

## Sample Support Letter

Date

Honorable Alan Lowenthal  
California State Assembly, District 54  
State Capital, Room 4146  
Sacramento, CA 92428-0001

Re: Cha'wot Nature Preserve

Dear Assemblyman Member Lowenthal:

This letter is sent requesting your support for the grant application of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club and the City of Signal Hill, in order that they might complete a preservation report for the proposed Cha'wot Nature Preserve. The Sierra Club and the City have been working closely with a private property owner during the last year to preserve 32 acres of hillside open space in Signal Hill. The conservancy would be named the Cha'wot Nature Conservancy, after the local Native Indian Tongva Tribe, who used Signal Hill for signal fires (Cha'wot translates into "signal fire"). The nature preserve would be open to the public, but administered by a non-profit organization.

The 32-acre hillside parcel is one of the last large parcels of vacant open space available in the area. The parcel has been historical used for hiking, walking and for viewing of nature and wildlife. Our organization... (Use this space to explain organization, goals and number of members). We currently use the 32 acre property... (Use this space to explain how your organization benefits from the preservation).

The Sierra Club and the City do not have the financial resources to preserve the 32 acres, so a private land conservancy is planned. They are requesting \$100,000 of State funding to complete the preservation report. The total amount of the report is \$160,000. The City and the property owner have committed to fund a 37% local match on the feasibility report.

The property is an industrial brownfield and requires soils investigations. The City has committed \$50,000 to complete Phase I and Phase 11 environmental investigations. The property owner has committed to \$10,000 to develop topographic and base mapping.

State financial assistance would be used to fund the appraisal, geotechnical investigation and a preservation plan. The preservation plan would examine short term and long term operational issues. The study would also include research on the potential private and public sources of funding for the land acquisition and continued maintenance of the property.

Open space is a diminishing resource in the Southeast Los Angeles County and Northwest Orange County area. We appreciate your support of this worthwhile project, which will preserve much needed natural hillside open space.

Sincerely,

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c: City of Signal Hill  
Sierra Club

**Note: A duplicate of this letter should be sent to**

Honorable Betty Karnette  
California State Senate, 27 th District  
State Capital  
Sacramento, CA 92428-0001

**Also, we want to include your letter in our application package. All support letters are due by March 1, 2001. Please send copies of your letter to:**

Ken Farlsing, City Manager  
City of Signal Hill  
2175 Hill Street  
Signal Hill, CA 91806

John Hinz  
Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 8422  
Long Beach, CA 90808