

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
Room 4139
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 319-2006
FAX (916) 319-2106



CHAIR, Environmental Safety &
Toxic Materials Committee

COMMITTEES
Appropriations
Utilities and Commerce
Water Parks and Wildlife

DISTRICT OFFICE
3501 Civic Center Drive
Suite 412
San Rafael, CA 94903
(415) 479-4920
FAX (415) 479-2123

Jared Huffman
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, 6TH DISTRICT

November 21, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my strong support for the application by the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and the Sonoma Land Trust to the State Coastal Conservancy for a contribution of \$1,500,000 towards the acquisition of Sonoma Mountain Ranch in Sonoma County. This property is currently on the market and without acquisition and protection it could be developed for five home sites and vineyards.

The 283 acre property occupies the very top of Sonoma Mountain, which along with Mount Tamalpais, Mount Diablo, and Mount Saint Helena, is one of the defining landscapes of the Bay Area. However, unlike the other peaks, it is not yet protected from development for future generations.

Situated in the center of a 5,500 acre complex of protected lands, the property, if purchased, will link the adjacent Jack London State Historic Park to hundreds of acres of other protected land. These linkages will provide opportunities for increased public access and assure the environmental preservation of the area by allowing for trail connections to the North Slope Trail and Jack London State Park.

Securing this property as permanent open space will also maintain critical habitats for at least two species of special concern, the foothill yellow legged frog and the Western pond turtle, which may live in the property's ponds and numerous springs. Sonoma Mountain Ranch is also home to four different species of oak, Pacific madrone, bigleaf maple, California bay laurel and grassland which support a myriad of birds and other wildlife.

I strongly encourage the Coastal Conservancy to approve this exciting acquisition. It will be a magnificent addition to the important conservation work on Sonoma Mountain and protect an important natural resource for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jared Huffman".

JARED HUFFMAN
Assemblymember, 6th District

COUNTY OF SONOMA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

575 ADMINISTRATION DRIVE, RM. 100A
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95403

(707) 565-2241
FAX (707) 565-3778



VALERIE BROWN
FIRST DISTRICT SUPERVISOR
vbrown@sonoma-county.org

November 17, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I am writing to strongly urge the Coastal Conservancy to contribute \$1,500,000 towards the acquisition of Sonoma Mountain Ranch in Sonoma County. The 283 acre Sonoma Mountain Ranch property occupies the very top of Sonoma Mountain and offers a unique opportunity to protect this extraordinary mountain top, which, along with Mount Tamalpais, Mount Diablo and Mount Saint Helena, is one of the defining landscapes of the Bay area. Unlike those peaks, Sonoma Mountain is not yet protected for future generations.

The property represents an important piece of the puzzle in efforts to conserve the outstanding natural, scenic and recreational resources of Sonoma Mountain. Once purchased, the property will link the adjacent Jack London State Historic Park to hundreds of acres of land already protected, ensuring a habitat, open space, scenic and recreation connection to Sonoma Mountain. These linkages will assure the continuing viability of oak woodlands, grasslands, redwood and fir forests, and stream corridors, while providing opportunities for increased public access. Diverse habitats are found on the property which has ponds and numerous springs, providing habitat for at least two species of special concern including the foothill yellow legged frog and the Western pond turtle. Four different species of oak, Pacific madrone, big leaf maple and California bay laurel and grassland support a myriad of birds and other wildlife. Views from the 2,463 foot peak of Sonoma Mountain are outstanding and extend to the Pacific Ocean, Napa County, San Francisco Bay and the coast range.

Sonoma Mountain Ranch also provides a key link for providing increased public access on Sonoma Mountain. Situated in the center of a complex of protected lands over 5,500 acres in size, it offers the promise of trail connections on the North Slope Trail and Jack London State Park.

Exhibit 4: Project Letters

This property is currently on the market and, without acquisition and protection; it could be developed for 5 home sites and vineyards. I strongly encourage the State Coastal Conservancy to support this exciting acquisition; this will be a magnificent addition to the important conservation work on Sonoma Mountain.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Valerie".

Valerie Brown
Supervisor, First District



BAY AREA
RIDGE TRAIL
COUNCIL

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

10 November 2008

Dear Mr. Bosco,

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council strongly supports the State Coastal Conservancy's (SCC) contribution of \$1,500,000 towards the acquisition of Sonoma Mountain Ranch by the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (OSD). The 283 acre Sonoma Mountain Ranch property occupies the very top of Sonoma Mountain and offers a unique opportunity to protect this extraordinary mountain top that, along with Mount Tamalpais, Mount Diablo, and Mount Saint Helena, is one of the defining landscapes of the Bay Area, but, unlike those peaks, is not yet protected for future generations.

The property represents an important opportunity to conserve more of the outstanding natural, scenic and recreational resources of Sonoma Mountain. Once purchased, the property will link the adjacent Jack London State Historic Park to hundreds of acres of land already protected, ensuring a habitat, open space, scenic and recreation connection on Sonoma Mountain. Views from the 2463' peak of Sonoma Mountain are outstanding and extend to the Pacific Ocean, Napa County, San Francisco Bay and the coast range.

