

To: Board of Directors
California State Coastal Conservancy
Meeting in Sacramento
June 22, 1989

From: Kathleen Goddard Jones
2860 Halcyon Road
Arroyo Grande, California 93420

NIPOMO DUNES ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
Acquisition of Mobil Foundation Property

Honorable Board of Directors,

We respect who you are and what you represent in land stewardship for California.

First, I wish to repeat what I wrote to you in May: from my heart I do pray you will approve this acquisition.

My emotions are highly charged as I await your decision. This is truly ~~one of the~~ ^a high points ⁱⁿ of my life. . . a dream coming true. . . dream of a great coastal preserve in land that I love.

Before this dream I helped in Sierra Club protection efforts for many years; in particular, helped establishment of the first wilderness area in the U.S.A., our California San Rafael Wilderness in my native Santa Barbara County.

Then - nearly twenty-eight years ago - there came into my life - WITH IMPACT - THE NIPOMO DUNES: a white and wind-sculptured wilderness, graced with blue lakes, laced with green glades, slopes tapestried with wildflowers.

That introduction was the first outing of the brand new Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club in our San Luis Obispo County.

At once challenges appeared: a newspaper notice that Pacific Gas & Electric Company planned a nuclear energy complex in the dunes. What did we do? We sought acquaintance with P. G. & E. A year of harmonious consultation. . . then the utility settled elsewhere for a power plant site.

Year by year followed other threats to the pristine integrity of the dunes. With a broad brush I indicate some:

- new oil wells - and a paved road for them into the dunes
- a petroleum-coke conveyor belt - with a commercial wharf on the beach
- a sand mine . . . a second sand mine
- an abalone propagation project
- repeatedly and repeatedly were (and are) many Off Highway Vehicle recreation problems
- a multi-purpose harbor
- and more.

(MORE)

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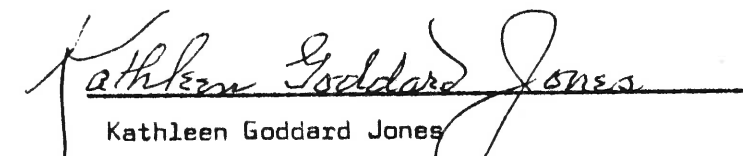
Kathleen Goddard Jones

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Throughout the challenges, we sought consultation rather than confrontation. Consistently we rallied friends, sought and nurtured all the media, with excellent results; sought publicity by leading hundreds of outings - all types - enlisting specialists, too, in natural science fields. I remember when young archaeologist, Dr. Robert L. Hoover, enthusiastically pulled up his station wagon filled with a display of Indian artifacts, relative to the long presence of Chumash culture in the dunes. Giving slide shows from Monterey to Santa Barbara, we used my husband's outstanding photography. Seeking leadership, we have been fortunate in our remarkable PNDNS president, attorney. Elizabeth Scott-Graham, And The Nature Conservancy became our headlight guide.

Finally, your decision has another significance: a cultural matter, for beyond factual data, Sigurd Olson points out that "Wilderness has to do with the human spirit. And what we are trying to conserve is not material values as much as the human spirit itself."

For these things have I dreamed. And in closing, I commend to you my dreams, for the Nipomo Dunes.


Kathleen Goddard Jones
PEOPLE FOR A NIPOMO DUNES NATIONAL SEASHORE