

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 651-4008

California State Senate

SENATOR
LELAND Y. YEE, PH.D.
EIGHTH SENATE DISTRICT



April 16, 2007

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: PILLAR POINT BLUFF TRAIL PROJECT

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to you in support for the Peninsula Open Space Trust's (POST's) Pillar Point Bluff Coastal Trail Project.

POST's 119-acre Pillar Point Bluff property, located on the west side of Highway 1 between the communities of Moss Beach and El Granada, is a popular destination for hikers and sightseers on the San Mateo County coast. Pillar Point Ridge, which runs across the property parallel to the ocean, provides striking views of the Pacific Ocean to the west and POST's Rancho Corral de Tierra property, soon to become part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, to the east.

In addition to its recreational values, Pillar Point Bluff features vital natural resource. It is located directly adjacent to the beaches and tidepools of San Mateo County's Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, designated as a "Marine Life Refuge" and "Area of Special Biological Significance" by the State of California. The property also features critical coastal wetlands and meadows.

Currently, worn informal trails on Pillar Point Bluff are exacerbating severe erosion on the property's cliffsides, posing a public safety hazard and negatively affecting the property's critical natural habitat. POST's Pillar Point Bluff Coastal Trail Project will include the construction of a mile of Coastal Trail and other trail segments including an ADA-accessible route to the top of the bluffs, a small 10-car staging area, installation of drainage features for erosion control, and in some cases, re-alignment of existing trails. A small boardwalk will also be constructed across a seasonal drainage to prevent trampling of sensitive wetland plants and animals by trail users. Several informal trails that currently connect the blufftop to the beach through an active landslide area will be closed and seeded with native plants, in order to reduce erosion, minimize risk to hikers, and to avoid human impacts on the harbor seal colony that frequents the reef below.

The Pillar Point Bluff Coastal Trail Project will add a critical segment to the California Coastal Trail, address public safety and natural resource issues created by current informal trails and ensure public access while protecting this critical environmental and recreational resource.

I thank you for your attention to this matter. If I or my office may be of any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my District Director, David Burruto, at (650) 340-8840.

Sincerely,



LELAND Y. YEE, Ph.D.
Assistant President Pro Tempore
California State Senate
LYY: db/s3

CC: Chris Detwiller

RECEIVED

APR 23 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Additional Letters of Support

Note: The following four letters were written in 2004 in support of the Conservancy's funding for POST's acquisition of the Pillar Point Bluffs property. These letters also supported staff's recommendation to provide funds to POST to plan the Coastal Trail, incorporating erosion control measures. Because these letters addressed the need for the Coastal Trail and erosion control project considered in the current staff recommendation, they are included with this recommendation. New letters were requested only from Senator Yee, who was not in office when the Conservancy funded the acquisition and trail planning project in 2004.

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0019
(916) 319-2019
FAX (916) 319-2119

DISTRICT OFFICE
1528 S. EL CAMINO REAL, SUITE 302
SAN MATEO, CA 94402
(650) 341-4319
FAX (650) 341-4676

Assembly
California Legislature



GENE MULLIN
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, NINETEENTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
VICE CHAIR, LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
EDUCATION
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
HUMAN SERVICES
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
VETERANS AFFAIRS
SELECT COMMITTEES:
CHAIR, AIRPORTS AND THE AIRLINE
INDUSTRY
BIOTECHNOLOGY

June 4, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Morabito:

I'm pleased to convey my strong support for the Peninsula Open Space Trust's (POST's) Pillar Point Bluff proposal to protect one of the San Mateo Coast's most valuable assets.

The 119-acre Pillar Point Bluff property, located on the west side of Highway One between the communities of Moss Beach and El Granada, is already a popular destination for hikers and sightseers on the coast, many of whom are unaware that the privately-owned Pillar Point Bluff remained unprotected. Along with its recreational values, Pillar Point Bluff features vital natural resources: it is located directly adjacent to the beaches and tidepools of San Mateo County's Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and harbors critical coastal wetlands and meadows.

Current well-worn trails on Pillar Point Bluff are exacerbating severe erosion on the property's cliffsides, posing a public safety hazard, and negatively affecting the property's critical natural habitat. Along with helping POST place permanent protection on the property's outstanding coastal bluff tops, a grant from the Coastal Conservancy will enable POST to plan a carefully designed .7-mile portion of the California Coastal Trail.

The Pillar Point Bluff project will accomplish the following:

- Protect invaluable coastal and wetland habitat
- Create the opportunity to add a critical segment to the California Coastal Trail
- Preserve one of the San Mateo Coast's outstanding scenic resources
- Address public safety and natural resource issues created by current trails
- Ensure public access to a popular recreational resource

I enthusiastically encourage your most favorable consideration of this worthy project.

Sincerely,

Gene Mullin
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, 19th District

RECEIVED

JUN 14 2004

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason, San Francisco, California 94123

IN REPLY REFER TO:
A22 (GOGA-PASE)

June 3, 2004

California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Ms. Cazorla:

The National Park Service (NPS) strongly supports the application of the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) for the grant to purchase the Pillar Point Bluff, on the San Mateo Coast.

Pillar Point Bluff is adjacent to property within our boundary at the protected 402-acre Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and the Pillar Point Radar Station. The Fitzgerald Marine Reserve is designated as a "Marine Life Refuge" and "Area of Special Biological Significance" by the State of California. The Pillar Point Radar Station is the southern coastal boundary of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA).

The nearby Rancho Corral de Tierra was recently protected by POST and its partners as part of the "Save the Endangered Coast" Campaign and is part of pending federal legislation to include in the GGNRA boundary.