Sonoma Mountain Ranch, situated in the center of over 5,500 acres of protected lands, has promise to provide a key public trail link to the North Slope Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail, a multi-use trail that the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council has been partnering with both the SCC and the OSD on for several years.

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council strongly encourages the State Coastal Conservancy's contribution to this important acquisition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Dee Swanhuizer'.

North Bay Trail Director
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council

BILL KORTUM, D.V.M.

*180 Ely Road North, Petaluma CA 94954-1101
(707) 762-6219*

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

Dear Mr. Bosco,

The regional Bay Area significance provided by the possible Sonoma County Open Space District acquisition of the Walsh property, aptly named the Sonoma Mountain Ranch, is a rare opportunity to add the last mountain top to a ring of summits surrounding San Francisco Bay that provide the public with access.

The property comprises 283 acres on the very top of Sonoma Mountain, headwaters to ten streams descending from the mountain, all subject to the effect of soil erosion and water depletion if vineyard production was an alternative. Mountain summits as in the Sierra Nevada are ecological anchors. Adjacent to Jack London State Park, the ranch will eventually be added to the State Park system and provide a variety of trail opportunities including a connection to Sonoma Mountain Road.

This hiking opportunity to connect the South County to Jack London is truly an exciting aspect of this acquisition and revives a historical pastime enjoyed by early Petaluma hikers who routinely climbed to Whitney Falls when mountain ranchers were more tolerant. The top of the mountain destination will be even more attractive.

The public will strongly support this opportunity to save a mountain top that is an every day visual experience for residents of the South County and Sonoma Valley. Namesake of the county, Sonoma Mountain should have its peak set aside for public enjoyment. A fitting acquisition for the District whose funding was re-established by a 76% vote of a public whose confidence will be reinforced by this purchase.

Sincerely,



Bill Kortum

November 11, 2008



SONOMA ECOLOGY CENTER

*Working with our community to preserve and enhance Sonoma Valley's ecological heritage,
since 1990.*

Sample Letter of Support to the Coastal Conservancy

November 11, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Bosco:

We are writing to strongly urge the Coastal Conservancy to contribute \$1,500,000 towards the acquisition of Sonoma Mountain Ranch in Sonoma County. The 283 acre Sonoma Mountain Ranch property occupies the very top of Sonoma Mountain and offers a unique opportunity to protect this extraordinary mountain top that, along with Mount Tamalpais, Mount Diablo, and Mount Saint Helena, is one of the defining landscapes of the Bay Area, but, unlike those peaks, is not yet protected for future generations.

The property represents an important piece of the puzzle in efforts to conserve the outstanding natural, scenic and recreational resources of Sonoma Mountain. Once purchased, the property will link the adjacent Jack London State Historic Park to hundreds of acres of land already protected, ensuring a habitat, open space, scenic and recreation connection on Sonoma Mountain. These linkages will assure the continuing viability of oak woodlands, grasslands, redwood and fir forests, and stream corridors, while providing opportunities for increased public access. Diverse habitats are found on the property including ponds and numerous springs, providing habitat for at least two species of special concern including the foothill yellow legged frog and the Western pond turtle. Four different species of oak, Pacific madrone, bigleaf maple and California bay laurel and grassland support a myriad of birds and other wildlife. Views from the 2463 foot peak of Sonoma Mountain are outstanding and extend to the Pacific Ocean, Napa County, San Francisco Bay and the coast range.

Sonoma Mountain Ranch also provides a key link for providing increased public access on Sonoma Mountain. Situated in the center of a complex of protected lands over 5,500 acres in size, it offers the promise of trail connections to the North Slope Trail and Jack London State Park.

This property is currently on the market and, without acquisition and protection, it could be developed for 5 home sites and vineyards. We strongly encourage the State Coastal Conservancy to support this exciting acquisition; this will be a magnificent addition to the important conservation work on Sonoma Mountain.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard Dale". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "D".

Richard Dale
Executive Director



*Valley of the Moon Natural History
Association*

2400 London Ranch Road
Glen Ellen, CA 95442

November 7, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Bosco:

This letter is to express strong support for the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District's acquisition of Sonoma Mountain Ranch in Sonoma County.

The 283 acre Sonoma Mountain Ranch property occupies the very top of Sonoma Mountain and offers a unique opportunity to protect this extraordinary mountain top that, along with Mount Tamalpais, Mount Diablo, and Mount Saint Helena, is one of the defining landscapes of the Bay Area, but, unlike those peaks, is not yet protected for future generations.

