



## CITY of NAPA

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
1600 First Street  
Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 660  
Napa, California 94559-0660  
(707) 257-9520  
FAX (707) 257-9522

September 26, 2006

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
Attn: Abe Doherty  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Milliken Watershed Ridge Trail Feasibility Study Grant

Dear Chairman Bosco:

The City of Napa would like to express its support for the proposed Ridge Trail feasibility study for the Milliken watershed lands owned by the City of Napa. The 2,198 acres of municipal lands surrounding Milliken Reservoir are a prime natural area, and important both in protecting the water quality of Milliken Reservoir and providing excellent habitat.

Up until 1978 the City of Napa, in cooperation with the Napa Valley Unified School District and College of Napa, operated a group camp and environmental education program for elementary school children. While funding cutbacks after the passage of Proposition 13 led to the termination of public access to the Milliken watershed, many Napa residents still recall the beauty of this area and hope that they and future generations will again be able to enjoy it.

At the same time, increased understanding of the importance of watersheds in protecting drinking water quality, combined with a greater sensitivity to the preservation of sensitive habitats and wildlife, means that any reopening of public access in the Milliken watershed requires careful study and application of best management practices. The grant requested by the County of Napa will support needed data gathering, analysis and development of an appropriate management plan.

This study will be of benefit not only for the segment of Bay Area Ridge Trail proposed for the City of Napa's Milliken Watershed lands, but should also be useful for other areas where public recreational trails are being considered for municipal water district lands.

We look forward to working in partnership with the County in undertaking this study and determining the potential for the Ridge Trail and associated recreational facilities utilizing the City's Milliken Watershed lands.

Sincerely,

Michael N. O'Bryon, P.E.  
Director of Public Works

cc: Pat Thompson, City Manager  
Phil Brun, Water Division General Manager

**COMMITTEES**  
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 BUDGET  
 JUDICIARY  
 VETERANS AFFAIRS

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 VETERANS AFFAIRS: BASE CLOSURE  
 & REDEVELOPMENT

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**JOINT COMMITTEES**  
 EMERGENCY SERVICES &  
 HOMELAND SECURITY

Assembly  
 California Legislature



**NOREEN EVANS**  
 ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTH DISTRICT

**STATE CAPITOL**  
 P.O. BOX 942849  
 SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0007  
 (916) 319-2007  
 FAX (916) 319-2107

**SANTA ROSA**  
 50 "D" STREET, SUITE 301  
 SANTA ROSA, CA 95404  
 (707) 546-4500  
 FAX (707) 546-9031

**VALLEJO**  
 1713 SONOMA BOULEVARD  
 VALLEJO, CA 94580  
 (707) 649-2307  
 FAX (707) 649-2311

**NAPA**  
 1040 MAIN STREET, SUITE 205  
 NAPA, CA 94559-2605  
 (707) 258-8007  
 FAX (707) 258-8205

EMAIL: [assemblymember.evans@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.evans@assembly.ca.gov)  
 Website: [democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/e07](http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/e07)

October 12, 2006

Douglas Bosco  
 Chairman,  
 California Coastal Conservancy  
 1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Oakland, CA 94612

In Re: Bay Area Ridge Trail Grant Application: Milliken Watershed Feasibility Study

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to express strong support for a \$60,000 grant to support Napa County's efforts to assess the feasibility of constructing the Bay Area Ridge Trail through and restoring public access into the Milliken Watershed.

There are over 120,000 acres of public land in Napa County but very little is accessible to the public. This project offers a tremendous opportunity to help restore public access to 2,198 acres of the Milliken Watershed, owned by the City of Napa, that has been rescinded since 1978. It is the single greatest opportunity to provide nature-based recreational activities in proximity to where most Napa residents live.

The feasibility study outlined in this funding proposal will enable the City of Napa and Napa County to hire the necessary experts to assist in the design of a practical trail and staging area, evaluate critical issues for the protection of water quality and wildlife habitat, and develop a detailed management plan. In so doing, the grant will lay the groundwork for the expansion of the Bay Area Ridge Trail within Napa County. Due to the natural beauty of this area, this segment of the Ridge Trail will be spectacular. It will also stimulate planning and construction of additional trail segments to the north and south.

