

COMMITTEES
CHAIR: HEALTH
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS,
TOURISM & INTERNET MEDIA
BUDGET
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1 ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY
NATURAL RESOURCES

Assembly
California Legislature



WILLIAM W. MONNING
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

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SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
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99 PACIFIC STREET, SUITE 555-D
MONTEREY, CA 93940
(831) 649-2832
(831) 649-2935
SANTA CLARA COUNTY DIRECT LINE
(408) 782-0647

WEBSITE: www.assembly.ca.gov/monning

July 18, 2012

Janet Diehl, Program Manager
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Ms. Diehl:

This letter is to express my support for the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District's application for \$1 million from the California State Coastal Conservancy to assist in the acquisition of Whisler Wilson Ranch.

Acquisition of the 317-acre Whisler Wilson Ranch by the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District will serve as an addition to the Palo Corona Regional Park and provide access to the Park's 4000-acres of backcountry, as well as to the adjacent Lobos Ranch State Park lands. In addition, the Ranch contains a significant number of coast redwoods, native Monterey Pines, unusual stands of coast rhododendrons (*R. macrophyllum*), and maritime chaparral, and encompasses two miles of San Jose Creek steelhead run.

The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District has an excellent history of environmental stewardship and conservation of important biological habitat, and I respectfully request your favorable consideration its application for funding from the California State Coastal Conservancy to assist in the acquisition of Whisler Wilson Ranch. Should you have any questions regarding my support, please contact me at (831) 649-2832.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM W. MONNING
Assemblymember, 27th District

WWM:nw

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JUL 27 2012
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

MONTEREY COUNTY



Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Dave Potter
Monterey County, Fifth District Supervisor

Kathleen Lee, Chief of Staff
Jayne Mohammadi, Aide
Bryan Flores, Administrative Assistant

1200 Aguajito Rd., Suite 001
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 647-7755
Fax: (831) 647-7695
Email: district5@co.monterey.ca.us

June 15, 2012

Janet Diehl
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Ms. Diehl,

I am writing to convey my support for Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District's acquisition of the 317-acre Whisler-Wilson Ranch as an addition to its Palo Corona Regional Park. The acquisition will provide access into the park's 4000-acres of backcountry and into adjacent Lobos Ranch State Park lands. The property has significant conservation values of coast redwood, the southern extent of native pine, unusual stands of coast rhododendron (*R. macrophyllum*), maritime chaparral, two miles of San Jose Creek steelhead run, and fabulous views of the coast, including Point Lobos State Reserve.

The acquisition of the Whisler-Wilson Ranch will further offer all members of our communities outstanding learning opportunities about native wildlife and plants, the history of native cultures and European settlers, and what it is to experience one of our area's most distinctive and stunning landscapes.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if I can be of any further service in realizing this essential goal.

Sincerely,

Dave Potter
District Five Supervisor
County of Monterey

cc: Tim Jensen, Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District

City of Carmel-by-the-Sea

POST OFFICE BOX CC
CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA, CA 93921
(831) 620-2000

July 5, 2012

Janet Diehl
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Janet:

The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea Society offers its strong support of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District's effort to acquire the 317-acre Whisler Wilson Ranch as an addition to its Palo Corona Regional Park. The acquisition will provide enhanced access into the park's 4,000 acres of backcountry and the adjacent Lobos Ranch State Park lands. The property has significant avian conservation values of coast redwood and native Monterey pine forest, unusual stands of coast rhododendron (*R. macrophyllum*), maritime chaparral, two miles of San Jose Creek riparian habitat, and fabulous views of the coast, including Point Lobos State Reserve.

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, I offer our support for this project.

Sincerely,



Jason Burnett
Mayor

CC: Tim Jensen, Planning and Conservation Manager
Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District

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JUL 09 2012
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION • P.O. Box 942896 • Sacramento, CA 94296-001

Ruth G. Coleman, Director

Monterey District
2211 Garden Road
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 649-2836
(831) 647-6239 FAX

June 28, 2012

Janet Diehl
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Ms. Diehl:

The Monterey District of California State Parks is in full support of the acquisition of the 317 acres of Whisler Wilson Ranch by the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District as an addition to its Palo Corona Regional Park. This property will provide access to the Regional Park District's 4,000-acre park of backcountry and also into State Parks' Lobos Ranch.

