

cc Op Jctz

JIM COSTA
20TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
WEB PAGE: www.costa.house.gov



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CONSERVATION, ENERGY AND FORESTRY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH,
BIOTECHNOLOGY AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
WATER AND POWER

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

August 26, 2011

The Honorable Willard Rodarmel
Mayor
City of Lemoore
119 Fox Street
Lemoore, CA 93245-2694

Dear Mayor Rodarmel:

Thank you for writing me about the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the potential impacts the federal appropriations process might have on the fund. Your concerns are important to me and I appreciate your taking the time to share your thoughts.

Since 1965, when the Land and Water Conservation Fund was enacted, it has been vital in preserving, developing and ensuring access to our communities' outdoor recreation areas. According to the Department of the Interior Office of Budget approximately \$32.6 billion has been credited to the LWCF from 1965 to 2010. Of that amount about \$15.5 billion has been appropriated to fund state grant programs or to acquire new federal forests, parks and wildlife refuges. In May of this year, I sent a letter to the Committee on Appropriations urging consistent funding of the LWCF because of its critical role in preserving our public lands and ensuring access to outdoor recreation areas.

Projects such as recreation centers and community parks are integral to the health of the Valley. Not only do these wildlife corridors, recreational spots, and public spaces contribute revenue to local communities from traveling visitors, but these areas have additional benefits. The parks and wildlife areas of the Central Valley increase the livability of our communities and make them more desirable for relocating businesses as well as our citizens.

Ensuring that our Valley communities are healthy is a primary focus of mine as the region bounces back from a recession and a multiyear drought. In these challenging economic times, I know that many of California's State Parks are closing and, as our communities change, the benefits these areas provide are more important than ever. We must do everything we can to improve the health of our Valley and communities. I am committed to cultivating the Valley's landscapes and I look forward to our continuing relationship as we work toward that goal. Please feel free to contact me regarding this or any other issue at any time.

Sincerely,

Jim Costa

Member of Congress

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1314 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-3341
FAX: (202) 225-9308

FRESNO OFFICE:
855 M STREET, SUITE 940
FRESNO, CA 93721
PHONE: (559) 495-1620
FAX: (559) 495-1027

BAKERSFIELD OFFICE:
2700 M STREET, SUITE 225
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
PHONE: (661) 869-1620
FAX: (661) 869-1027

