

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TWO LAWSUITS THREATEN SAN ONOFRE STATE BEACH

SAN CLEMENTE – On Friday, July 28, 2017, the 12 California and national environmental organizations comprising the Save San Onofre Coalition, were named “real parties in interest” in two lawsuits – one by the City of San Clemente and another by The Reserve Maintenance Corporation, a homeowners’ association with a development in the City of San Clemente.

Dan Silver, executive director of the Endangered Habitats League and spokesperson for the Save San Onofre Coalition, issued the following statement:

“These lawsuits are an attack on one of California’s most popular state parks,” stated Dan Silver. “San Onofre State Beach is protected by the Settlement Agreement. It’s unconscionable for the City of San Clemente and The Reserve Maintenance Corporation to attempt to destroy a state park enjoyed by millions.”

“A toll road through the state park is a proposal that was rejected by the California Coastal Commission, President George W. Bush’s Commerce Department and the Regional Water Board,” added Silver. “It’s time for all Californians to again rally to save the park.”

Background:

Last November, the Save San Onofre Coalition, the Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency and the California Attorney General’s office announced a historic Settlement Agreement that ensured the permanent protection of San Onofre State Beach, the Richard and Donna O’Neill Conservancy, and other critical open space, wildlife habitat and cultural resources in the San Mateo Creek and adjacent watersheds from TCA-sponsored road projects. The Settlement Agreement ended a 15-year battle between the Save San Onofre Coalition and the TCA.

San Onofre State Beach, established in 1971 by then-Governor Ronald Reagan, is one of California’s most popular state parks, receiving more than 2.4 million visitors per year and providing habitat for 11 endangered or threatened species. San Onofre also offers low-cost recreational opportunities for working families and boasts a world-renowned surf spot at Trestles Beach.

About the Save San Onofre Coalition

The Save San Onofre Coalition comprises the following 12 California and national environmental organizations: Audubon California, California Coastal Protection Network, California State Parks Foundation, Defenders of Wildlife, Endangered Habitats League, Laguna Greenbelt, Inc., Natural Resources Defense Council, Orange County Coastkeeper, Sea and Sage Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Surfrider Foundation and WILD Coast/COASTALVAjE.

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