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Una J. M. Glass,
Executive Director

Mailing Address:
555 South Main St., Suite. 1
Sebastopol, CA 95472
(707) 829 6689

1016 Lincoln Blvd. Ste 222
San Francisco, CA 94129
(800) 550 6854

www.coastwalk.org
californiacoastaltrail.info

October 11, 2010

Chairperson Bonnie Neely and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
89 South California Street, Suite 200
Ventura, CA 93001-2801

W7a

**RE: California Coastal Commission - October 13, 2010 - Agenda Item W7a
- Public Works Plan - Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Public Works Plan**

Dear Chairperson Neely and Commissioners:

Coastwalk California is in support of the Public Works Plan proposed by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) including the modifications stipulated in the Coastal Commission staff report regarding the project.

When the Plan is implemented it will provide increased access to our coastal areas for members of the public who may not reside in Malibu, as is required by the Coastal Act. It provides low cost visitor opportunities while also addressing the need to protect and preserve this fragile area. The Coastal Slope Trail, included in the plan, can serve as another thread in the California Coastal Trail (CCT) braided trail system when it is completed. The CCT is intended to be a "through" trail that gives hikers the opportunity to move northbound or southbound along the California coastline rather than consisting of unconnected loop trails which can only deliver hikers to a single beach. The Coastal Slope Trail will help to provide these through hiking opportunities in an area where such opportunities are lacking due to the topography of the area.

This plan represents a tremendous opportunity for youth in the Los Angeles area to access nature and our coastal commons. There are thousands of young people in LA region who have never been to the beach or had a nature based outdoor experience. This Plan will provide the venue for so many more opportunities for these young people. As this Plan is implemented, Coastwalk and other non-profit organizations will work hard to make sure this wonderful venue is utilized for programs that benefit youth and others who have not had the opportunity to experience coastal wildlands in the past!

Thank you

Sincerely,

Una J. M. Glass
Executive Director