

# Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Coalition

*Dedicated to the sustained conservation of native animal and plant species in the Southwest Bioregion.*

April 4, 2019

President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins  
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## **RE: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Request**

Dear President Atkins:

The San Diego Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Coalition (Coalition) enthusiastically supports a proposal to dedicate a modest portion of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) to help San Diego's natural landscapes – and others around the State – adapt to climate change. For your reference, 22 conservation-based organizations in San Diego comprise the Coalition.

As you know, a legislatively authorized purpose of the GGRF is to make natural habitats more resilient to the effects of climate change. The California Air Resources Board has included the conservation of Working and Natural Lands as a category for expenditure. Yet, actual appropriations to date have not benefited San Diego's Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSCP) due to eligibility restrictions. We seek to remedy this with reliable funding via the GGFR. Such funds would leverage federal and local sources. The Wildlife Conservation Board, which has historically been and continues to be a highly supportive partner of San Diego's habitat conservation efforts, would be the ideal agency to disburse the funds.

Following our meeting in September 2018, we took your direction and worked with your staff in Sacramento to craft a legislative proposal. It "packages" funds that would benefit the MSCP and other California habitat programs with allied interests, including urban greening, working lands, and river parkways. This package would also benefit disadvantaged communities and we also support those requests.

We salute your environmental record and respectfully request your support and assistance in legislative efforts to create a steady stream of GGRF funding which would benefit the San Diego MSCP and other habitat lands important for climate resiliency.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Laura Hunter, Coordinator, Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Coalition*  
*Pamela Heatherington, Environmental Center of San Diego*  
*Mendel Stewart, San Diego End Extinction Campaign*  
*Dan Silver, Endangered Habitats League*  
*Frank Landis, California Native Plant Society, San Diego Chapter*  
*Van K. Collinsworth, Preserve Wild Santee*  
*Diane Nygaard, Preserve Calavera*  
*Dave Hogan, The Chaparral Lands Conservancy*  
*NeySa Ely, San Pasqual Valley Preservation Alliance*  
*Jim Peugh, San Diego Audubon Society*  
*Joan Herskowitz, Buena Vista Audubon*  
*Deborah Knight, Friends of Rose Canyon*  
*Karin Zirk, Friends of Rose Creek*  
*Richard Fowler, Palomar Audubon Society*  
*Dr. Mike McCoy, Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association*