

COASTAL GREENBELT AUTHORITY

13042 Old Myford Road
Irvine, CA 92602

May 15, 2026

Regarding: City of Laguna Beach enrollment of their open space lands in the NCCP/HCP program

To: Laguna Beach City Clerk amckay@lagunabeachcity.net for distribution to Mayor Orgill and Councilmembers, Dave Kiff – City Manager, and Jeremy Frimond – Assistant City Manager

The Coastal Greenbelt Authority (CGA) is the cooperative management authority for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park. The CGA members represent the park's landowners – County of Orange, Cities of Laguna Beach and Laguna Woods, as well as local environmental organizations, and Laguna Canyon Homeowners (CANDO) who were part of the negotiations for the purchase of the Laguna Laurel Development land for parkland. The guiding documents for the CGA oversight are the General Development (GDP) and Resource Management (RMP) Plans for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and the Resource Management Plan for Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park.

CGA sent a letter to the City of Laguna Beach on January 10, 2024, encouraging the city to enroll all the city's open space land that is not managed by OC Parks in the Nature Reserve of Orange County (NROC) program. The Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) for the Central and Coastal Subregion of Orange County, California provides research, study and long-term protection for wildlife and their critical habitats, as well as regulatory assurances and economic benefits for participating landowners. Other neighboring cities – Newport Beach and Irvine have enrolled their open space lands in the NCCP/HCP program.

The Coastal Greenbelt Authority encourages the City of Laguna Beach to move ahead soon with enrollment in the program.

Please keep CGA informed of pending enrollment steps.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendation.

Mary Feграus

Mary Feграus, Chair Coastal Greenbelt Authority

cc: Coastal Greenbelt Authority Members
Jim Sulentich , jsulentich@occonservation.org

COASTAL GREENBELT AUTHORITY

13042 Old Myford Road
Irvine, CA 92602

January 10, 2024

Regarding: City of Laguna Beach enrollment of their open space lands in the NCCP/HCP program

To: Cities of Laguna Beach and Laguna Woods, Orange County Fifth District Supervisor Foley, and OC Parks Director Passow:

The Coastal Greenbelt Authority (CGA) is the cooperative management authority for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park. The CGA members represent the park's landowners – County of Orange, Cities of Laguna Beach and Laguna Woods, as well as local environmental organizations, and Laguna Canyon Homeowners (CANDO) who were part of the negotiations for the purchase of the Laguna Laurel Development land for parkland. The guiding documents for the CGA oversight are the General Development (GDP) and Resource Management (RMP) Plans for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and the Resource Management Plan for Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park.

The Coastal Greenbelt Authority has received information that the City of Laguna Beach is doing an analysis of the benefits, implications, and legal impacts of enrolling the city's open space lands in the Nature Reserve of Orange County program. The Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) for the Central and Coastal Subregion of Orange County, California provides long-term protection for wildlife and their critical habitats, and regulatory assurances and economic benefits for participating landowners. The enrollment would also include the City of Laguna Beach open space land that is managed by OC Parks as part of the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park.

The Coastal Greenbelt Authority encourages the City of Laguna Beach to proceed with enrollment in the program.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendation.

Mary Fegraus

Mary Fegraus, Chair Coastal Greenbelt Authority
cc: Coastal Greenbelt Authority Members

COASTAL GREENBELT AUTHORITY

13042 Old Myford Road
Irvine, CA 92602

May 15, 2026

Regarding: Future Rules Governing the Use of the Irvine Bowl

Laguna Beach Mayor Orgill, Councilmembers, Laguna Beach Community Development Staff, and the Irvine Bowl Policy Committee,

The Coastal Greenbelt Authority (CGA) is the cooperative management authority for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park. The CGA members represent the park's landowners – County of Orange, Cities of Laguna Beach, and Laguna Woods, as well as local environmental organizations, and Laguna Canyon Homeowners (CANDO) who were part of the negotiations for the purchase of the Laguna Laurel Development land for parkland. The guiding documents for the CGA oversight are the General Development (GDP) and Resource Management (RMP) Plans for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and the Resource Management Plan for Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park.

CGA has received very little information over the years about the Irvine Bowl issue, despite our March 2025 letter of concern specifically requesting such information and updates. Recently CGA received information of the 2025 and 2026 Irvine Bowl Committee meetings which advocated raising the sound level to 75 decibels and development of additional dates for concerts during the weeks and weekends outside the Festival of Arts time period.

On May 6, 2026 the Laguna Beach Administrative Community Director Meeting included an agenda item with the following Recommendation:

Adopt the Community Director Determination 26-0831 approving Coastal Development Permit 26-0831 for a change of the intensity of use of land as it relates to an update to the Irvine Bowl Sound Policy to allow for an increase in the sound limit at the Neighborhood Sound Boundary at and around the Irvine Bowl located at 650 Laguna Canyon Road and finding said action exempt from CEQA under Sections 15304 and 15323.

