



June 26, 2018

Messrs. Richard Stedman and Alan Romero
Monterey Bay Air Resources District
24580 Silver Cloud Ct
Monterey, CA 93940

Letter of Support FY19 AB 2766 Emission Reduction Grant Application - Monterey-Salinas Transit: PARK IT! Point Lobos Area Shuttle

Dear Messrs. Stedman and Romero:

LandWatch Monterey County, a nonprofit, land conservation and planning organization representing more than 1000 residents of Monterey County, strongly supports the Monterey-Salinas Transit's AB 2766 grant application to fund a shuttle demonstration project in the summer of 2019 to serve visitors to the many parklands in the Point Lobos area.

The increasing popularity of the Monterey Peninsula and Big Sur has created very serious traffic congestion and safety issues along Highway 1. More and more cars park along the Highway around popular sites - Carmel River State Beach, Point Lobos, Garrapata, and points south - adding to traffic congestion and resulting in increasing traffic accidents. The worsening traffic and associated congestion also result in increasing amounts of automotive emissions, including greenhouse gases and degraded air quality.

PARK IT! is a community initiative for safer, greener, and easier access to our parklands. Together with California State Parks, Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District, and the support of other agencies and community organizations, PARK IT! is working toward a demonstration project in the summer of 2019 to reduce traffic congestion and automotive emissions. Key elements of the project include:

- Elimination of parking on Highway 1 in the vicinity of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve
- Offsite parking near Rio Road
- Shuttle services between offsite parking locations, Carmel, and parklands in the Point Lobos Area
- A reservation system to regulate visitation

LandWatch believes the demonstration project not only will bring immediate reductions in traffic congestion and automotive emissions, but also important information for the planning and implementation of an even better longer-term solution. Specifically, the project will help to:

- Access and improve public acceptance of an offsite parking and shuttle system
- Optimize the locations of offsite parking and shuttle stops
- Expand the approach to further reduce traffic congestion and associated automotive emissions

PARK IT! will seek to use zero emissions vehicles for shuttle services in future project phases. LandWatch is grateful for MST's support and willingness to provide shuttle service for the demonstration project.

While not the focus of the AB 2766 grant program, the demonstration project will also bring additional benefits, including improvements in traffic safety, better access to our parklands, and improved protection of natural resources.

The shuttle demonstration project furthers the goals of the AB 2766 Emission Reduction Grant Program. We look forward to the support of the Monterey Bay Air Resources District of the Point Lobos Area Shuttle in 2019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. DeLapa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "DeLapa" clearly visible.

Michael D. DeLapa
Executive Director