, and involved these communities on hands on education and restoration events.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to help preserve and restore the magnificent natural landscapes, rivers, and parks of our great state for the benefit of all Californians.

Sincerely,



Serge Dedina, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc:

Assembly Member Lorena Gonzalez
Assembly Member Franklin E. Bigelow
Assembly Member Paul Fong