



August 9, 2006

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Returning to Santa Rosa Island

Dear Neighbor,

I recently had the opportunity to return to beautiful Santa Rosa Island, part of Channel Islands National Park. Even though the island is 25 miles south of Santa Barbara and 40 miles west of Ventura, it remains beautifully rustic and isolated, with just a handful of manmade structures. The visit confirmed my belief that Santa Rosa is one of the jewels of the National Park System.

Unfortunately, taxpayers—who paid \$30 million for the island in 1986—are denied access to almost all of Santa Rosa for four or five months of the year, while a lucrative private hunting operation arranges trophy hunts of non-native deer and elk. A court settlement guaranteed that the private hunt would be phased out by 2011, but Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.) inserted a provision in the recent defense authorization bill to maintain the hunt indefinitely, under the guise of providing trophy hunts for paralyzed veterans. Actually, the Paralyzed Veterans of America—the group Rep. Hunter claimed supported his idea—opposes the plan as “not viable,” because of Santa Rosa’s rugged terrain and isolated location.



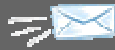
National Parks should be open to all of us, not set aside as private hunting grounds. I am pleased to report that on August 3, the Senate unanimously passed a resolution (S. Res. 468) that strongly supports full public access to the island. I will continue to fight to ensure the public's access to Santa Rosa. Please feel free to pass along this message to your friends, who can sign up for future email updates on my work in Congress by [clicking here](#).

Sincerely,

Lois Capps

Member of Congress

P.S. If you would like to see or read more about my trip to Santa Rosa Island, you can [watch KEYT's story](#) or read the [Ventura County Star's article](#). You may also want to read this [Los Angeles Times editorial opposing Rep. Hunter's proposal](#).



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Washington, D.C.
1707 Longworth House
Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3601

Santa Barbara
1216 State Street, Suite
403 Santa Barbara, CA
93101
Phone: (805) 730-1710

San Luis Obispo
1411 Marsh Street, Suite
205 San Luis Obispo, CA
93401
Phone: (805) 546-8348

Oxnard
141 South A Street, Suite
204 Oxnard, CA 93030
Phone: (805) 385-3440

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