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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 28, 2021

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Padilla:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to reiterate support for expeditious consideration of the *Central Coast Heritage Protection Act*.

Thank you for introducing S. 1459, the *PUBLIC Lands Act*, which includes provisions from H.R. 973, the *Central Coast Heritage Protection Act*, to expanded wilderness in the Los Padres National Forest and the Carrizo Plain National Monument, protect wild and scenic rivers, and designate the Condor National Recreation Trail. The lands that are proposed for wilderness designation will add to and connect with existing wildernesses, thereby increasing and complementing their resource protection value. The addition of Mono Creek, Indian Creek, and Manzana Creek tributaries to the national wild and scenic designation will provide protection for the watershed, recreation, critical habitat, and endangered species values that these creeks provide.

The *Central Coast Heritage Protection Act* is the product of a multi-year process of study and public participation to improve the management of federal lands in Santa Barbara County and other areas of the Central Coast of California. These lands provide critical watershed, recreation areas, cultural resource protection, and habitat reserves that are vitally important to Santa Barbara County residents. This legislation has been passed by the House of Representatives twice this year – first as part of H.R. 803, a multi-bill package of wilderness and public lands that the House passed in February and then recently as part of H.R. 4350, the *2022 National Defense Authorization Act*, which the House passed on September 23.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Gilchrest". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "G".

Don Gilchrest
Washington Representative

DWG: awg