My Association, a 300+ member non-profit organization established 30 years ago, provides financial support for natural and cultural history preservation in the neighboring Jack London State Historic Park. In the past, park visitors on the Bay Area Ridge Trail could not reach the summit of Sonoma Mountain without permission to pass through private property and had to skirt the summit and miss the view. Once this opportunity purchase is made, the property will be linked to the State Park and to hundreds of acres of land already protected, ensuring a habitat, open space, scenic and recreation connection on Sonoma Mountain. These linkages will assure the continuing viability of oak woodlands, grasslands, redwood and fir forests, and stream corridors, while providing opportunities for increased public access. Views from the 2463 foot peak of Sonoma Mountain are outstanding and extend to the Pacific Ocean, Napa County, San Francisco Bay and the coast range.

This property is currently on the market and, without acquisition and protection, it could be developed for 5 home sites and vineyards. I strongly encourage the Board of Supervisors to approve this exciting acquisition; this will be a magnificent addition to the important conservation work on Sonoma Mountain.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Hayes".

Greg Hayes, President

Sonoma Mountain Preservation
5850 Grove Street
Sonoma, CA 95476

November 11, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Bosco:

Sonoma Mountain Preservation (SMP) is most appreciative of the State Coastal Conservancy's contribution of \$1,500,000 towards the acquisition of Sonoma Mountain Ranch in Sonoma County. The 283 acre Sonoma Mountain Ranch property occupies the very top of Sonoma Mountain and offers a unique opportunity to protect this extraordinary mountain top that, along with Mount Tamalpais, Mount Diablo, and Mount Saint Helena, is one of the defining landscapes of the Bay Area, but, unlike those peaks, is not yet protected for future generations.

The property represents an important piece of the puzzle in efforts to conserve the outstanding natural, scenic and recreational resources of Sonoma Mountain. Once purchased, the property will link the adjacent Jack London State Historic Park to hundreds of acres of land already protected, ensuring a habitat, open space, scenic and recreation connection on Sonoma Mountain. These linkages will assure the continuing viability of oak woodlands, grasslands, redwood and fir forests, and stream corridors, while providing opportunities for increased public access. Diverse habitats are found on the property including ponds and numerous springs, providing habitat for at least two species of special concern including the foothill yellow legged frog and the Western pond turtle. Four different species of oak, Pacific madrone, bigleaf maple and California bay laurel and grassland support a myriad of birds and other wildlife. Views from the 2463 foot peak of Sonoma Mountain are outstanding and extend to the Pacific Ocean, Napa County, San Francisco Bay and the coast range.

Sonoma Mountain Ranch also provides a key link for providing increased public access on Sonoma Mountain. Situated in the center of a complex of protected lands over 5,500 acres in size, it offers the promise of trail connections to the North Slope Trail and Jack London State Park.

This property is currently on the market and, without acquisition and protection, it could be developed for 5 home sites and vineyards. SMP strongly encourages the Open Space District to approve this exciting acquisition; this will be a magnificent addition to the important conservation work on Sonoma Mountain.

Sincerely,



Helen Bates
Chair, Sonoma Mountain Preservation

Sonoma Mountain Preservation
5850 Grove Street
Sonoma, CA 95476

November 11, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Bosco:

Sonoma Mountain Preservation (SMP) is most appreciative of the State Coastal Conservancy's contribution of \$1,500,000 towards the acquisition of Sonoma Mountain Ranch in Sonoma County. The 283 acre Sonoma Mountain Ranch property occupies the very top of Sonoma Mountain and offers a unique opportunity to protect this extraordinary mountain top that, along with Mount Tamalpais, Mount Diablo, and Mount Saint Helena, is one of the defining landscapes of the Bay Area, but, unlike those peaks, is not yet protected for future generations.

The property represents an important piece of the puzzle in efforts to conserve the outstanding natural, scenic and recreational resources of Sonoma Mountain. Once purchased, the property will link the adjacent Jack London State Historic Park to hundreds of acres of land already protected, ensuring a habitat, open space, scenic and recreation connection on Sonoma Mountain. These linkages will assure the continuing viability of oak woodlands, grasslands, redwood and fir forests, and stream corridors, while providing opportunities for increased public access. Diverse habitats are found on the property including ponds and numerous springs, providing habitat for at least two species of special concern including the foothill yellow legged frog and the Western pond turtle. Four different species of oak, Pacific madrone, bigleaf maple and California bay laurel and grassland support a myriad of birds and other wildlife. Views from the 2463 foot peak of Sonoma Mountain are outstanding and extend to the Pacific Ocean, Napa County, San Francisco Bay and the coast range.

Sonoma Mountain Ranch also provides a key link for providing increased public access on Sonoma Mountain. Situated in the center of a complex of protected lands over 5,500 acres in size, it offers the promise of trail connections to the North Slope Trail and Jack London State Park.

This property is currently on the market and, without acquisition and protection, it could be developed for 5 home sites and vineyards. SMP strongly encourages the Open Space District to approve this exciting acquisition; this will be a magnificent addition to the important conservation work on Sonoma Mountain.

Sincerely,



Helen Bates
Chair, Sonoma Mountain Preservation