The May 6, 2026 agenda item was continued with no Public Participation or explanation of why it was continued.

Once again, CGA did not directly receive an announcement of this meeting nor advance receipt of the Staff Report, though our membership includes stakeholders and landowners whose property is immediately adjacent to the Irvine Bowl.

CGA's concerns about this Recommended Action involving a Coastal Development Permit and exemption from CEQA include these points:

- Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and the City of Laguna Beach Open Space are adjacent to the Irvine Bowl. These coastal sage areas are environmentally sensitive habitats and scenic resources and are mapped and identified as such.

- These coastal sage areas provide habitat for the Coastal California Gnatcatcher, listed as Federally Threatened and designated as a Bird Species of Special Concern by the State of California.
- The area adjacent to the Irvine Bowl is a known Gnatcatcher nesting site. The area is also part of the Natural Communities Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) program coordinated by the nonprofit, Natural Communities Coalition.
- CGA requests more information about the findings used for recommendations regarding the Coastal Development Permit and exemption from CEQA.
- Concert-related cumulative noise and activity from the Bowl within a narrow canyon may result in adverse impacts to sensitive coastal birds (e.g., California Gnatcatchers) and small mammals with the proposed increased sound decibels and cumulative number of concerts.
- A biologist familiar with these environmentally sensitive lands should be included in the review of any proposed changes and identified in any resultant report.
- Timely notifications of any further meetings about the proposed changes of off-season concerts and increased sound levels need to include the California Department of Fish & Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife, Natural Communities Coalition, OC Parks as well as the Coastal Greenbelt Authority which meets bi-monthly.

In order to address CGA concerns it is imperative that all adjacent landowners are included in the decision process and receive meeting notifications and staff reports. Before any decisions can be made regarding the Sound Policy and additional concerts, the landowners and managers of the open space land adjacent to the Irvine Bowl must have an opportunity to present their concerns and if necessary, request further studies.

CGA Members approved this letter at their May 13, 2026 meeting.

Thank you for considering our points of concern.

Mary Fegraus

Mary Fegraus, Chair Coastal Greenbelt Authority

cc: Coastal Greenbelt Authority Members
OC Parks Director Pam Passow
County of Orange Fifth District Supervisor Foley

For the City Council Members: Ann Marie McKay, City Clerk, City of Laguna Beach, amckay@lagunabeachcity.net

Dave Kiff, Laguna Beach City Manager dkiff@lagunabeachcity.net

Matt Schneider, LB Community Development Director mkschneider@lagunabeachcity.net

Shaveta Sharma, LB Community Development Department ssharma@lagunabeachcity.net
Irvine Bowl Committee

Jim Sulentich, Natural Communities Coalition jsulentich@occonservation.org

COASTAL GREENBELT AUTHORITY

13042 Old Myford Road
Irvine, CA 92602

March 25, 2025

Regarding: Future Rules Governing the Use of the Irvine Bowl

Mayor Rounaghi and Laguna Beach Councilmembers and the Irvine Bowl Policy Committee,

The Coastal Greenbelt Authority (CGA) is the cooperative management authority for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park. The CGA members represent the park's landowners – County of Orange, Cities of Laguna Beach, and Laguna Woods, as well as local environmental organizations, and Laguna Canyon Homeowners (CANDO) who were part of the negotiations for the purchase of the Laguna Laurel Development land for parkland. The guiding documents for the CGA oversight are the General Development (GDP) and Resource Management (RMP) Plans for Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and the Resource Management Plan for Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park.

Our March 12, 2025 agenda included some information about a change in the decibel level from 70 to 105 for events at the Irvine Bowl. Although the CGA members did not have a great deal of information we voted unanimously to send a letter of concern to the City of Laguna Beach.

Our concerns and suggestions include:

- Consideration of the land use now for adjacent parcels to the Irvine Bowl – City of Laguna Beach Open Space and Laguna Coast Wilderness Park. These are habitat areas and also include public trails to and within Laguna Coast Wilderness Park.
- The open space and wilderness park lands are coastal sage habitat for the Coastal California Gnatcatcher which is listed as federally threatened and designated as a Bird Species of Special Concern by the State of California.
- CEQA would have to be included in any change to the adjacent land use to this nesting area and public trails. Change of use would include sound and light levels.
- A permanent increase in the sound level is a health hazard to humans and wildlife.
- We encourage the council to retain a consultant to review all impacts of an increase in decibel level for off-Festival Season use at the Irvine Bowl. The study could include sound and light management with options for improvement.
- The CGA members are not opposed to more utilization of the Irvine Bowl during offseason-Festival times, but only that the new use be compatible with the adjacent land use.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Mary Fegraus

Mary Fegraus, Chair Coastal Greenbelt Authority

cc: Coastal Greenbelt Authority Members

OC Parks Director Pam Passow

County of Orange Fifth District Supervisor Foley

Ann Marie McKay, City Clerk, City of Laguna Beach, amckay@lagunabeachcity.net