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# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**PATRICIA WIGGINS**  
SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



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CALIFORNIA'S WINE INDUSTRY,  
CHAIR

March 20, 2008

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

## Re: North Slope Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail Project

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to strongly support Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District's grant request from the Coastal Conservancy. With this grant, Sonoma County would be able to create an exciting 4.8 miles of dedicated Bay Area Ridge trail and trailhead construction project on the north slope of Sonoma Mountain in Sonoma County that will connect several beautiful and diverse properties to Jack London State Historic Park.

Sonoma Mountain is a defining geographic feature of Sonoma County, and serves as a backdrop for Bennett Valley, Sonoma Valley, and Petaluma Valley. Most of Sonoma County's population lives within 15 miles of this very visible mountain. This trail will increase public use and enjoyment of open space and preserved land on Sonoma Mountain by adding 536 acres of open space access to the public.

Several partners have brought this worthwhile project to this construction-ready phase. The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, created by the voters in 1990, originally protected a chain of properties along the shoulders of Sonoma Mountain over several years. They then partnered with State Parks, Sonoma County Regional Parks, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and, as you know, generous support from the Coastal Conservancy to develop the trail plan, design the access road improvements and trailhead, and complete the environmental document to comply with CEQA.

There are many committed volunteers looking forward to the opportunity to offer their assistance in the construction of this wonderful outdoor asset for Sonoma County residents and visitors. For all of these reasons, I highly encourage the Conservancy's financial participation in this project. Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA WIGGINS  
Senator, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

**RECEIVED**

MAR 21 2008

COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

cc: Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District  
Maxene Spellman, Project Manager, California Coastal Conservancy

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# Assembly California Legislature



**NOREEN EVANS**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTH DISTRICT

March 14, 2008

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EMAIL: [assemblymember.evans@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.evans@assembly.ca.gov)  
Website: [democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/s07](http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/s07)

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612  
By Facsimile (510) 286-0470

In Re: North Slope Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail Project

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing in support of the \$575,000 funding request from the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District to help construct 4.8 miles of Bay Area Ridge Trail on the north slope of Sonoma Mountain that will connect several beautiful properties to Jack London State Historic Park.

Sonoma Mountain is a defining geographic feature of my community. Most of Sonoma County's population lives within 15 miles of it. The project's improvement of existing roads along with the construction of a parking lot and trailhead will increase public use and enjoyment of over 500 acres of open space and preserved land on Sonoma Mountain.

Over several years, the Open Space District has protected a chain of properties along the shoulders of Sonoma Mountain. With financial support from the Coastal Conservancy, it coordinated a multi-agency design team – including the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Bay Area Ridge Trail – to develop a plan for the new trail corridor, called the North Slope Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail. With CEQA documentation also completed, this project is ready to move forward.

I urge your support of this exciting project that will enable the members of my community and its visitors to see expansive vistas, wildflower displays, and woodland habitat just 20 minutes outside the City of Santa Rosa. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Yours very truly,

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

NE:am

cc: Andrea Mackenzie, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District  
Maxene Spellman, California Coastal Conservancy





SONOMA  
COUNTY  
REGIONAL  
PARKS

MARY E. BURNS  
DIRECTOR

March 24, 2008

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

RE: North Slope Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail Project

Dear Chairman Bosco:

Sonoma County Regional Parks strongly supports the Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District's request for \$575,000 to help construct 4.8 new miles of Bay Area Ridge Trail and a trailhead on the north slope of Sonoma Mountain. This will connect several beautiful and diverse properties, including a Regional Park property, to Jack London State Historic Park.

Most of Sonoma County's population lives within 15 miles of this very visible mountain. This project will expand public access to 536 acres of Sonoma Mountain and open expansive views, beautiful wildflower displays, and unique woodland habitats for public enjoyment.

Regional Parks is pleased to be one of several partners involved with this worthwhile project. Over several years, the District protected a chain of properties along Sonoma Mountain. We partnered with the District, along with State Parks, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, and the Coastal Conservancy, to create a trail plan. With input from trail outings and community meetings, the District completed the design and environmental review.

We are grateful for your leadership role in completing the Bay Area Ridge Trail. I encourage you to approve this grant, furthering public access opportunities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary E. Burns".

Mary E. Burns  
Director

S:\PLANNING\GRANTS\COASTAL CONSERVANCY\COASTAL CONSERVANCY 2007-08\OSD N SLOPE SONOMA MTN LTTTR SUPPORT.DOC

cc: Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager, Sonoma County  
Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District  
Maxene Spellman, California Coastal Conservancy

2300

County Center Drive

Suite 120A

Santa Rosa

CA 95403

Tel: 707 565-2041

Fax: 707 579-8247

[www.sonoma-county.org/parks](http://www.sonoma-county.org/parks)



## SONOMA COUNTY TRAILS COUNCIL

P.O. Box 14483, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Email: [sonomacountytrails@gmail.com](mailto:sonomacountytrails@gmail.com)

Web: [www.sonomacountytrails.org](http://www.sonomacountytrails.org)

March 21, 2008

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

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RE: North Slope Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail Project

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The Sonoma County Trail Council (SCTC) submits this letter in support of a Coastal Conservancy grant for an important and exciting 4.8 miles of dedicated Bay Area Ridge trail and trailhead construction project on the north slope of Sonoma Mountain in Sonoma County that will connect several beautiful and diverse properties to Jack London State Historic Park. The trail will provide numerous opportunities for hikers, equestrians, and cyclists to experience some of Sonoma County's most precious landscapes.

