



June 2, 2021

Assemblymember Phil Y. Ting
Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Richard Bloom
Chair, Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy, and Transportation
State Capitol, Room 2003
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT Patterson Budget Request for Camp Fresno

Dear Chair Ting and Chair Bloom,

Please accept this letter on behalf of **Youth Leadership Institute (YLI)** in support of Assemblyman Jim Patterson's \$5.3 million budget request for desperately needed capital improvements to Camp Fresno in the Sierra National Forest.

Camp Fresno is a mountain getaway near Shaver Lake, which has been enjoyed by families and community groups for decades. It is currently closed due to the mounting costs of necessary facility upgrades and removal of numerous trees impacted in the massive statewide tree die-off.

Bringing students from local schools, underserved and underrepresented youth, and other marginalized communities to the camp is a major priority for the City of Fresno.

Invitations to local school districts and Community Benefit Organizations like the Boys & Girls Club, Fresno Barrios Unidos, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Fresno Jakara Movement, Youth Leadership Institute and The Fresno Center have already been extended.

YLI serves young people across Fresno County who come from underserved communities, many of whom qualify for free and reduced price school meals and who without community programs through Camp Fresno would not have the economic means to access and benefit from opportunities like this one. Moreover, this would provide an opportunity for young people to access the Sierra National Forest, benefit their health and wellness, and as evidence shows, build resiliency.



Under current circumstances, it could take 10-15 years to see this project completed. The addition of funds requested could mean completion in as little as one year.

Given the incredible benefit Camp Fresno will deliver to the Central Valley and its Community Benefit Organizations, I am respectfully requesting that the Assembly Committee on Budget appropriate \$5.3 million for the Camp Fresno capital improvement project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patricia Barahona

Chief Executive Officer

Youth Leadership Institute

700 Van Ness Ave., Suite 014

Fresno, CA 93721