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Assembly  
California Legislature

JOHN LAIRD  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

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May 8, 2007

Doug Bosco, Chair  
Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairperson Bosco:

I am writing to support the staff recommendation for two agenda items at your meeting in May. These two projects are the Rancho Calera acquisition in Big Sur and the San Clemente Dam removal project, both of which are located within my assembly district.

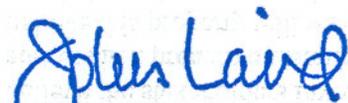
As is noted in the Board Report, efforts have been made over the last two years to bridge the communication and outreach gap between resource and conservation agencies and the residents of Big Sur. I applaud the Conservancy for taking an active role in this discussion.

The Rancho Calera acquisition is the first major public land purchase since these efforts began. I believe the stakeholders involved, including the property owners, have made strong efforts to address in a proactive manner many of the concerns raised in the past by residents. While I believe this property will serve many purposes from an ecological and conservation standpoint, I also believe the process of working with the community to achieve this goal is equally important and worthy of your support.

Additionally, the safety of the residents of Carmel Valley as well as the health of the Carmel River has long been a concern for me. As California American Water Company, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Division of the Safety of Dams review the options for the San Clemente Dam, I believe the proposed technical studies will aid all interested parties in finding the best long term solution for both the ratepayers of the Monterey Peninsula and the ecology of the Carmel River.

Because of the importance of these two projects, I am writing to express my support and ask for the Conservancy's approval at your upcoming meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely



JOHN LAIRD, Assemblymember  
27<sup>th</sup> District

JL:co

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MAY 09 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

# MONTEREY COUNTY



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(831) 657-2770 - FROM BIG SUR  
(831) 847-7695 (FAX)  
e-mail: district5@co.monterey.ca.us

March 22, 2006

KATHLEEN LEE  
AIDE TO THE SUPERVISOR

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 02510

Dear Senator Feinstein,

Please accept this letter of support for the protection of the Rancho Calera property at the Los Padres National Forest. An appropriation of \$2 million to the Forest Service from the Land and Water Conservation Fund in the FY 2007 Interior Appropriations bill is needed to conserve this critical tract of land along the Big Sur coast.

In recent years, the Forest Service and its partners in California have worked to enhance the experience of visitors to the northern gateway to the Big Sur coastline. These actions include expanding recreational opportunities, protecting habitat for wildlife and creating corridors of protected lands.

This year, the owner of the 800 acre Rancho Calera property is hoping to protect the property for future generations and protect the spectacular beauty of his property. This critical property is adjacent to Forest Service and local park lands and would link upland forests to the rugged Pacific coastline via trails and habitat corridors. In addition, the property contains over 200 acres of redwoods, including some old growth redwoods.

Big Sur is one of the most stunning landscapes in California. Protection of this property would secure an important connection between existing public lands, so that visitors may enjoy its grandeur for generations to come. There is a limited window of opportunity to secure this property, and an appropriation of \$2 million is needed in FY 2007 Interior Appropriations bill to protect this majestic land on the Big Sur coast.

Sincerely,

Dave Potter  
Fifth District Supervisor



## monterey peninsula regional park district

60 Garden Court, Suite 325 • Monterey, California 93940-5341

March 15, 2006

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein,

I'm writing to express my support for the conservation of the Rancho Calera property at the Los Padres National Forest. Your efforts to secure a significant appropriation from the Land and Water Conservation Fund in the FY 2007 Interior Appropriations would greatly assist current interests to conserve this important property.

In recent years the Forest Service and its public agency and non-governmental partners in California have worked to conserve the scenic landscape and enhance the experience of residents and visitors to the northern gateway of Big Sur. These actions have included expanding recreational opportunities, protecting habitat and watersheds for wildlife and fisheries, and creating corridors of protected lands.

This year, the 800-acre Rancho Calera property is available for conservation. This critical property is adjacent to Forest Service and regional parklands and would link upland forests to the rugged Pacific coastline via trails and habitat corridors. In addition, the scenic property contains significant natural resources including over 200 acres of redwoods.

Big Sur is one of the most stunning landscapes in California. Conservation of this property would enable an important connection between existing public lands, so that residents and visitors may enjoy its grandeur for generations to come. Because there is a willing seller and a limited window of opportunity to conserve this property, a significant appropriation from the Land and Water Conservation Fund is needed this year to preserve this majestic land on the Big Sur Coast.

Thank you, Senator Feinstein, for your consideration and support on behalf of this conservation effort.

Sincerely,

Joseph Donofrio,  
General Manager

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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General Manager

Joseph D. Donofrio  
donofrio@mprpd.org



BIG SUR  
LAND TRUST

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

March 29, 2006

Dear Senator Feinstein,

The Big Sur Land Trust expresses its support for the conservation of the Rancho Calera property in the Monterey District of the Los Padres National Forest. An appropriation of \$2 million to the Forest Service from the Land and Water Conservation Fund in the FY 2007 Interior Appropriations bill is needed to conserve this priority property.

The Big Sur Land Trust appreciates the efforts of the private landowner to conserve Rancho Calera, and we support an outcome on the land that would preserve the property's coastal prairie, redwood and mixed evergreen forest, and coastal sage scrub habitats.

