

Effort To ENLIST HELP of
BOTANIST VERA BARNES, Ph.D.
- Now DECEASED - 1970 -

1039 Chestnut Street
Paso Robles, California 93446
February 12, 1966

Dr. Vera A. Barnes
1403 San Miguel
Santa Barbara, California

REF: NIPOMO DUNES
(Santa Maria Dunes, Pismo
Dunes, Oceano Dunes)

Dear Dr. Barnes:

Your statement of August 15, 1965, read by Mr. Leonard Penhale at the organizational meeting of the Morro Coast Audubon Society in Morro Bay, entitled "The Urgency to Preserve the Morro Bay Environment Before it is Too Late", is dynamic, thrilling and challenging. This came to me from my close friend Kit Walling (Mrs. Katharine D. Walling, 690 Olive Street, Morro Bay) who is a reporter on THE SUN, Morro Bay weekly.

I took your paper to a recent meeting of the Conservation Committee of the Santa Lucia Group (of the Los Padres tri-county Chapter) of the Sierra Club - and it is being shared widely among Sierra Club members in San Luis Obispo County and northern Santa Barbara County, which our Santa Lucia Group covers.

I understand from Kent Hartwell, Park Supervisor, Montana de Oro State Park, and from Museum Naturalist Leonard Penhale, that you are doing an ecological study of the park for the Division of Beaches and Parks.

I am extremely interested in your knowledge, your dynamic interest and your crusading spirit. I want to become acquainted with you. I want, moreover, to enlist your interest in, and concern for, a nearby area in our county which is my especial conservation responsibility: that is, the NIPOMO DUNES....also known as the Pismo Dunes, the Oceano Dunes, the Santa Maria Dunes, even the Oso Flaco Dunes.

Since late 1962 our local Sierra Club group has challenged the effort of local business promoters to industrialize the unique Nipomo Dunes. In June 1963 the Board of Directors of the national Sierra Club passed a resolution, copy of which I enclose. In 1964 the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs passed a practically identical protective resolution.

From the outset I needled P. G. & E. about their announced plans to build an enormous 5-unit atomic power plant complex not far from the beach in the heartland of the Dunes - and a close working relationship with P. G. & E. was developed, (actually a friendly one), resulting in numerous meetings between two different P. G. & E. presidents, and two different Sierra Club national presidents, as the years went along. Late in 1964 Dr. William E. Siri, Sierra Club president, appointed me as the Sierra Club Coordinator for the Nipomo Dunes Preservation. I work at nothing else, night and day, month in and year out, as a full time volunteer conservationist.

There has been some excellent help. Among those who have visited the Nipomo-Oceano-Santa Maria Dunes and have contributed of their time or thinking or comments are: my botanist friend Mrs. Clare B. Hardham of Paso Robles, fellow Sierra Club member, Dr. Robert F. Hoover of Cal Poly, Dr. John R. Haller of U.C. S.B., Dr. Robert F. Thorne of Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens, Mr. John E. Fitch of the marine resources laboratory at La Jolla; and I have someone endeavoring to research the pollutant effects of coke dust, and others. But every additional ounce of help counts some and may count immensely.

Results of efforts to change the minds of local county supervisors and planning commissioners have been fruitless. Back in 1955 they zoned the dunelands M-2 (for heavy type industry) and they will not budge.

But efforts to change the location of P. G. & E.'s plans show some indication of possible success. However, we are still keeping our fingers crossed until the utility makes its own announcement of its plans. (The announcement is due late this spring.)

Efforts to persuade Union Oil Company's subsidiary, the Collier Carbon and Chemical Corporation, not to build a coke conveyor across the heartland of the Dunes, and not to build a commercial pier for cargo freighters on the tidelands, are meeting with stiff resistance. A hearing will come up before the California State Lands Commission in the not too distant future. We say nothing about this outside of our own Sierra Club members who are working closely on this project, and outside of a limited group of conservationists throughout California who also are cooperating....because we do not want to alert the forces of the opposition. But we continue to prepare to meet the opposition. And as I said, every additional ounce of help counts.

Do you know these Nipomo-Oceano-Santa Maria Dunes? Have you notes on them? Do you know about our endemics, the Senecio Blochmaniae and Monardella Crispa and about some of our species unusually located in the Dunes, the Castilleja Malus and Reine Orchis?

I am impressed and attracted by the tone of dedicated drive in what you have written. When can you and I meet sometime?

Very sincerely,

Mrs. Duncan P. Jackson
Sierra Club Coordinator
Nipomo Dunes Preservation

cc/Dr. William E. Siri
✓Michael J. McCloskey
✓Fred Eissler
✓Conservation Associates
✓Nature Conservancy - *Elna Bakker*
✓Leonard Penhale
✓John Fleming
✓Robert F. Hoover
✓Clare B. Hardham
✓Robert B. Deering

✓Gayman - Foote - Ives
✓Bill Denneen
✓Ralph/Florence Welles