July 25, 2017

The Honorable Jim Fraiser
Assemblymember – District 11
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0014

S.B. 249 – Allen: Off-highway motor vehicle recreation

Dear Assemblymember Fraiser,

I am sending this letter on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Willis Linn Jepson Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), to urge your SUPPORT for S.B. 249 – Allen, which renews and reforms the Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation Program. CNPS is dedicated to celebrating California’s native plant heritage and preserving it for future generations. The Willis Linn Jepson Chapter represents all CNPS members residing in Solano County.

The OHV Recreation Program sunsets at the end of this year. This provides the Legislature and the public an opportunity to comprehensively review this program and determine if reforms are needed. S.B. 249 extends the OHV Recreation Program to January 1, 2023 and makes needed reforms to address on-going impacts to natural resources from OHV use.

Currently, the OHV Division devotes insufficient resources to keeping OHV users on established trails. Illegal OHV trails are created within existing State Vehicle Recreation Areas and on adjacent lands. Similar illegal OHV use occurs on and around OHV facilities that are funded by grants from the OHV Recreation Program, but operated by federal and local agencies. S.B. 249 contains reforms in funding, planning, management and monitoring of OHV facilities. It also reforms reporting requirements on the use of OHV facilities. Implementation of these reforms will help address the ongoing resource degradation caused by illegal use of OHVs.

Your support for S.B. 249 will allow continuation of the OHV Recreation Program in a more responsible and sustainable manner.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Goetz, President
Willis Linn Jepson Chapter
California Native Plant Society

Cc: Senator Ben Allen