



2023 Elfin Forest Road
Elfin Forest, CA 92029

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July 30, 2012

To whom it may concern:

We are writing in support of the purchase of the 502-acre property in the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove area known as University Heights (UH) by the Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC).

The property provides multiple benefits to the region including new trails and new access to natural open space for residents of the growing cities of San Marcos and Escondido. The property also enhances the regional county trail network for residents of the San Dieguito planning area and county. The property is less than 2 miles from the San Marcos Sprinter Station proving the potential for rail users to also be trail users. TECC is investigating the potential to add an active park use to the property, once preserved, which would benefit both county and city residents.

Purchase and preservation of this property will not only further the build-out of the North County Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP), it will also provide a buffer for our community between our semi-rural density and that of the surrounding cities, consistent with the newly adopted San Diego County General Plan. The area is a regional asset that receives visitors from all over the County and surrounding cities. The Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Core Habitat Area, in which this property is included, is contiguous to the cities of Escondido (population of 143,000), San Marcos (population of 82,000), Encinitas (population of 64,000), Carlsbad (population of 105,000), and the unincorporated communities of Rancho Santa Fe and Del Dios.

The Elfin Forest Harmony Grove Town Council fully supports TECC's efforts to purchase and protect the UH property. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'JA', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin
Chair
j.arsivaud@gmail.com