Elkhorn Slough Foundation

Conserving and Restoring Elkhorn Slough and its Watershed

December 29, 2003

Paul Morabito
Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Morabito,

I write this letter to express the Elkhorn Slough Foundation's strong support of the proposal to your agency entitled "Advancing Central Coast Collaboration for Land Conservation." This is an important initiative that deserves funding. The central coast of California faces pressing conservation concerns and many effective conservation organizations that can be unified to face these concerns through the proposed work.

In particular, we hope that the collaboration project will help build constituents to further conservation efforts in our area. The funding requested will also help to: network regional conservation practitioners, focus and prioritize conservation priorities, support wildlife linkages, characterize and protect agricultural economies of scale, and assist regional recreational planning efforts.

We look forward to working with this project by employing our staff's expertise in geographic information systems analysis and training and outreach in landscape-level conservation science.

Sincerely,

Mark Silberstein
Executive Director
Elkhorn Slough Foundation

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Elkhorn Slough Foundation office is located on the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
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The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County
P.O. Box 91830, Santa Barbara, CA 93190
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November 25, 2003

Paul Morabito, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

RE: Central Coast land trust collaboration

Dear Chairman Morabito:

The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County strongly supports the Coastal Conservancy staff recommendation to provide a matching grant to the Greenbelt Alliance to promote collaboration among Central Coast land trusts.

Better communication, training, mapping and on-going discussion among the several Central Coast land trusts can only serve to improve the vision, pace and quality of land conservation on the California Central Coast. Because of the travel distances and the local land trusts' already overwhelming workloads, this important collaborative effort will not occur unless it is staffed and funded with some outside assistance.

The staff and board of the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County will do our part to establish and build a meaningful vehicle for land trust collaboration on the Central Coast, with the much appreciated support of the Coastal Conservancy.

Sincerely,

Michael Feeney
Executive Director

Sempervirens Fund

Drawer BE, Los Altos, CA 94023-4054
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e-mail: redwoods@sempervirens.org
www.sempervirens.org

Preserving redwood lands since 1900

January 6, 2003

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Paul Morabito, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Morabito:

On behalf of the Sempervirens Fund, I am pleased to support a proposal from the Bay Area Open Space Council entitled "**Central Coast Regional Collaboration**".

The Central Coast of California has a breathtaking diversity of lands that warrant protection – redwood forests, agricultural fields, rolling grasslands and beaches. There are a number of nonprofits and public agencies working in these landscapes. However, there is no regular coordination or communication between us. Not only do we miss the opportunity of learning from one another or coordinating on projects, but we also lack the forum in which to develop or implement regional initiatives, such as a regional conservation plan or funding measures.

For some time, other organizational leaders like myself have discussed the possibility of beginning a regional collaboration. The initial projects proposed include identification of what has been protected, developing a regional vision and goals, creating a forum for our regular communication and learning opportunities.

The value of regional collaboration has been demonstrated in other areas of the state. Due to the scope of the Sempervirens Fund's activities, I am also a member of the Bay Area Open Space Council. That regional collaboration of conservation organizations has accomplished much for the Bay Area. I am pleased that BAOSC is able to help us initiate similar activities in the Central Coast.

I encourage your support of this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Brian Steen

Brian Steen
Executive Director

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

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President
Audrey C. Rust

January 27, 2004

Paul Morabito, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Central Coast Regional Collaboration

Dear Mr. Morabito:

On behalf of the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), I am pleased to support the proposal entitled **"Central Coast Regional Collaboration".**

California's Central Coast contains an incredible diversity of working landscapes. Oak woodlands, rolling grasslands, redwood forests, prime agricultural lands, and scenic beaches interlace throughout the Central Coast, providing important wildlife habitat, recreational experiences, and food production opportunities. Approval of the Regional Collaboration proposal will enable Central Coast land trusts to better protect these rich lands by providing an avenue for increased coordination and information sharing.

The Greenbelt Alliance and its Bay Area Open Space Council (BAOSC) branch are well qualified to administer a collaborative effort for the Central Coast. Due to POST's area of operation, we are active participants in the BAOSC and have benefited greatly from this regional collaboration that has accomplished a multitude of Bay Area land conservation goals. With the support from the Coastal Conservancy, I am hopeful that the Central Coast collaboration could grow to be as effective.

We would deeply appreciate your support of this critical proposal.

Sincerely,

Audrey C. Rust
President

3000 Sand Hill Road, 4-135
Menlo Park, California 94025
Tel: (650) 854-7696
Fax: (650) 854-7703
www.openspacetrust.org

EXHIBIT 1: Letters of Support

LAND TRUST OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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Oliver Wright

Executive Director
Laura Perry

WE DO NOT INHERIT THE LAND FROM OUR ANCESTORS, WE BORROW IT FROM OUR CHILDREN.

January 23, 2003

Paul Morabito, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

RE: Central Coast Collaboration

Dear Mr. Morabito:

The Land Trust of Santa Cruz strongly supports the proposal before the Coastal Conservancy to provide funds for a project to promote collaboration among Central Coast land trusts.

The proposed project could advance the effectiveness of land conservation efforts in the Central Coast region. There are numerous organizations and processes working to protect the lands and natural resources of statewide importance. However, we need organized communication opportunities, mapping and a process to develop a regional vision for land conservation in the Central Coast. No single organization can perform this work for us – it needs to be a collaborative effort that all the organizations interested in land conservation participate in advancing.

The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County is pleased to support this important effort, and we plan to actively participate in the collaboration. The Coastal Conservancy is a very important partner in protecting the Central Coast, and we encourage you to review and support this project.

Sincerely,

Laura Perry

Laura Perry
Executive Director

BIG SUR
LAND TRUST

January 26, 2004

Paul Morabito, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Morabito:

On behalf of The Big Sur Land Trust, I am writing in support of the Bay Area Open Space Council's proposal, "**Central Coast Regional Collaboration.**"

Conservation organizations working on the Central Coast have made significant progress in pursuing their generally compatible missions of conserving valuable lands and waters. However, in a time of shrinking resources and increasing land use pressures it is crucial that these nonprofits improve not only their efficacy but also their efficiency.

The regional collaboration plan proposed by Bay Area Open Space Council addresses this by allowing conservation partners on the Central Coast to pool resources, experience, and relationships to advance a regional vision and strategy for land conservation. The need for coordination at this level is recognized not only by the nonprofit organizations but also by public agency partners. All partners agree that the time is ripe to advance this important initiative.

The Big Sur Land Trust has been at the forefront of discussions related to this initiative and we expect to play a key role in the effort. We also are committed to contributing matching funds that can be used to realize the vision and goals of the collaboration.

Conserving the Central Coast is an effort deserving of as much support as we can build. By working together, we believe the conservation organizations can create a promising future for new land protection and stewardship along the Central Coast.

Thank you for your consideration of this timely and valuable project.

Sincerely,

Bill Leahy
Executive Director

P.O. Box 221864 Carmel, CA 93922 t:831-625-5523 f:831-625-0716 mail@bigsurlandtrust.org www.bigsurlandtrust.org