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I felt the need to send a letter regarding the announcements that I heard about today. I really hope that you all take the time to read these words, along with the thousands of others that I'm sure you're receiving, and that you can feel the emotion behind them.

Everyone has a "happy place", right? That place that, no matter what BS life has thrown at you, just sets your mind at ease. The spot where you sleep better, where you FEEL better, where even the food tastes better – because everything in that place is associated with a good memory. It's a subconscious reaction - that goofy, elusive smile is displayed across your face and there's nothing that you can do to stop it, but it's alright, you don't even want to stop it. In fact, you ENJOY it. Let's admit it, being genuinely happy and feeling relaxed and at ease in a world that never stops - well there aren't enough places that illicit those types of emotional reactions. We need MORE places where the constant noise of the world melts away, where time spent with those most important to us is QUALITY TIME. Where memories are made, where pictures are taken – and those pictures get passed around which spread smiles across the faces of all in their path. Where videos are posted that immerse the viewer in the Pismo environment – spreading that feeling, the one that provides the tingly, butterfly feeling in the tummy because even just experiencing it vicariously makes people happy. How many things in our hectic, stressful lives actually provide that much needed break??! Not enough, that's one thing that I know for sure. It seems that everywhere we look we are bombarded with negativity. Turning on the TV brings us stories of doom and gloom, logging in to any social site displays rants and raves about the horrible state of our world. Is it too much to ask for just a few special, untouched spots? Just a couple of sacred spaces where the hustle and bustle can be shed for a small moment in time? I don't think it is. In fact, I think that those requests should actually become DEMANDS. I think that happiness is in short supply so, when it's found, we should hold on to it TOO tightly. We should treat it as we would anything special to us. We should FIGHT FOR IT. Now, my lead up may seem dramatic to some, but I'd be willing to wager that those who would feel that way haven't experienced the Oceano Dunes in the ways that I have. It was the first place that I ever truly LIVED – by that I mean the first place that I was ever really ALIVE. It was a culmination of so many important moments in my life. Pismo made me realize that living – REALLY BEING ALIVE – was, well, it was REALLY real! There WERE places that existed where you transformed in to this version of yourself that you'd always envisioned. It changed me. Finding this place, experiencing what the Oceano Dunes had to offer, it really changed me. My first visit was in September of 2014 – which wasn't that long ago. Some people have been lucky enough to experience the dunes for much longer, my husband is one of those people. He's been riding in the Oceano Dunes for close to 20 years. I can actually see a physical change in him as we're making the trek – the closer that we get this

more relaxed he becomes. His smile becomes an easy thing, his shoulders relax, he becomes – as I like to call him – “Pismo Darin”. I know that may seem silly to some, but to me it’s not meant as a joke. It just serves as another example of why we NEED the dunes to remain open. I want everyone to experience that “Pismo feeling”. It’s amazing! Hard to believe that there exists a place where the average Joe can visit, where you can come as you are. Where there are no requirements besides a desire for adventure – and who doesn’t have that?? I don’t want to see it taken away. I don’t want anyone to miss out on their chance to experience the feelings that my family and I have been lucky enough realize. I have taken my sons there, I have been able to give them a gift that I didn’t receive until much later in my life. And guess what? They LOVE it. On each trip, even before we pack up to head home, they’re asking when we’ll be back. Now THAT is something magical, especially in today’s day and age where getting your kids to spend time with you – I mean REAL, QUALITY TIME – is a feat. Now, imagine, dragging your children off for a few days, away from the world, only to have them REQUEST a repeat! WHAAAATTTT?!? Yeah, that’s Pismo to me. THAT’S the Dunes. It’s all that I’ve said and SO much more, because I don’t really have the words – it’s all feelings and mushiness. Hopefully it comes across, hopefully I have relayed the urgency that I feel when I hear of the pending closures. Please don’t let this happen, please allow the dunes to remain open so that others can experience what it feels like to be alive. Please allow more people to create the memories that I have been lucky enough to create. And, here’s the selfish part, please let me have my happy spot! I’ve just recently discovered this place, this feeling. I can’t imagine not having it now.

Thank you for your time,

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