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October 14, 2008

Ruth Coleman
Director
California State Parks
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Director Coleman:

I am writing to express my concerns about the negotiations between California State Parks and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regarding federal compensation for approximately 53 acres within Border Field State Park, which the federal government has condemned for construction of additional layers of fence along the U.S.-Mexico border. These negotiations are of great interest to my constituents, and I respectfully request a comprehensive and up-to-date report on the status of these negotiations.

As you know, Californians have invested over half a billion dollars in improvements to the lands that comprise the Tijuana Estuary. The Department of Homeland Security's massive construction project is destined to have long-term impacts on this sensitive ecosystem, including Border Field State Park. It is my sincere hope that State Parks will seek full compensation from DHS during and post border fence construction.

I am also concerned about the proposed construction of a second fence across Border Field State Park's western-most mesa, which will eliminate regular public access to Monument Mesa. This monument is a place where San Diegans and other U.S. citizens have gathered for generations to visit through the border fence with family and friends in Tijuana. If there is any way to protect this site of cultural and historical significance, I would implore that such an approach be considered.

I thank you for your time and consideration on this important issue and look forward to your responses, so that I may be assured that the interests of my constituents are being represented throughout these proceedings. Please feel free to contact me in my district office at (619) 409-7690 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Denise Moreno Ducheny'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

SENATOR DENISE MORENO DUCHENY

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Ruth Coleman

10/14/08

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DMD/jmh

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