Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District
2020 Barlow Lane - Sebastopol, CA 95472 - Phone (707) 823-4662 - Fax (707) 823-4608

March 24, 2005

Mr. Richard Retecki
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Richard:

I am writing in support of Sonoma Land Trust's proposal for the *Estero Americano Preserve Erosion Control and Vegetation Management Project*. Sonoma Land Trust's Estero Americano Preserve is an important natural and community resource and the Gold Ridge RCD would very much like to see the activities described in the proposal occur.

The road work described in the proposal has been developed with Pacific Watershed Associates, a very credible organization, as you know. The work will significantly reduce the erosion and sedimentation from the roads and address some road-related gullies as well. The described vegetation management plan will build on work they have begun with the NRCS and will be a good demonstration of the compatibility of livestock and natural resource management.

Gold Ridge RCD shares the land trust's concerns about the large erosion gully near Estero Lane. Our staff has visited the site and discussed it with the NRCS. The NRCS has aerial photos that show the growth of a large depositional feature in the Estero that seems to be the end result of this gullying. We believe this would be a priority to fix and would like to work with Sonoma Land Trust and the NRCS to identify funds to fix the problem, once a design is in place.

Furthermore, the work that Sonoma Land Trust has done and will do on this property addresses problems found on many other properties in the area. We appreciate their offer to use this as a field trip location to show other landowners in the area how to perform road maintenance and erosion control. Similarly, we and many other community groups greatly value the land trust's continued willingness to open the property to provide access for wildlife studies, water quality monitoring and other research.

The Gold Ridge RCD supports the Sonoma Land Trust's current and future plans for the property and hopes the Coastal Conservancy will continue their support of restoration and stewardship for this important community resource.

Sincerely,

Joe Pozzi

Joe Pozzi
District Manager
Gold Ridge RCD

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

LandPaths

Land Partners Through Stewardship

April 5, 2005

Mr. Richard Retecki
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Richard:

I am writing in support of Sonoma Land Trust's ("SLT") proposal for the *Estero Americano Preserve Erosion Control and Vegetation Management Project*. The continued restoration of this resource rich property and its availability for public access to the Estero Americano can only enrich the local coastal communities, both natural and human.

LandPaths and the SLT have had a strong partnership at the Estero Americano Preserve since 1997 when the two organizations convened for the first volunteer-powered work day to begin addressing sedimentation issues. This was followed the next year with the piloting of a program for at least quarterly, if not monthly, opportunities for the public to paddle and hike free of charge at the preserve. In the ensuing years, hundreds of county and north bay residents – including both adult and families of paddlers in addition to school children from Petaluma, Santa Rosa and Sonoma's west county - have accessed the beauty of the Estero Americano on foot and by kayak through outings led by LandPaths in conjunction with the SLT and Sonoma County Ag Preservation and Open Space District.

Land Paths has worked with Sonoma Land Trust on previous projects to control erosion and eradicate invasive plants as mentioned both at the Estero and at SLT's Glen Oaks Ranch. SLT's proposed upgrades to the road and repair of the erosion gullies will build upon this work, both protecting the natural resources and ensuring that the road can continue to be used to safely transport kayaks, supplies and people down to the Estero put in. In this way, the property can continue to provide that critical balance of human use and resource protection.

LandPaths looks forward to working closely with Sonoma Land Trust to develop the parameters and programs for appropriate public access for education, research and restoration activities on the project. I ask for the SCC's support of the land trust's continued stewardship of the Estero Americano Preserve.

Sincerely,

Craig Anderson
Executive Director

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

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