

**EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support**

***Regional Open Space***

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT  
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

January 8, 2003

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

Subject: Support for Bay Area Open Space Council Grant Proposal

Dear Mr. Morabito:

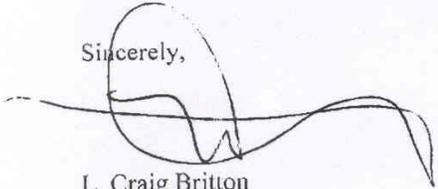
The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) is pleased to support the Bay Area Open Space Council's proposal to the Coastal Conservancy to conduct a feasibility study in preparation for a much needed *Upland Habitat Goals Report* for the San Francisco Bay Area.

MROSD works with dozens of other organizations through the Bay Area Open Space Council (BAOSC) to improve the resources for and effectiveness of land conservation efforts throughout the region. Individually, many of us protect land with significant habitat resources. However, there is no regional plan outlining the goals for protecting upland habitat resources. Consequently, land conservation agencies such as ours are making decisions daily without a regional understanding of the impacts to these precious resources.

The *Upland Habitat Goals Report* proposes to rectify this situation by focusing on the identification and characterization of core habitat areas and critical habitat linkages. Regional knowledge of this information will be invaluable to the activities of MROSD and our sister organizations. Additionally, the reports's regional scope will enhance our collective ability to compete for existing government funds by forming state and federal funding priorities, and the report promises to help streamline certain funding processes by some funders.

The project will have region-wide benefits, and is already generating a great deal of excitement among council members. BAOSC is well-suited and capable of carrying out this project. It has always undertaken focused, creative and useful projects, and I am confident this proposal will continue that tradition. I encourage you to award this grant request for \$16,500 to perform the initial feasibility study.

Sincerely,

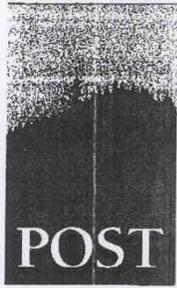


L. Craig Britton  
General Manager

LCB/ec

GENERAL MANAGER:

## EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support



# Peninsula Open Space Trust

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January 7, 2004

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

### Re: Bay Area Open Space Council Proposal

Dear Mr. Morabito:

On behalf of the Peninsula Open Space Trust, I am pleased to support the Bay Area Open Space Council's proposal entitled "**San Francisco Bay Area Upland Habitat Goals**".

The project goal is to identify and characterize core habitat areas and critical habitat linkages between them. The first phase of reconnaissance is to identify existing information, key questions, research strategy and the necessary participants. The second phase of implementation will result in the upland habitat goals report.

It is critical that we gain a better understanding of habitat areas and linkages in the Bay Area. This would have numerous benefits to organizations like POST who are actively acquiring properties by informing our planning processes of regional goals. Also, this project may streamline the acquisition process in some cases by reducing the need for detailed biological assessments of individual properties.

In the Bay Area, we have seen the demonstrated value of available, well-articulated regional information and priorities for developing statewide databases and priorities. For example, the *Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals* has proven invaluable for identifying priorities for wetland acquisitions. I am confident that BAOSC's project will prove equally advantageous in identifying the upland habitat resources that are important both within the region and from a statewide perspective.

We encourage your support of this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Audrey C. Rust  
President

## EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support



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nature.org

January 7, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Morabito:

On behalf of The Nature Conservancy, I am writing in enthusiastic support of the proposal by the Bay Area Open Space Council to carry out the first phase of an upland habitat goals analysis for the San Francisco Bay Area.

This is an important project that will assist the nonprofit land trusts and public agencies working in the Bay Area to identify and protect upland terrestrial habitat and linkages between this very important type of habitat and the wetland habitat that is more commonly associated with the Bay. Both types of habitat are essential elements of the greater San Francisco Bay ecosystem.

The Nature Conservancy firmly believes in science-based conservation planning to guide our own and our partners' conservation efforts. This planning is instrumental in providing a scientific blueprint for success and building consensus for a sound conservation vision and effective use of limited resources.

We are very excited about this project and plan to actively participate in it. We encourage your favorable consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Robin Cox  
Senior Planner