The Whisler Wilson Ranch property has significant conservation value with coast redwood, native Monterey pine, unusual stands of coast rhododendron, maritime chaparral, a two-mile stretch of San Jose Creek steelhead run, and views of the California coast, including Point Lobos State Natural Reserve. Acquisition of this property will provide needed outdoor recreational opportunities for the people of California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Fuzie", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mathew L. Fuzie
Monterey District Superintendent

c: Tim Jensen
Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District



June 15, 2012

Janet Diehl
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

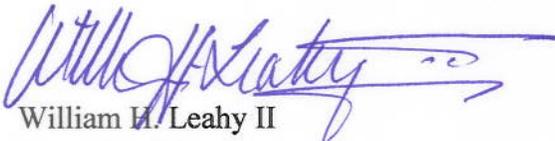
Dear Janet:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of The Big Sur Land Trust, I am writing to express enthusiastic support of the acquisition of the 317-acre Whisler Wilson Ranch by the Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District.

The Big Sur Land Trust purchased this property for the purpose of enabling public access to a spectacular landscape. We are thrilled to collaborate with MPRPD again on a project that will provide more land that will provide significant public benefit in the form of recreation experiences and watershed protection.

Please share my contact information with anyone that may want to speak with me about this project: bleahy@bigsurlandtrust.org or 831-625-5523 x.101.

Sincerely,



William H. Leahy II
Executive Director

cc: Tim Jensen, Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District

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JUN 20 2012
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



Point Lobos Foundation
P.O. Box 221789
Carmel, CA 93922-1789
831-625-1470

June 26, 2012

Ms. Janet Diehl
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Ms. Diehl:

The Point Lobos Foundation enthusiastically supports the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District's acquisition of the 317-acre Whisler-Wilson Ranch as an addition to its Palo Corona Regional Park. The Whisler-Wilson Ranch is a critical property, linking the Palo Corona Regional Park's 4000 acres of backcountry with the State Park lands directly across Highway 1 from the Point Lobos State Natural Reserve. The property has significant conservation values of coast redwood, the southern extent of native Monterey pine, unusual stands of coast rhododendron (*R. marcophyllum*), maritime chapparral, and two miles of steelhead run on San Jose Creek.

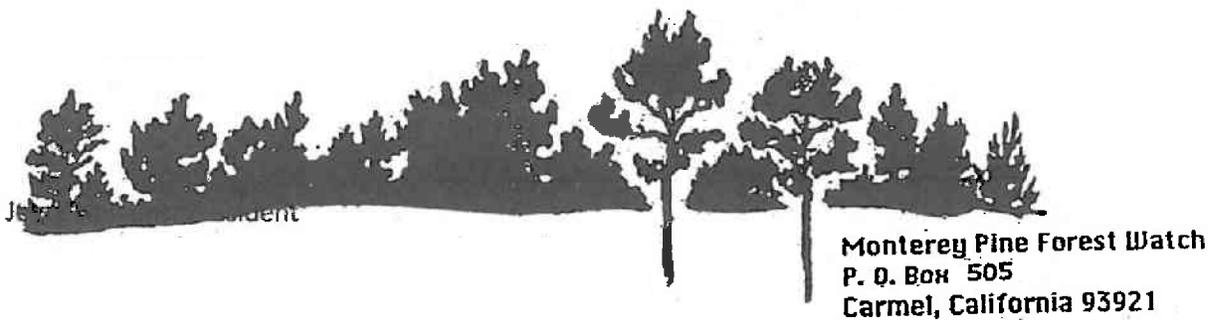
The Point Lobos Foundation is actively promoting the establishment of an integrated network of publicly accessible lands and trails -- and open wildlife corridors -- that would connect Palo Corona Regional Park, the Big Sur Land Trust's Carmel River Parkway and Mitteldorff Preserve, the Santa Lucia Preserve, and the Point Lobos Reserve and adjacent State Park lands. This vision can become a reality only if the Whisler-Wilson Ranch is protected and managed by a public park management agency. The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District is highly qualified to fill this role. We very much hope that the State Coastal Conservancy will support the Regional Park District in its efforts to acquire the Whisler-Wilson Ranch.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandy Hale", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Samuel (Sandy) Hale
President

cc: Mat Fuzie (State Parks), Tim Jensen (MPRPD)