Protection of the 119-acre Pillar Point Bluff property will help permanently protect and preserve our adjoining federal parkland. It is now a popular destination for coastal hikers and sightseers, but the privately owned property remains unprotected. It has vital natural resources, including critical coastal wetlands and meadows and is adjacent to the beaches and tidepools of the Marine Reserve.

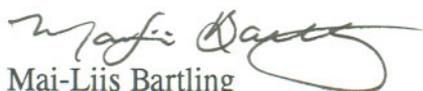
In addition, a grant from the Coastal Conservancy will enable POST to plan a carefully designed .7-mile portion of the California Coastal Trail with erosion control. Erosion problems have led to a situation that is unsafe for hikers and is damaging to the habitat.

The Pillar Point Ridge runs across the property parallel to the ocean. It provides striking views from the Pillar Point Bluff, to the reefs and tidepools of the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, and then south to the picturesque agricultural fields of the Rancho Corral de Tierra.

Our support for the POST Pillar Point Bluff proposal will help to ensure preservation and protection for our adjoining NPS protected lands and help ensure continued public access to this popular hiking but eroded coastal property.

For further information, contact Christine Powell, Office of Public Affairs, at (415) 561-4732.

Sincerely,



Mai-Liis Bartling
Deputy Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area

RECEIVED
JUN 08 2004
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Regional Open Space

June 2, 2004

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

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

Dear Mr. Morabito:

On behalf of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD), I would like to express my support for the Peninsula Open Space Trust's (POST's) Pillar Point Bluff proposal to protect one of the San Mateo Coast's most valuable assets.

The 119-acre Pillar Point Bluff property, located on the west side of Highway One between the communities of Moss Beach and El Granada, is already a popular destination for hikers and sightseers on the coast, many of whom were unaware that the privately-owned Pillar Point Bluff remains unprotected. Along with its recreational values, Pillar Point Bluff features vital natural resources: it is located directly adjacent to the beaches and tidepools of San Mateo County's Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, designated as a "Marine Life Refuge" and "Area of Special Biological Significance" by the State of California.

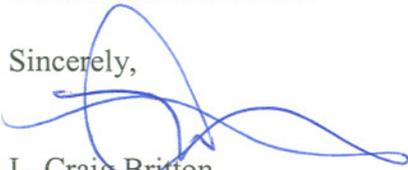
Current well-worn trails on Pillar Point Bluff are exacerbating severe erosion on the property's cliffsides, posing a potential public safety hazard, and negatively affecting the property's critical natural habitat. Along with helping POST place permanent protection on the property's outstanding coastal bluff tops, a grant from the Coastal Conservancy will enable POST to plan a carefully designed .7-mile portion of the California Coastal Trail.

This project will accomplish the following important goals:

- Protect invaluable coastal and wetland habitat
- Create the opportunity to add a critical segment to the California Coastal Trail
- Preserve one of the San Mateo Coast's outstanding scenic resources
- Address public safety and natural resource issues created by current trails
- Ensure public access to a popular recreational resource

As you know, the San Mateo coast is one of the few, precious, remaining rural coastal areas in close proximity to a major urban area, and the bluff at Pillar Point is an intrinsic part of the coastline. I encourage your support for POST's Pillar Point Bluff project to help preserve the natural, cultural, and scenic resources of the San Mateo Coast.

Sincerely,



L. Craig Britton
General Manager

LCB/ec



COMMITTEE FOR
GREEN FOOTHILLS

June 1, 2004

By FAX 510-286-0470

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

Re: Pillar Point Bluff, San Mateo County

Dear Mr. Morabito,

On behalf of the over 1300 family members of Committee for Green Foothills (CGF), I am writing to enthusiastically support the proposal by Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) to protect one of the San Mateo Coast's most important natural areas.

The 119 acre Pillar Point Bluff property, located between Highway One and the sea, and between the Seal Cove area and the Pillar Point promontory, is already a popular destination for hikers and sightseers on the San Mateo Coast. The Bluff property is a prominent geologic and scenic feature for travelers along Highway One in the El Granada/Princeton/ Miramar/Moss Beach area as well.

Along with its scenic and recreational values, Pillar Point Bluff supports extensive areas of coastal terrace prairie, considered by the California Coastal Commission to be an environmentally sensitive habitat area (ESHA). A freshwater marsh, willow riparian habitat, and a spring-fed pond on the property provide habitat for a variety of aquatic plant and animal species, including suitable habitat for the San Francisco garter snake and California red-legged frog. The Seal Cove Fault runs along the eastern edge of the bluffs, and the western boundary is located directly adjacent to the beaches and tidepools of San Mateo County's Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

Currently, the informal well-worn trails on Pillar Point Bluff are exacerbating severe erosion on the property's cliffsides, posing a public safety hazard, and negatively affecting the property's important natural habitats. Along with helping POST place permanent protection on the property's outstanding coastal blufftops, a grant from the Coastal Conservancy will enable POST to plan a carefully designed 7 mile long portion of the California Coastal Trail in this area.

This project will accomplish the following important goals:

- Protect and restore irreplaceable coastal and wetland habitat
- Help add a critical segment to the California Coastal Trail
- Preserve an outstanding scenic resource
- Address public safety and protect natural resources along current trails
- Ensure continued public access to a popular recreational area

Thank you for consideration of our views on this worthy project. We urge your approval of POST's request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lennie Roberts".

Lennie Roberts, Legislative Advocate
Committee for Green Foothills