



November 4, 2016

South Coast Water District  
Board of Directors  
31592 West Street  
Laguna Beach, CA 92651-6907

RE: Support for District's Consideration of Gate for Ocean Vista Drive Facility

Dear Members of the Board,

The Safe Trails Coalition is writing to support the South Coast Water District's installation of a gate at the start of the District's driveway on Ocean Vista Drive. It is our understanding that this item will come before the District at its November 9, 2016 meeting (Item #8).

Collectively and along with our more than 30 supporting organizations, the Safe Trails Coalition's focus is to find the balance between responsible recreational needs and resource protection in our parks, preserves, and natural lands.

The Hobo Aliso Ridge Conservation Easement lands (Driftwood Properties, LLC) are protected through a conservation easement. An existing and historically used pedestrian trail exists on the site already. However, access by hikers, bikers, and dog walkers is occurring through the District's Ocean Vista Drive Facility and we understand there is a no trespassing sign at the entrance to the Facility. To ensure the easements remain intact, the habitats remain protected, and "public pedestrian use" continues, as outlined in the December 16, 2010 staff report by the California Coastal Commission, we offer our support for the proposed gate.

Sincerely,

Melanie Schlotterbeck  
Coalition Coordinator