

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

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WESLEY CHESBRO
SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT



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JOINT COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET

April 14, 2004

Mr. Paul Morabito
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Morabito:

I am writing in support of Sonoma County Regional Parks Department's application for grant funds. The purpose of the fund request is to perform geotechnical studies at Sea Ranch to assist the County in assessing options to repair the trail on the bluff that slipped into the Pacific Ocean last year.

In the summer of 2003, the Bluff Top public trail at Sea Ranch became unstable and collapsed below the cliff. The public trail has been closed since that time to ensure public safety. The closure of the trail to Walk-On beach has significantly impacted the general public by denying access to ¼ mile stretch of beach on the Sonoma Coast and a speedy resolution would be highly desirable.

I highly recommend supporting Sonoma County Regional Parks Department's grant request to ensure a solution for public access to the Sonoma Coast in this area. If I can be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

WESLEY CHESBRO
State Senator, 2nd District

WC:lf

cc: Philip Sales
✓ Jeff Melby

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

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VALLEJO, CA 94590
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SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
TEL (707) 576-2771
FAX (707) 576-2773

710 E STREET, SUITE 150
EUREKA, CA 95501
TEL (707) 445-6508
FAX (707) 445-6511

1040 MAIN STREET, SUITE 205
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SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
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FAX (707) 463-5773
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FAX (707) 445-6607

Assembly California Legislature



PATTY BERG
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RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

April 16, 2004

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

Dear Chairman Morabito:

I am writing in support the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department's request for grant monies to fund further geological and structural studies in the Sea Ranch area.

In the summer of 2003, the Bluff Top public trail at Sea Ranch became unstable and collapsed below the cliff. Since that time the public trail has been closed for public safety. The closure of the trail to Walk-On beach has significantly inconvenienced the general public.

The Sonoma County Regional Parks Department is exploring several options that could restore public access to Walk-On beach. Some of these options involve engineered solutions including constructing stairs down to the beach below the failed trail, constructing a bridge to span the slide area or various combinations of both. However, these solutions need further geotechnical and structural studies in order to accurately assess what would be the best option. Further, Sonoma County is not currently able to fund these necessary studies.

In the interest of a viable solution that would best serve everyone in the area, I respectfully urge you to approve the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department's application for grant funds at your May Board Meeting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

PATTY BERG
Assemblymember, 1st District

cc: Philip Sales, Park Planning & Design Administrator

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OAKLAND, CALIF.



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EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

Mr. Sam Schuchat
Executive Director
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland CA 94612-4170

RE: Sea Ranch Bluff Top Trail Erosion

Dear Mr. Schuchat:

This letter is being written in support of the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department's application for funding of additional geotechnical studies on how to best repair the Bluff Top public access trail at the Sea Ranch.

The Bluff Top trail, together with five other coastal access trails, was dedicated for public use in 1982, following almost a decade of litigation. This litigation resulted in the Bane Bill, which is now part of the Public Resources Code. The Sea Ranch public access trails were constructed with funding from a grant from the Coastal Conservancy in 1986.

In the summer of 2003 a section of the Bluff Top public access trail had become unstable and collapsed below the cliff. Since that time the Regional Parks Department has closed the public trail for public safety. The closure of the trail to Walk-On beach has significantly inconvenienced the general public. The public access trail and a private trail owned by the Sea Ranch Association, share the same route along the bluff in this area. Although the Sea Ranch Association has been able to reroute their trail onto the Sea Ranch commons property and their residents and guests are able to continue their enjoyment of Walk-On beach, the general public is prevented from using this route, because it is outside of the public easement

The Regional Parks Department is exploring several options that would restore public access to Walk-On beach. Some of these options involve engineered solutions either constructing stairs down to the beach below the failed trail or constructing a bridge to span the slide area. Regional Parks staff have met with staff from the Conservancy and Coastal Commission to discuss these options. Some of the solutions will involve further geotechnical and structural studies that the County of Sonoma is not currently able to fund. It is estimated that the cost of these studies and some related studies on other threatened erosion areas along the Bluff Top trail will cost \$40,000.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the Coastal Conservancy Board consider The Regional Parks' application for grant funds at the earliest opportunity.

If you have any questions concerning this application, please feel free to contact me or Philip Sales, Park Planning and Design Administrator at (707) 565-2041.

Sincerely,

Mike Reilly
Chair, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors.

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support

Santa Rosa, CA
May 12, 2004

Mr. Paul Morabito, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway 11th Floor
Oakland, CA, 94612

Dear Chairman Morabito:

On behalf of Californians Organized to Acquire Access to State Tidelands, (C.O.A.A.S.T.) I am writing to you in support of a Grant request to the State Coastal Conservancy by the Regional Parks Department of Sonoma County. The grant, a reasonable amount, is to study the problem of erosion of some bluffs at the Sea Ranch and in particular the erosion of a portion of a public access easement causing that part of the blufftop public access trail to be closed. The blufftop portion of the trail was closed by the Regional Parks Department of Sonoma County for reasons of public safety in the Summer of 2003.

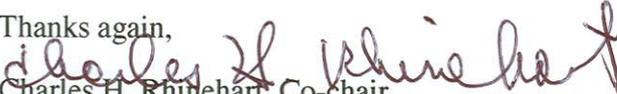
The grant funds requested, \$40,000, will be used to provide the technical information required to restructure and restore public access to Walk-On-Beach. Walk-On-Beach is a significant stretch of sandy beach, public tidelands, access to which was granted to the general public in 1980 by the Bane Bill and held in trust, for same, by the County of Sonoma.

The Regional Parks Department has designed several options for reestablishing public access to Walk-On-Beach and an appropriate option will be selected depending upon the results the study for which the grant funds would provide.

Walk-On-Beach has been closed to the general public for nearly a year. C.O.A.A.S.T. would like to emphasize the importance of this trail and its destination to them and urge that the requested grant be provided.

As the spokesperson for C.O.A.A.S.T., I thank you and your Board for the outstanding achievements of the Conservancy.

Thanks again,


Charles H. Rhinehart, Co-chair
Californians Organized to Acquire Access to State Tidelands
1475 Los Alamos Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

✓ cc. Jeff Melby, Project Manager
Philip Sales, Park Planning and Design Administrator

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