

EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support

Richard Felton

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June 16, 2004



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

Dear Mr. Morabito:

I am writing to express my strong support of the Willow Creek acquisition and restoration project. The magnificent Willow Creek property is adjacent to Sonoma Coast State Beach to the West and the Russian River to the North. This property links the shoreline to the coastal hills, redwood forest, and inland towns of Sonoma County.

Protection of this property will expand Sonoma Coast State Beach 3,373 acres. Expansion of the Sonoma Coast State Beach will link oceanfront trails with trails heading East that offer access into rolling hillsides, redwood groves, canyons, and ridges with sweeping views of the Pacific and the Russian River. Another 515 acres will be protected through conservation easements.

The Willow Creek property is a biologically diverse area comprised of coastal forest, riparian and estuarine habitat, rolling grasslands, and over three miles of fish-bearing creeks. This property provides natural habitat for many wildlife species, including northern spotted owl, osprey, and other amphibian, reptile, mammal, and bird species. Two of the creeks on the property, Willow Creek and Freezeout Creek, are tributaries to the lower Russian River that support habitat for steelhead trout and Coho salmon. Acquisition of the Willow Creek property will link over 13,500 acres of protected land in Sonoma County, safeguarding an important wildlife corridor in this resource-rich area.

As always, your support for this project when it is considered for funding by the State Coastal Conservancy, would genuinely be appreciated. Thank you for your attention to this request. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Wesley Chesbro
Wesley Chesbro
State Senator, 2nd Senate District

WC:bf

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