As the Conservancy has been a longstanding supporter of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, I hope that you will look favorably on this proposal for financial support.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours very truly,

NOREEN EVANS  
 Assemblymember, 7<sup>th</sup> District

NE:am

cc: John Woodbury, County of Napa



*Napa-Solano Audubon Society*

*Post Office Box 5027*

*Vallejo, CA 94591*

October 7, 2006

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Bay Area Ridge Trail Grant Program  
Millken Watershed Feasibility Study

Dear Chairman Bosco:

The Napa Chapter of the Audubon Society is very supportive of the grant application submitted by Napa County to evaluate the feasibility of allowing nature-based recreation centered around construction of the Bay Area Ridge Trail through lands owned by the City of Napa in the Milliken watershed. We request Coastal Conservancy approval of this application.

The Milliken watershed is an ecological treasure, and the City of Napa's ownership of over 2,000 acres in the heart of the watershed has helped preserve a healthy, diverse range of habitats supporting numerous birds, mammals and plant communities. Sadly, since the late 1970's few people have had the chance to appreciate this natural abundance.

The requested grant will enable the County to hire specialists to inventory and evaluate the biological richness of the area and develop a management plan for allowing appropriate and responsible public access. Audubon is committed to protecting bird populations and species diversity. At the same time, we believe that lasting protection comes from having involved citizens who can personally experience and enjoy nature. The Ridge Trail feasibility study proposed for the Milliken watershed is important for achieving both goals.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

  
Cheryl Harris, President

Date: September 25, 2006

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
Attn: Abe Doherty  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Ridge Trail Feasibility Study: Milliken Watershed

Chairman Bosco and Commissioners:

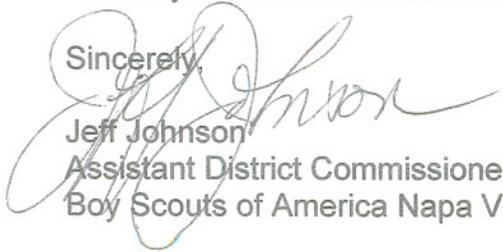
On behalf of the Napa Valley District of the Boy Scouts of America, I would like to express enthusiastic support for Napa County's request for grant funds to support a comprehensive study into the feasibility of reopening the City of Napa's Milliken watershed lands for public recreational use.

The Boy Scouts used to enjoy wonderful camping opportunities in the Milliken watershed. Milliken Creek is an unusual and highly picturesque riparian area, known to many as Napa's Little Yosemite. With its diverse mixture of Oak woodlands, conifers and chaparral, and its combination of both rugged topography, high ridges to the east and large elevated plateau to the west, the area is ideal for outdoor, nature-based recreation.

Napa's youth today have very few places within Napa County which are available for hiking, nature-study and other outdoor activities. The City of Napa's Milliken watershed lands offer a unique opportunity for outdoor recreation, with easy access for residents and visitors alike. Construction of the Bay Area Ridge Trail through the Milliken watershed would also provide a great stimulus for completion of other segments of Ridge Trail in the County. In addition, the Boy Scouts of America, Napa Valley District of the Mount Diablo Silverado Council (MDSC) are bound by Boy Scout Oath and Law to serve the environment, provide a Good Turn Daily, ask no money in return for the service, and continue to provide year around care for all the city and county of Napa. The Boy Scouts of America take great pride in their promise to be stewards of nature and leave the land better than the way we find it. They also stand proudly behind Boy Scouts national policy of leave no trace camping and use of all campgrounds and wilderness areas.

I thank you for consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,



Jeff Johnson  
Assistant District Commissioner  
Boy Scouts of America Napa Valley District MDSC



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P.O. Box 644  
Napa, CA 94559  
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Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
Attn: Abe Doherty  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

September 29, 2006

Re: Milliken Watershed Ridge Trail Feasibility Study Grant Application

Dear Chairman Bosco:

The Napa County Group of the Sierra Club wants to express its strong support for the Ridge Trail feasibility study grant request submitted by the County of Napa for the Milliken watershed lands owned by the City of Napa.

