Exhibit 2: Watershed Center Prospectus

Turtle Island Salmon Center:
A Destination for Experiential Learning and Conservation

Turtle Island Restoration Network is writing to request the partnership of the California Coastal Conservancy to preserve a significant, creekside property in the Lagunitas Creek Watershed, which shelters one of the largest remaining run of endangered coho salmon in California, and to educate the public about the links between their own practices and protection of the watershed – and ultimately of the coast and ocean. We seek the Conservancy's partnership to enhance the site to create a unique, outdoor experiential learning center focused on conservation and restoration.

The Site: The 2-acre property contains over 200 redwood trees, a section of San Geronimo Creek with a documented coho spawning site and year-round nursery and refuge for juvenile coho and steelhead. The site is located on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, the primary conduit for visitors to both the neighboring Samuel P. Taylor State Park and the Point Reyes National Seashore. Over 2.5 million visitors travel to these two parks each year. A quiet road connects the site with popular salmon-viewing sites at MMWD's Leo Cronin Salmon-viewing Area, and the "Inkwells" where salmon jump a dramatic series of falls, as well as a well-tended fire road in Taylor State Park. Two structures currently stand on the site – a rustic house and two-car garage – which offer space for exhibits, hands-on projects, a starting point and staging ground for restoration projects, seminars and workspace for employees and interns. Additional open space property still in the hands of a private owner, which we will continue to work to acquire, will add approximately 22 acres of open space contiguous with the state park.

The Opportunity: The center will provide public education through three channels that offer new opportunities for Turtle Island and SPAWN to reach school children, volunteers of all ages and members of the public:

- Experiential Learning and Conservation
- Fish Friendly Demonstration Systems
- Environmental Action Internship program

Experiential Learning and Conservation Program: The site will provide a unique focal point for Experiential Learning and Conservation. Led by SPAWN's biologists and trained volunteer naturalists on the site, school children, volunteers of all ages and members of the public will learn about the salmon's lifecycle, the creek and connected coastal habitats, and the importance of conserving them.

These scheduled events, seminars and activities will be well publicized to members of the local community, schools, and the broader Bay Area community and restoration professionals as appropriate. The visibility and accessibility of the Salmon Center will enable SPAWN and Turtle Island as a whole to expand its volunteer program, which already engages 200 volunteers who give 4,500 hours annually and visitor programs which reach more than 1,250 students and other individuals each year. SPAWN is currently the only organization dedicated to providing regular, public education to residents, students and visitors about endangered salmon in the San Geronimo Valley of the Lagunitas Creek Watershed. This sub-watershed provides the fish with the most habitat in the system, yet is also the most impacted by residents' land use practices.

The site provides a "lens" on the habitats of the entire watershed and the impacts that currently threaten them. SPAWN's approach will engage visitors to not only learn about the endangered salmon and the creek, but to participate in efforts to restore them. Visitors will participate in valuable salmon monitoring and conservation projects, restoration of the creek and redwood grove, and collection and propagation of native plants for future projects.

Proposed improvements include:

- Outdoor Classroom: Develop a low-impact "Salmon Circle" to serve as an introductory site for programs and volunteer groups. The circle will use alternative materials to provide permanent seating for up to 40 people beneath the site's redwood trees.
- Global Garage: This feature will provide a sheltered space where adults and children can explore exhibits that highlight the watershed's natural history and conservation, and link them to global issues and environmental efforts related to water and aquatic species. We will upgrade the garage structure and create a "tool-box" of hands-on activities inside. Exhibits will be developed to bring to life the story of the salmon, demonstrate the connection between the creek and coastal habitats, and show fish-friendly visitor and resident practices.
- Wayside panels and kiosk: These interpretive features will be available to visitors at any time. Using the site as an introduction to the habitats of the watershed as a whole, a series of interpretive panels and a central kiosk will illuminate key site features including the sustainable systems (described below), redwood grove, old-growth stump and creekside habitat, as well as explaining the natural history of the salmon.
- Accessible trail: Create a wheel-chair accessible trail to the site's public exhibit spaces and demonstration systems, through the redwood grove and to the creekside habitat
- Bathroom kiosk: This amenity will also explain the functioning and care of on-site septic systems.

Fish Friendly Demonstration Systems: Wildlife agencies have identified critical impacts by local residents' land use practices on the Lagunitas Creek Watershed. The watershed's water quality is currently listed by the State as "impaired" for sediment, nutrients and pathogens, also primarily created by current residents' land-use practices. By building and maintaining Fish Friendly Demonstration Systems that will model green building practices, the Salmon Center will model real-world alternative solutions for residents. These much-needed demonstration systems will instruct residents of this watershed and others in tools to live in harmony with the creek ecosystem. When possible, projects will be constructed through community-based hands-on workshops to maximize educational value and to involve volunteers in the process. These exhibits will be fully interpreted through wayside signage, SPAWN will offer regular seminars and events to explain them to the public, and, when feasible, will station docents at the site to explain them to drop-in visitors.

Proposed Improvements will include:

- Septic System Demonstration Project: Homes and businesses in this watershed rely on septic systems to process waste. Currently, failing septic systems impact creek water quality and endanger human health and wildlife. Turtle Island proposes to develop and install a "fish-friendly" septic system that meets the highest environmental standards. The process will be

documented, and the system will be interpreted through wayside exhibits and possibly a short documentary.

- Permeable Surfaces Demonstration Project: Run-off from non-permeable surfaces causes erosion, hydrological changes that cause creeks to go dry in summer, and contributes motor oil and other toxins to the creek. Turtle Island will develop driveway and parking areas that model the use of permeable, sustainable surfaces, and will provide information to visitors and residents on how and why to use them in their own homes.
- Green Building: Building renovations will be completed using energy/water efficient appliances, products and technology (on-demand water heater, refrigerator, toilets, showers, windows, insulation, etc.), recycled, salvaged materials and products. If possible, solar panels will be installed. All of these systems will be interpreted through public seminars, informational materials and exhibit panels.
- Rain Garden - Water Catchment Systems Demonstration Project: This model project will show residents and business owners how they can capture roof run-off to ease erosion and flooding. The water can be used for gardening while benefiting the creek.
- Native Plant Landscaping: Plants will be chosen for their enrichment of the native environment, wildlife promotion and water conservation value. The choices will be explained on changeable exhibit panels and through public seminars.

Environmental Action Internship Program: The public access and visibility offered by establishing Turtle Island's headquarters at the site will enable us to offer an Environmental Action Internship program through which college students and recent graduates will work side by side with SPAWN and Sea Turtle Restoration Project staff to learn a wide variety of conservation skills including habitat restoration, research and monitoring techniques, media relations, advocacy campaign development and project development and fundraising. Each year, this expanded internship program will train six committed professionals in a wide range of skills necessary for successful conservation efforts.