



July 16, 2014

Encinitas City Council
505 S. Vulcan Avenue
Encinitas, CA 92024

RE: Support for Proposed Policy for Invasive Plants

P. O. Box 230634

Encinitas, California

92023-0634

T 760 436-3944

F 760 944-9606

www.sanelijo.org

Dear Encinitas City Council Member,

On behalf of San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, I want to express strong support for adoption of the proposed Policy for Invasive Plants prepared by the City of Encinitas Invasive Subcommittee. San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy protects and restores the resources of San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve, its watershed, and related ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations. As you may know, Conservancy staff manages an invasive plant control program for coastal North County. Our public-entity collaborators and partners include California Fish and Wildlife, California Parks and Recreation, SANDAG, County of San Diego, San Diego Botanic Gardens, and municipalities including Encinitas. Our experience is that increased regulation of invasive plants reduces their ecological, social, and economic impacts. Our community depends upon your leadership to guard against locally invasive plants.

San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy demonstrates an ongoing commitment to the following core values:

Environmental Stewardship
Scientific Integrity
Education

Innovation
Collaboration
Ethical Leadership & Practices

Supporting the adoption of the proposed Policy for Invasive Plants has significant nexus with Conservancy core values, and we want these values to be expressed throughout our community.

San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy supports the regulation of plants that are known to be locally invasive, for the protection of the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve and other conservation lands, as well as for the protection of quality of life for Encinitas residents. Reducing invasive plant impacts helps regional conservation efforts achieve their respective goals more efficiently. Minimizing use of invasive plants keeps landscaping costs lower for residents by preventing their distribution into new areas. Banning certain invasive plants reduces human health impacts associated with toxic substances and allergic reactions.

San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy coordinates the expenditure of more than \$300,000 per year toward the labor involved with the control and removal of invasive plants from the Carlsbad Hydrologic Unit, which includes the City of Encinitas. Over the past decade, the Conservancy has overseen more than \$3 million used to map, monitor, and control invasive plant infestations. The establishment of municipal-level invasive plant policies protects the investments made removing and controlling invasive plants over the past decade, and will allow future Conservancy staff to focus on other important natural and community conservation and education efforts.

Almost anything grows in Encinitas. This, combined with the high-intensity landscape disturbances that have occurred over the past few decades, result in weeds infesting our natural areas and domestic

landscapes. The Conservancy relies on the City of Encinitas to help us assist property owners and wildland managers to control unwanted, invasive vegetation. Residents in our area will benefit by reduced landscaping costs and decreased risk of wildfire, and even visitors will appreciate our community's integrated network of expansive open spaces of native habitat. Please help us achieve these objectives by adopting the proposed Policy for Invasive Plants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Varner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Varner, Resource Management Director
San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy