

California State Senate

SENATOR
PATRICIA WIGGINS
SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



STANDING COMMITTEES:
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT
CHAIR
BANKING, FINANCE &
INSURANCE
ENERGY, UTILITIES &
COMMUNICATIONS

SELECT COMMITTEES:
CALIFORNIA'S WINE INDUSTRY,
CHAIR

December 20, 2007

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

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to express my strong support of the Land Trust of Napa County's proposal to develop a preliminary management plan for lands at the northeast edge of the Napa Valley. This picturesque area includes Robert Louis Stevenson State Park and the sensitive wilderness area to the south that is the focus of the Land Trust's conservation efforts.

The undisturbed forests, ridges and hillsides in and around Robert Louis Stevenson State Park provide scenic views, clean water, recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat that visiting tourists and residents of Napa County rely on. Protection of these resources is critical to the health and well-being of residents and businesses of Napa County and for the enjoyment of visitors from throughout the world.

Grant funding from the State Coastal Conservancy is essential for creating an initial management plan for this area. I urge you and the State Coastal Conservancy Board to join me in support of the Land Trust as it plans for protections and recreational uses on the sensitive lands in and around Robert Louis Stevenson State Park.

Sincerely

PATRICIA WIGGINS
Senator, 2nd District

COMMITTEES
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS, CHAIR
BUDGET
ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY & TOXIC
MATERIALS
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEES
BUDGET #3: NATURAL RESOURCES

SELECT COMMITTEES
CALIFORNIA WINE, CHAIR
FOSTER CARE

Assembly California Legislature



NOREEN EVANS
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTH DISTRICT

January 14, 2008

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

Dear Chairman  Bosco:

I write to urge your support for \$1 million in grant funds to help protect Duff Ranch in Napa County and for \$290,000 to support the development of an interim plan to manage the combination of this property and adjacent parcels as part of an expanded Robert Louis Stevenson (RLS) State Park.

With seven California habitat types, the 1,120-acre Duff Ranch property is biologically rich. In fact, studies conducted by the Nature Conservancy in 2001, identified this property as a high-priority biodiversity target for protection. Furthermore, as it is located in the Napa Coast Range of California adjacent to RLS Park, its stunningly beautiful swaths of open space are poised for public access.

Acquisition of Duff Ranch represents the critical missing link in ongoing efforts to enlarge RLS State Park from 5,200 to over 12,000 acres. The Land Trust of Napa County has been working diligently to protect this area by negotiating conservation easements with private landowners and purchasing and holding key properties, including the 3,045 acre Wildlake Ranch it purchased in 2006. Since that time, the Trust has noted the growing popularity of this area for public recreation which underscores the need for a plan that outlines appropriate uses of the land.

Opportunities such as this are extremely rare and must be seized. I urge you and the Board to support these proposals. Thank you for your consideration of my views. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Yours very truly,

NOREEN EVANS
Assemblywoman, 7th District

NE:am

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 94590
(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
Website: democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a07



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Ruth G. Coleman, *Director*

Diablo Vista District
845 Casa Grande Road
Petaluma, California 94954
707-769-5652

December 21, 2007

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

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to express our support of the Land Trust of Napa County's proposal to develop a preliminary management plan for lands at the northeast edge of the Napa Valley. This area includes Robert Louis Stevenson State Park and the sensitive wilderness area to the south that is the focus of the Land Trust's conservation efforts.

A Management Plan for this area is essential for proper oversight and protection of the outstanding variety of plant and animal species typically found in this region as well as providing recreational opportunities for the visiting public.

I urge you and the State Coastal Conservancy to join us in support of this outstanding effort.

Sincerely,

Donald P. Monahan
District Superintendent

cc: John Hoffnagle, Napa Land Trust



**Napa County Regional Park
and Open Space District**

John Woodbury
General Manager

January 22, 2008

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

RE: Land Trust of Napa County Grant Request
Robert Louis Stevenson State Park and Vicinity Interim Management Plan

Dear Chairman Bosco:

The Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District strongly supports the above-referenced grant request to prepare an Interim Management Plan for the more than 12,000 acres of protected open space land between Mount St. Helena and Angwin in northern Napa County. The area is perhaps the most stunningly beautiful and biologically diverse area of open space in the North Bay.

The proposed plan is critically needed to figure out how to both protect the resources of this area and make it accessible to the public for appropriate recreational and interpretive activities. Our District is eager to participate in the preparation of the plan. On behalf of Napa County, we manage the Oat Hill Mine Trail, which provides the primary public access route for this exceptional area. The proposed plan will assist the land trust, State Parks and ourselves identify management options, their costs and benefits, and appropriate roles for each of us.

Existing public lands in the area have never had the benefit of a management plan, and current management is minimal. In addition, the citizens of Napa County are eager to be able to enjoy the rugged beauty of the Wild Lake and Duff acquisitions by the Land Trust. For these reasons, this is a timely and important proposal

Thanks you for your consideration of this grant request.

Sincerely,

John Woodbury

RECEIVED

JAN 24 2008

**COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.**



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

10 January 2008

Dear Chairman Bosco:

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council (Ridge Trail Council) strongly supports the Land Trust of Napa County's (Land Trust) proposal to create a Interim Management Plan (IMP) for Robert Louis Stevenson State Park (RLS) and the surrounding lands. The IMP will provide critical open space protection and recreational trail opportunities for the residents and visitors of Napa County. The Land Trust has been working to preserve important lands in the northeast area of Napa for several years and their leadership for this new major planning project is commendable.

The Ridge Trail Council is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our mission is to complete the Bay Area Ridge Trail (Ridge Trail), a public trail route, on the ridgelines surrounding the San Francisco Bay. As planned, the Ridge Trail will connect public open spaces and parklands in the nine Bay Area counties and will provide over 550 miles of ridgeline vistas. Currently, there are 310 miles of dedicated Ridge Trail serving the recreational needs of hikers, equestrians, mountain cyclists, trail runners, and outdoors enthusiasts of all ages.

Over the last twenty years the Ridge Trail Council has worked with the Land Trust on several important open space preservation and public trail projects. The Ridge Trail's regional Board of Directors, staff and our local Napa County Committee are actively engaged in creating segments of the Ridge Trail in Napa County. To date, we have dedicated over 10 miles of the planned 37 miles through Napa. We have been invited by the Land Trust to participate in this IMP process to examine opportunities for connecting the Ridge Trail with trails in the planning area and including them as part of the regional trail system we are creating. We look forward to this collaboration.

We encourage your Board to meet the Land Trust's request for funds for this important endeavor. Napa County has very few publicly available protected open spaces, parks or trails compared with other Bay Area Counties. With your support, the continued leadership of the Land Trust, the establishment of the Napa County Park and Open Space District in 2006, and the increasingly strong partnership with State Parks, the Land Trust is in a position to greatly increase opportunities for both habitat protection and recreational trail opportunities in this underserved Bay Area county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dee Swanhuysen".

Dee Swanhuysen, North Bay Trail Director

Cc: Land Trust of Napa County
Janet McBride, ED, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council





INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN BICYCLING ASSOCIATION

December 11, 2007

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

Dear Chairman Bosco:

The International Mountain Bicycling Association offers its strong support of the Land Trust of Napa County's proposal to create a management plan for lands in the vicinity of Robert Louis Stevenson State Park in Napa County.

The trail system in of this rugged area is particularly attractive for mountain bicycling. Its routes run under thick forest canopy and past rocky, exposed overlooks. The various grades and surfaces present just the kind of challenges that our members long for. The spectacular views that can be enjoyed from many vista points along the ridges of Robert Louis Stevenson Park and Wildlake Ranch are wonderful rewards to adventuresome mountain bicyclists. Mountain bicycling in this area offers an exhilarating experience that is difficult to match in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Our organization is committed to ensuring a sustainable trail system in this area. We have worked periodically in recent years to help maintain the historic Oat Hill Mine Road and expect to be involved in future trails projects sponsored by the new Napa County Regional Parks and Open Space District. We are encouraged by efforts to create a plan for appropriate recreational uses of the area. It is imperative that trails throughout this area be restored, protected and maintained for the long-term.

The International Mountain Bicycling Association urges your Board to award grant funding for this planning project.

Sincerely,

Jim Haagen-Smit
Northern California IMBA Representative

Reply to: 7589 Ridge Road, Newcastle, CA 95658 - jimwhs@yahoo.net



SPEAK



BUILD



RESPECT

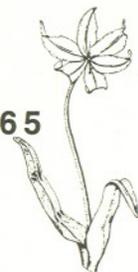


RIDE

NAPA VALLEY CHAPTER CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

2201 IMOLA AVENUE • NAPA, CA 94559-3600 • 707-253-2665

December 11, 2007



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

Dear Chairman Bosco:

The Napa Valley Chapter of CNPS supports the request by the Land Trust of Napa County (LTNC) for funding to produce a management plan for the open space lands between Mt. St. Helena and the rural Napa County community of Angwin. This area encompasses a large swath of wilderness covering Robert Louis Stevenson State Park, the Bell Canyon watershed, the Land Trust's 3,045 acre Wildlake Ranch, and other wildlands on the north end of Napa Valley. The area's forests, ridges, and canyons support a mosaic of plant vegetation types in a remarkable array of sensitive plant communities.

Our members recognize this area as an exceptional botanical resource. The watershed of Bell Canyon Creek remains over 95% intact despite the pressures of development that have impacted other nearby watersheds. The passive use of the property for recreation has preserved natural functions and species interactions on the property. Vegetation is distributed in Douglas Fir Forest, Canyon Live Oak Forest, Alder (Willow-Bay-Maple) Riparian Forest, Mixed Oak (Foothill Pine) Woodland, McNab Cypress Woodland, Oregon White Oak Woodland, Mixed Manzanita (Oak-Bay-Chamise) Chaparral, Chamise Chaparral, California Annual Grasslands, Rock Outcrops and Freshwater Marsh (based on ICE Mapping Classifications, 2002). Dominant trees and shrubs include Douglas fir, canyon live oak, black oak, foothill pine, chamise, common manzanita, silver lupine, and common buckbrush. Surveys to date have identified 369 native species on the ranch with the expectation that many further discoveries will be made in the future as more extensive exploration is made.

There is a critical need for a management plan that lays out measures to protect the sensitive natural resources and proposes appropriate uses of these lands. We urge your agency to support the LTNC efforts to develop an integrated plan for this important natural area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "John Pitt".

John Pitt
President

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support
Napa-Solano Audubon Society
P.O. Box 10006
Napa, CA 94589
www.napasolanoaudubon.com

December 19, 2007

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

Dear Chairman Bosco:

The Napa-Solano Audubon Society offers its full support of the **Land Trust of Napa County's** endeavor to plan appropriate conservation and recreational uses of the wilderness areas surrounding and including Robert Louis Stevenson State Park.

This important opportunity to protect the wonderful bird habitat in the area is exciting. Our members have led both field trips & breeding bird studies on some of these lands over the years and are aware of the wealth of bird species that they support.

As you know, many bird species are in decline due to loss of habitat so the protection of wild lands such as these becomes ever more important. This area includes mixed woodlands, forests and chaparral communities on lands of varying slope and orientation. These features provide a rich diversity of habitat for wildlife, including many bird species. Of particular concern in this area is habitat that supports nesting Peregrine Falcons, Golden Eagles and Sage Sparrows which are on the Calif. list of 'Species of Concern.' Additionally, the Northern Spotted Owl, a Federally threatened species is documented as nesting in the vicinity. Our organization encourages the Coastal Conservancy Board to provide financial support for a plan that will outline the necessary habitat protection and plan to provide recreational opportunities that are sensitive to these habitats, in and around Robert Louis Stevenson State Park.

Please feel free to contact me if you should need any additional information.

Yours truly,



Cheryl Harris
President
Napa-Solano Audubon Society
(707)224-6133



SIERRA
CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

NAPA COUNTY
GROUP

Box 644, Napa CA 94559

<<http://redwood.sierraclub.org/napa>>

December 21, 2007

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

Dear Chairman Bosco:

The Napa County Group of the Sierra Club supports strongly the Land Trust of Napa County's application for a grant to create a management plan for Robert Louis Stevenson State Park and adjacent properties. Our organization's main purpose is to encourage protection, preservation and enjoyment our remaining natural areas. The lands at Robert Louis Stevenson State Park are excellent for these undertakings.

This area has great potential for addition to Robert Louis Stevenson State Park. Its size, undeveloped state, and existing trail system make it perfect for scientific research, nature observation, hiking, and perhaps even primitive camping and other recreation. The windswept mountains, ridges, hillsides, and creeks of this area are accessible by miles of existing trails. Visitors and neighbors are aware of the diversity of wildlife that can be found throughout this area, including bobcat, deer, mountain lion, and black bear. We have led a number of field trips into this area over the past several years and are encouraged but also concerned to see the growing number of visitors to these lands.

The time is right for comprehensive planning of uses of publicly and privately held properties in this area. It is important that this sensitive wilderness be carefully protected and used appropriately by people from throughout the region, country and world.

We ask for your assistance in funding this important planning project.

Sincerely,
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elisabeth Frater', written over the word 'Sincerely'.

Elisabeth Frater
Chair

Cc: Napa Land Trust/Dave Briggs