Sonoma Mountain is a defining geographic feature of the County, and serves as a backdrop for Bennett Valley and Sonoma Valley to the north and east and the Highway 101 corridor and Petaluma Valley to the south and west. Most of Sonoma County's population lives within 15 miles of this very visible mountain. This trail will increase public use and enjoyment of open space and preserved land on Sonoma Mountain by adding 536 acres of open space access to the public.

As you know, the SCTC strives to promote on a local level the establishment and improvement of public trails open to all non-motorized visitors. Our organization is the oldest shared-use organization in the country, and we have seen the realization of many great projects. We believe that the North Slope Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail will be a great addition to our County's trail system, and we enthusiastically endorse this project.

Sincerely,

Rob D. Helms, Executive Director  
Sonoma County Trail Council

**SHARE - ADVOCATE - STEWARD**



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

September 7, 2007

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council (BARTC) hereby recommends to the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) approval of a grant to the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (SCAPOS) for construction of a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail on SCAPOS lands and a staging area on the North Slope of Sonoma Mountain in Sonoma County. This grant would be matched with funds provided by SCAPOS and one private donation. BARTC understands that this construction will begin in Spring, 2008 and be finished before the end of 2009.

On behalf of our 3,500 members we are thankful that the Conservancy continues to support regional recreation and open space access opportunities.

BARTC is pleased to support this significant trail project that will for the first time provide public access to previously private lands in this region of Sonoma County.



Bill Long  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council



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

RE: North Slope Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail Project

Dear Chairman Bosco:

As executive director of a nonprofit organization dedicated to working with public agencies and community groups to expand public access and steward natural and agricultural lands throughout Sonoma County, I want to write in support of the current grant application for trail development on the north slope of Sonoma Mountain in Sonoma County. As you are aware, the project would connect several beautiful and diverse properties to Jack London State Historic Park, provide increased passive public access in a corner of Sonoma County mostly unseen by residents – and do so in a mountainous landscape with absolutely stunning views of the Santa Rosa Plain, Taylor Mountain and the Mayacamas to the north.

In 1997 LandPaths partnered with the former Silverado District of State Parks, the California Coastal Conservancy, the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and the McCrea Family to build 5.5 miles of new Bay Ridge Trail on Sonoma Mountain *south* of Jack London State Park. With this new trail as a catalyst the Sonoma Mountain Preservation Group worked to secure a portion of the State Hospital and cleaved it off for protection by our county's Open Space District (SCAPOSD) and to be conveyed to State Parks as an addition to Jack London State Park. This trail segment, the Sonoma Mountain Trail, will hopefully be open to residents again as LandPaths and its partners have continued to work to recover 2 miles of this trail lost in a property transaction in 2001. Combining past and future segments of the trail would create an access and habitat corridor of tremendous import.

In addition, LandPaths continues to work closely with SCAPOSD, and has for the past three years has led guided hikes across areas of public and private land on the northern flank of Sonoma Mountain to "pilot" use in this area, an activity that has resulted in scores of residents becoming enthused for opportunities of lending volunteer sweaty equity in order to construct a future trail.

I support the Conservancy's financial investment in this project, and stand ready to assist SCAPOSD, BARTC and DPR in any way at our disposal in providing for this trail gem with the over 600 women, men and children we are proud to know as LandPaths volunteers these past 11 years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Anderson".

Craig Anderson  
Executive Director

Cc: Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager, SCAPOSD  
Maxene Spellman, Project Manager, SCC  
David Hansen, Chair, LandPaths Board of Directors



1801 East Cotati Avenue  
Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609

**FAIRFIELD OSBORN PRESERVE**

6543 Lichau Road  
Penngrove, CA 94951  
707.795.5069  
fairfield.osborn@sonoma.edu

12 April 2008

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

RE: North Slope Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail Project

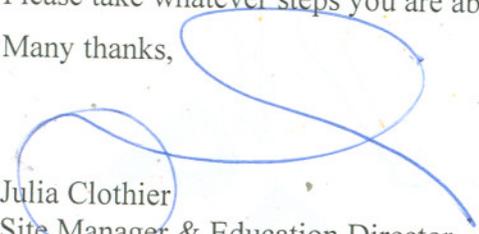
Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing as the long-time resident Site Manager of the Fairfield Osborn Preserve, a protected area adjacent to the land upon which the North Slope Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail Project is to be established. For the past 11 years, I have worked in collaboration with Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, Sonoma Land Trust and other local and regional entities to protect the northern ridgeline of Sonoma Mountain and provide for its public enjoyment.

As a lifelong environmental educator and land steward, I urge the California Coastal Conservancy to grant the funds necessary to assist in making this trail a reality. The project clearly honors both the public good and the basic principles of responsible land stewardship.

Please take whatever steps you are able to support this worthy project.

Many thanks,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julia Clothier", with a large, looping flourish extending to the right.  
Julia Clothier  
Site Manager & Education Director

**THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

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