



Channel Islands

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 12, 2022

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93009

Dear Members of the Board,

On behalf of CSU Channel Islands, it is with great enthusiasm that I offer this letter of support to name the Lewis Road Park located in front of the Growing Works Nursery in Camarillo in honor of retiring County Supervisor Linda Parks. She has been a champion for parks since her tenure on the Thousand Oaks City Council where she sponsored the “Parks Initiative” that preserves open space and parkland in Thousand Oaks. She has also been a longtime advocate for mental health issues, having served on the Ventura County Behavioral Health Advisory Board for fifteen years and working to establish many vital programs within the County that address the needs of those with mental health challenges.

One such program is the Growing Works Nursery, a non-profit nursery that provides horticultural therapy and job training for people with mental health challenges. She was instrumental in creating public and private partnerships and coordinating the development of the County’s Lewis Road property for Growing Works that includes a mental health rehabilitation center, housing for vulnerable populations including older adults with mental health challenges, and the 2-acre park. When Supervisor Parks started Growing Works on the Lewis Road property, she incorporated the participation of several CSUCI programs including the Psychology Department and she also has been a long-standing Site Authority member helping to usher in the University Glen Phase 2 affordable senior housing units.

By naming this park in her honor, the County would preserve and celebrate her legacy as a strong advocate for both open space and mental health.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Yao'.

Richard Yao, Ph.D.
President

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