



20223 Elfin Forest Road
Elfin Forest, CA 92029

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September 19, 2011

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

The Honorable Ken Calvert
United States House of Representative
2269 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: *SUPPORT* for S. 826/H.R. 1907: Infrastructure Facilitation and Habitat Conservation Act of 2011

Dear Senator Feinstein and Congressman Calvert:

The Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Town Council endorses your effort to encourage formation and completion of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) and development of public infrastructure through S. 826/H.R. 1907, the Infrastructure Facilitation and Habitat Conservation Act of 2011. For your reference, Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Town Council is a nonprofit organization representing the citizens of our community. Details can be found at www.efhgtc.org.

Our region has proactively worked to protect threatened habitat through formation of large scale HCPs. These plans are saving species and accelerating the placement of much-needed public infrastructure. However, land acquisition funding is running short, especially during the early years of a plan when it is needed most. Not only are opportunities irretrievably lost, the permits themselves could be jeopardized without adequate funds.

By authorizing federal loans and loan guarantees that can be used to support habitat acquisition, S. 826/H.R. 1907 would maintain momentum for HCPs and assure that they continue to be integrated with development of public infrastructure projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'JA', with several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin
Chair, Town Council Board