California Coastal Conservancy

27 June 2012

Dear Sirs:

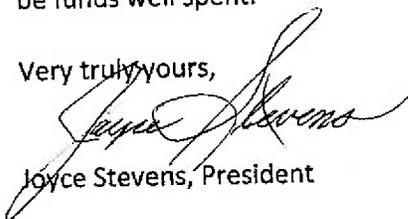
The Monterey Pine Forest Watch is pleased to be able to recommend the Monterey Peninsula Park District for a grant towards the purchase of the Whisler-Wilson ranch, one of the unique properties in this coastal area.

Our organization, as indicated by our name, is primarily supportive of preservation of lands that contain Monterey Pine Forest habitat, a special ecosystem that occurs in only 5 small locations in the world of which the Monterey Peninsula stand is the largest. The Whisler-Wilson property, located in San Jose Canyon, represents a Monterey Pine Forest transitioning to Redwood Forest with both coniferous species occurring together, an uncommon situation in the native Monterey Pine forests. This property has an important reach of San Jose Creek which supports California red-legged frogs and probably an anadromous steelhead fishery. The coastal riparian vegetation along the creek is robust and floristically diverse. There are native rhododendrons in the canyon bottom and an important patch of Maritime Chaparral occurs that often supports special status plants.

All in all this is a magnificent property that would be an important acquisition for the Palo Corona Ranch. Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District has an excellent stewardship record and their acquisition of the Whisler-Wilson Ranch would complete public ownership of the northern portion of Palo Corona Ranch bringing together the Palo Corona with Point Lobos area, thereby eliminating the possibility of private development in this sensitive area.

A Coastal Conservancy grant to Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District for this project would be funds well spent.

Very truly yours,



Joyce Stevens, President



California Regional Office
201 Mission Street, Fourth Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

tel [415] 777-0487
fax [415] 777-0244
nature.org
nature.org/california

June 15, 2012

Ms. Janet Diehl
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

SUBJECT: Support for Acquisition of Whisler-Wilson Ranch by the
Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District

Dear Ms. Diehl,

The Nature Conservancy enthusiastically supports the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District's (MPRPD) acquisition of the 317-acre Whisler-Wilson Ranch as an addition to its Palo Corona Regional Park, a site where The Nature Conservancy has worked closely with MPRPD and made a major investment in acquisition and management. The Whisler-Wilson acquisition will provide significant public benefit including increased public access and protection of conservation values.

Whisler-Wilson Ranch provides a critical link that will connect Palo Corona Regional Park (PCRP) and Point Lobos Ranch State Park. The acquisition will allow MPRPD to manage the parcel in a manner consistent with the conservation goals for PCRP and the surrounding publicly owned conservation lands and will facilitate much needed public access to the 4000-acre backcountry of PCRP and Point Lobos Ranch State Park.

Protection of the Whisler-Wilson property, which includes more than one mile of San Jose Creek, will effectively complete protection of the entire San Jose Creek watershed. San Jose Creek is a high-quality coastal stream containing federally threatened steelhead, riparian vegetation, and habitat for federally threatened California red-legged frog. Additional conservation values include stands of coast redwood, native Monterey pine near the southern extent of their range, maritime chaparral and exceptional views of the area's scenic coastline, including Point Lobos State Reserve. The Nature Conservancy offers our strong support for this acquisition by MPRPD.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Smith".

Laura Smith
Monterey Project Manager
(831) 747-4616 lsmith@tnc.org

cc: Tim Jensen, Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District