

A REASON TO SURVIVE | 200 E 12TH ST, NATIONAL CITY CA 91950  
619. 297. 2787 | WWW. AREASONTOSURVIVE. ORG

June 9, 2021

Mr. Roberto Yano  
Director of Public Works and Engineering  
City of National City  
1243 National City Boulevard  
National City, CA 91950

**RE: Paradise Creek Wetland Expansion and Park Site**

Dear Mr. Yano:


A Reason to Survive (ARTS) is a nonprofit organization based in National City that uses art as a vehicle to create positive, long-lasting change in children and youth facing major life challenges – giving them not only a reason to survive but a reason to thrive. ARTS is pleased to support Ocean Protection Council's Coastal Environmental Justice Program for Proposition 1 Grant funding request for the Paradise Creek Wetland Expansion and Park Site project in the City of National City. The project reduces greenhouse gas emissions and improves water quality near Paradise Creek Park and Kimball Elementary, and will increase the gathering area on Paradise Creek Educational Park for the community.

The proposed project will benefit National City residents and visitors by providing safe and connective access to the Paradise Creek Educational Park with the addition of a raised crosswalk on the consistently flooded 18<sup>th</sup> Street near Paradise Creek. The expanded wetland and native vegetation will reduce the urban heat island effect, and restore an area adjacent to paradise creek to a natural habitat - providing

additional areas for educational lessons and gathering events.

National City has made significant investments along Paradise Creek to restore it to its natural environment, provide areas for the community to educate themselves on the native vegetation in this area, and provide a safer access for the children walking or riding a bike to and from school. ARTS fully supports the goals of the proposed Paradise Creek Wetland Expansion and Park Site project, and strongly urges your funding support of this much needed project. We are looking forward to once again working with the City in the continued growth of the Paradise Creek Park area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Halliday', with a stylized, flowing script.

James Halliday

Executive Director, ARTS



June 28, 2021

Mr. Yano,  
Director of Public Works and Engineering  
City of National City  
1243 National City Boulevard  
National City, CA 91950  
**RE: Paradise Creek Wetland Expansion and Park Site**

Dear Mr. Yano,

The National School District is pleased to provide this letter of support for the City of National City's proposed Paradise Creek Wetland Expansion and Park Site project within our community. The National School District identifies an active partnership with parents and the community as one of the key components to creating a successful learning environment. We continue to support the City's efforts to expand Paradise Creek Educational Park near Kimball Elementary School to create educational opportunities for our students and families.

The National School District works closely with the National City Collaborative, which serves to nurture and promote the collective vision of over fifty community organizations and agencies, to guide the work of diverse agencies, and to affect systems change that will enhance the well-being of the National City community. This work is intended to build stronger families and communities throughout National City.

1. The proposed Paradise Creek Wetland Expansion and Park Site project will provide benefits in support of the goals of National School District and the National City Collaborative. Specifically, the project goals will provide the following benefits to the community:
2. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the urban heat island effect by planting trees and native, low water-use vegetation on a previously industrial area.
3. Reduce water quality and flooding issues with the creation of a wetland expansion in the tidally influenced Paradise Creek.
4. Provide safe access and connectivity with a raised crosswalk to mitigate hazards for pedestrians when flooding occurs along 18th street.
5. Build an appreciation for a clean environment by providing access to and improving the aesthetics of a currently underutilized natural resources through wetland expansion.
6. The creation of a community asset that will benefit and engage the community, including the restoration of a previous industrial property and community gathering space.

National School District, as a district and as a partner of the National City Collaborative, fully supports the goals of the Coastal Environmental Justice Program in the creation of Paradise Creek Wetland Expansion and Park Site project in the City of National City, and strongly urges Ocean Protection Council's funding support of this much needed project. Please let us know if the National School District can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Leighangela Brady, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

**NATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

1500 'N' Avenue • National City, CA 91950 • (619) 336-7500 • Fax (619) 336-7505 • <http://nsd.us>

*Creating Successful Learners... Now*

June 29, 2021

Mr. Roberto Yano  
Director of Public Works and Engineering  
City of National City  
1243 National City Boulevard  
National City, CA 91950

**RE: Paradise Creek Wetland Expansion and Park Site**

Mr. Yano,

I am writing to express support of the City of National City's proposed Paradise Creek Wetland Expansion and Park Site project. The proposed project will provide much needed benefits to the community of National City. Ocean Connectors identifies an active partnership with parents and the community as one of the key components to creating a successful learning environment, and as part of its Storm Water Management Plan is continually working to improve water quality through site improvements and engagement of the District population in environmental awareness and stewardship.

This project will add to the recently constructed Paradise Creek Park, by converting previously industrial land into an expanded wetland and community park that connect to the riparian habitat of Paradise Creek. The project will provide an area for learning opportunities for students, residents and visitors alike about the importance of preservation of natural areas such as Paradise Creek. The Paradise Creek Wetland Expansion and Park Site project will also include water quality, greenhouse gas reduction through wetland expansion, tree and native species planting, and conversion of impermeable to permeable surfaces.

Ocean Connectors has been working with the City of National City in connecting students and residents with its newly constructed Educational Park and we are looking forward to continuing this relationship into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the City of National City's efforts to improve the quality of life of its disadvantaged citizens, and we hope to see the Paradise Creek Wetland Expansion and Park Site project come to fruition in the future. Please contact me if I can provide additional information in support of the Paradise Creek Wetland Expansion and Park Site project.

Sincerely,



Frances Lang  
Executive Director  
Ocean Connectors



June 23, 2021

Mr. Roberto Yano

Director of Public Works and Engineering City of National City  
1243 National City Blvd. National City, CA 91950

**RE: Paradise Creek Wetland Expansion and Park Site**

Mr. Yano,

Paradise Creek Educational Park, Inc. (PCEPI) would like to extend its support for the City of National City's Ocean Protection Council's Coastal Environmental Justice Program Grant application for the proposed Paradise Creek Wetland Expansion and Park Site project. PCEPI is a non-profit organization committed to continued improvement of water quality, and to providing educational and participation opportunities to the communities that surround such waterways. Through our success with the restoration of Paradise Creek, we know that this habitat improvement project will provide educational opportunities for the local community.

The City of National City's proposed Paradise Creek Wetland Expansion and Park Site project exemplifies key components that we have found to be successful with the Paradise Creek project, including the following:

- Reduce water quality and flooding issues with the creation of a wetland expansion in the tidally influenced Paradise Creek.
- Provide safe access and connectivity with a raised crosswalk to mitigate hazards for pedestrians when flooding occurs along 18<sup>th</sup> street.
- Build an appreciation for a clean environment by providing access to and improving the aesthetics of a currently underutilized natural resources through wetland expansion.
- The creation of a community asset that will benefit and engage the community, including the restoration of a previous industrial property and community gathering space.

We highly recommend the funding of the City of National City's proposed Paradise Creek Wetland Expansion and Park Site project for these reasons.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Ted Godshalk

*Ted A. Godshalk*

Director, PCEPI

2143 Cleveland Avenue, National City, CA 91950

*paradisecreek@mac.com*