Rancho Calera is situated between land owned by the Forest Service and the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District. As such, the property acts as an important habitat corridor for several animal species, including mountain lion, grey fox, and mule deer. A public trail alignment between the two public properties could be constructed that would be complimentary to the wildlife corridor.

We understand that the private landowner seeks a conservation outcome for his land that includes public acquisition. The opportunity to work with this willing landowner to serve his family's needs and the interests of the public is a rare one, and one The Big Sur Land Trust encourages your support of.

The Big Sur coast hosts biodiversity and habitat complexity of international significance. The Big Sur Land Trust respects the ability of private landowners in Big Sur to partner with public agencies in order to further the preservation goals we all share. I strongly encourage your support of a \$2 million appropriation to the Forest Service to permanently conserve Rancho Calera.

Thank you for your continued support of conservation in the Big Sur region.

Sincerely,

Susanna Danner  
Conservation Project Manager



# VENTANA WILDLIFE SOCIETY

19045 Portola Dr., Suite F1  
Salinas, CA 93908

(831) 455-9514

[www.VentanaWS.org](http://www.VentanaWS.org)

March 24, 2006

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein,

I am writing in support of protecting the Rancho Calera property at the Los Padres National Forest. An appropriation of \$2 million to the Forest Service from the Land and Water Conservation Fund in the FY 2007 Interior Appropriations bill is needed to conserve this critical tract.

My organization is the only non-profit group to release condors in California and have done so since 1997. We have the most robust database of condor locations anywhere in the state. The Rancho Calera property is strategically located for many species of wildlife, including California Condors. Condors are fairly commonly found at this property as it is an important flyway and is in close proximity to naturally occurring food supplies along the Big Sur Coastline.

This year, the 800-acre Rancho Calera property is available for protection. This critical property is adjacent to Forest Service and local park lands and would link upland forests to the rugged Pacific coastline via trails and habitat corridors. The property contains over 200 acres of redwoods, some of which have been used by condors for overnight roosting.

Big Sur is one of the most stunning landscapes in California. Protection of this property would secure an important connection between existing public lands, so that visitors may enjoy its grandeur for generations to come. Because there is a limited window of opportunity to secure this property, an appropriation of \$2 million is needed this year for this majestic land on the Big Sur coast.

Thank you, Senator Feinstein, for your work on behalf of this important project.

Sincerely,

Kelly Sorenson,  
Executive Director

Cc: Marc Landgraf, Trust for Public Land

**JOYCE STEVENS, Architect A.I.A.**  
**Box 2116**  
**Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921**

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

18 March 2006

Dear Senator Feinstein:

The acquisition by the U.S. Forest Service of the 800-acre Rancho Calera property in Big Sur would provide a critical link of public lands from the California Coast to the Los Padres National Forest. However, it will be necessary to include a \$2 million appropriation in the FY 07 Appropriation Bill. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

I have worked as a community activist in the Carmel-Big Sur area for open space preservation for over 30 years with various organizations including Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club, Monterey Bay Dunes Coalition, Hatton Canyon Coalition, Big Sur Land Trust, Fort Ord Parkland Group, Monterey Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, Carmel Open Space Task Force, Monterey Pine Forest Watch, etc., and I consider Rancho Caldera to be a very important addition to the Los Padres Forest.

It is no accident that our Central California area is still so spectacular. Decades of local conservationists from S.F.B. Morse of Pebble Beach to State Senator Fred Farr of Carmel to Margaret Owings of Big Sur and to the Big Sur Land Trust – all, and many more, have dedicated their energies to the preservation of the natural beauty of our local landscape. The Rancho Calera purchase will be another link in our preservation chain.

Thank you for your years of enlightened leadership and dedication to California's heritage.

Sincerely,

Joyce Stevens

CC: WENIGAT  
LANDGRAF ✓

**Tim Jensen**  
**1711 Mescal Street**  
**Seaside, CA 93955**

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5/10/2007

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300  
Oakland, California 94612

RE: Rancho Calera Grant to Trust for Public Lands

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I support the proposed Conservancy funding of \$250,000 to the Trust for Public Lands for acquisition assistance of the Rancho Calera property in Big Sur and urge the Board to approve the request.

I have lived in Monterey County for 30-years and worked in Big Sur for 8 of those years as a former US Forest Service Wilderness Patrolman for the Ventana Wilderness and Coastal Recreation Director for the Big Sur Unit. As spectacular as the Big Sur Coast is, there are relatively few publicly accessible vertical access trails linking the coast with the interior Ventana Wilderness. The proposed acquisition will provide the opportunity to create a unique vertical coastal public access link between Forest Service lands on the coast (Bixby Ranch) with the interior Ventana Wilderness. The proposed trail from the Bixby Ranch property to the Ventana Wilderness lies within a spectacular landscape that is rich in native and pioneer history and is as 'Big Sur' as it gets.

I thank the Conservancy for its continuing collaboration and conservation efforts here along the Central Coast and look forward to the wonderful coastal access opportunity this project will create.

Sincerely,



TIM JENSEN

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