The 2,198 acres of municipal lands surrounding Milliken Reservoir are an exceptional natural open space area. This area was available for environmental education, group camping and public outdoor recreation until funding shortfalls ended public access after the passage of Proposition 13.

Napa County has strong public policies protecting agriculture and open space, but has done very little to provide public recreational access to these open spaces. There are many opportunities for improved outdoor recreation in the County, utilizing existing public lands. To realize these opportunities requires leadership, partnerships and planning. Thanks to strong public support for more outdoor recreation, the County Board of Supervisors is now taking a leadership role in building the capacity for outdoor recreation. Through this leadership the City of Napa has agreed to partner with the County in figuring out how to improve public access to municipal watershed lands. These are major and unprecedented steps for our County. The next step is planning.

The proposed feasibility study will not only help advance the Bay Area Ridge Trail and provide public access to the Milliken watershed; it will also support a much broader and very exciting expansion of public enjoyment of the outdoors throughout Napa County. Your approval of the proposed feasibility study will be a timely and critical step for the Bay Area Ridge Trail and for Napa County.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Frater  
Chair

# Berryessa Trails and Conservation

Recreation • Education • Conservation

[ckunze@ix.netcom.com](mailto:ckunze@ix.netcom.com)  
[www.berryessatrails.org](http://www.berryessatrails.org)

901 Cape Cod Ct  
Napa, CA 94558  
707.966.5211

September 26, 2006

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
Attn: Abe Doherty  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Grant Application for Milliken Watershed Ridge Trail Feasibility Study

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing on behalf of Berryessa Trails and Conservation to support Napa County's request for grant funds for a feasibility study for constructing and operating a segment of Bay Area Ridge Trail, along with connector trails and supporting facilities, in the Milliken Reservoir Watershed.

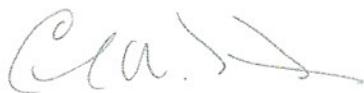
Berryessa Trails and Conservation is a non-profit organization based in Napa County. We carry out our mission to protect, enhance and further appreciation of our natural resources, in part by facilitating access to nature through support for the development of public trails.

Our vision includes an integrated regional trail network that would serve Napa residents as well as visitors from throughout northern California. As you may be aware we are currently active in developing trails in Napa County's Lake District, specifically the shoreline trail at Lake Berryessa. Another element of the trail network would be trails around the peaks and ridges surrounding the Lake, with connections to the Ridge Trail, linking Napa Valley to the Lake District.

While such linking trails are some time off, the potential for these connections has been discussed with the North Bay representative to the Bay Area Ridge Trail. A prime point of linkage would be through the Milliken watershed lands owned by the City of Napa, based on topography, the location of various other public lands, and other ownership patterns.

In short, Berryessa Trails and Conservation is strongly supportive and urges your approval of this grant request.

Sincerely,



Carol A. Kunze  
Executive Director

October 13, 2006

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Bay Area Ridge Trail Grant Program  
Milliken Watershed Feasibility Study

Chairman Bosco:

The Carolyn Parr Nature Museum operates a very popular environmental education center in the City of Napa, reaching thousands of school children and adults each year. As valuable as our museum facilities may be, however, the public also needs to be able to get out outdoors and directly experience nature. For this reason, we support the efforts of Napa County, working in partnership with the City of Napa, to provide public trails and facilities in the Milliken watershed.

Although approximately one-fourth of Napa County is open space owned by the public or protected through conservation easements, there are very few open spaces where the public can actually walk, relax and observe nature. The Milliken watershed owned by the City of Napa is a prime example of a missed opportunity: a beautiful canyon tucked in between two major ridges, with virtually no signs of civilization, yet only a short distance from where most Napa residents live and work.

By combining museum-based education programs with hands-on experiences in the field, we can ensure that future generations will know, appreciate and preserve our natural heritage.

Please give your favorable consideration to Napa County's requested grant to assist in evaluating and developing a plan for appropriate public access through construction of the Bay Area Ridge Trail through the Milliken watershed.

Sincerely,



Todd Adams  
President,  
Carolyn Parr Nature Museum