



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Region 1 – Northern
601 Locust Street
Redding, CA 96001
www.dfg.ca.gov

EDMUND G. BROWN, Jr., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



November 9, 2012

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

Subject: Support for Acquisition of Hunt Property, Mendocino County

Dear Mr. Bosco:

This letter is to convey our strong support for the acquisition of a 64.5-acre parcel, referred to as the "Hunt property," situated adjacent to the Inglenook Fen-Ten Mile Dunes Natural Preserve (Preserve), MacKerricher State Park, in Mendocino County.

The Inglenook Fen-Ten Mile Dunes ecosystem, which includes the Hunt property, represents a natural heritage treasure of statewide significance. The Hunt property is comprised of relatively pristine coastal dunes, coastal prairie, and riparian wetland habitats located next to the northern end of the Preserve. It contains the largest block of coastal dunes under private ownership in the Ten Mile Dunes area. This acquisition will expand the area of the Preserve managed by California State Parks, and help to stem off ongoing and now imminent threats from development. The acquisition will enhance recovery of three federally- and State-listed species: western snowy plover, (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*), Howell's spineflower (*Chorizanthe howellii*), and Menzies' wallflower (*Erysimum menziesii* spp. *Menziesii*), and protect several other special status plants. The distribution of Howell's spineflower is limited to the area in and around MacKerricher State Park.

In 2007, the California Department of Fish and Game submitted a proposal to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) seeking a Non-traditional Section 6 Lands Acquisition Grant to acquire this property from a willing seller. The USFWS accepted the proposal and approved a grant for the amount of \$671,250.

The 64.5-acre Hunt property has recently been appraised as having a fair market value of \$625,000. The property owner has agreed to sell the property for \$525,000, which is less than the appraised value. The USFWS funds require a non-federal match and we understand that the California Department of Parks and Recreation is willing to provide half of the required match. I hope the State Coastal Conservancy can assist with this important project by providing the remainder of the match.

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairperson
November 9, 2012
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I understand this proposal will be presented for consideration at the upcoming SCC Board meeting in December, and I urge you to support this important acquisition. Should you have any questions, please contact Staff Environmental Scientist Eric Haney at (530) 225 -2052.

Sincerely,



for

NEIL MANJI
Regional Manager

ec: Ms. Laura Wilson
Department of Parks and Recreation
lwilson@parks.ca.gov

Mr. Samuel Schuchat
California Coastal Conservancy
sschuchat@scc.ca.gov

Messrs. Charlton H. Bonham, Kevin Hunting, Curt Babcock, Tony LaBanca,
and Eric Haney
Ms. Karen Kovacs
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October 29, 2012

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

**RE: Acquisition and Preservation of Hunt Property, Ten Mile Dunes, MacKerricher State Park
Mendocino County, CA**

Dear Mr. Bosco,

This letter comes to you in support of acquisition by State Parks of the Hunt Property at Ten Mile Dunes in MacKerricher State Park, Mendocino County. This is the property which State Park seeks to acquire in order to conserve habitat in Ten Mile Dunes Preserve, with significant funding from US Fish & Wildlife.

I asked permission from the Mendocino Coast Audubon Society Board of Directors to write this letter. Our organization is committed to preserving critical habitat in our community. But my reasons are personal, too. Save Our Shorebirds volunteers have put in more than 5,000 hours in the field, mostly in Ten Mile Preserve, monitoring shorebirds in order to learn more about why many of our shorebirds and sea-birds are in danger of disappearing. The reason, of course, is loss and degradation of critical habitat and every inch of Ten Mile Preserve is critical and precious habitat for wildlife and plants. It's hard for me to put into words how important this is for us—and how much it means to be able to preserve and protect this particular land.

There is a good reason we continue to work on this citizen science project under the supervision of State Parks biologists. The first five years of our bird monitoring work in MacKerricher State Park involved 1,101 surveys on foot where we recorded sightings of 165,059 birds, many of them on the National Audubon and American Bird Conservancy Watchlist described as birds in decline. We are as committed as people can be to the preservation and stewardship of this area that is included in an Important Bird Area, designated by Audubon as an area worthy of the highest efforts of conservation. The preserve has significant numbers of the federally threatened Western Snowy Plover and is one of the best and most important places to protect the biological diversity of the watershed, the shoreline, the fen and the dunes.

We encourage and support this acquisition in every way and invite you up to Mendocino County to come on a survey with us. Then we can show you in person just how much this means to our birds and our people, too.

Sincerely,

Becky Bowen, Head Volunteer
Save Our Shorebirds
Mendocino Coast Audubon Society

Save Our Shorebirds • 15340 Seadrift Ave., #94, Caspar, CA 95420 • 707 962-1602 • casparbeck@comcast.net
www.facebook.com/SaveOurShorebirds

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



Conserving Land in Mendocino County since 1976

October 30, 2012

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

Re: Hunt Property Addition, MacKerricher State Park, Mendocino County

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I write on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Mendocino Land Trust in support of the acquisition of the Hunt Property. The subject property constitutes a salient into the Inglenook Fen – Ten Mile Dunes Natural Preserve. The purchase will eliminate this salient and at the same time add 64.5 acres of the dunes which make it such a remarkable and rare place.

This property is designated as a “High Priority Conservation Area” in the Mendocino County Coastal Conservation Plan (April 2003), prepared by Jenny Griffin, Mendocino Land Trust, and funded by the California State Coastal Conservancy. Its addition will connect the preserve with property (“Smith Ranch”) recently acquired by The Conservation Fund across Highway One. This addition is particularly important as it solves a significant challenge to the management and protection of this habitat by providing a buffer to unauthorized recreational access. As the Plan states,

Some sensitive coastal habitats are deteriorating because of the inappropriate public access and/or because of concentrated public access. Examples include erosion on trails in general and in specific habitats including dunes, headlands, pygmy forest, and riparian areas; vandalism of cultural and historic sites; and reduced nesting habitat for the endangered Snowy Plover. Management should be improved to prevent further decline as public access to coastal areas increases. (Plan, above, p. 24.)

An opportunity to purchase the Hunt Property with substantial federal funding support now exists. We encourage the Conservancy to support this acquisition.

Sincerely,


Winston Bowen, President

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

November 5, 2012

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

John Donnelly, Executive Director
Wildlife Conservation Board
1807 13th Street, Suite 103
Sacramento, California 95811

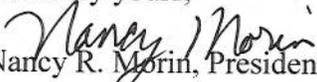
Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the Dorothy King Young Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, I am writing to express strong support for the acquisition of a 64.5-acre parcel, referred to as the "Hunt Property," which is adjacent to the Inglenook Fen—Ten Mile Dunes Natural Preserve, in MacKerricher State Park, Mendocino County.

The Inglenook Fen-Ten Mile Dunes ecosystem in which the Hunt Property is located is a biologically diverse assemblage resulting from unique ecological circumstances. It is most likely the southernmost example and the only example on the California coast of a fen-type peatland. Plants of conservation concern, state, or federally listed, recovery of which may be benefited by acquisition and protection of the Hunt Property include *Chorizanthe howellii* (Howell's spineflower), *Erysimum menziesii* subsp. *menziesii*, Menzies' wallflower, *Collinsia corymbosa*, round-headed Blue-eyed Mary, *Castilleja mendocinensis*, Mendocino Coast Indian-paintbrush, *Lilium maritimum*, coast lily, and *Horkelia marinensis*, Pt. Reyes Horkelia. A careful inventory of the plants may discover additional species or populations.

We understand that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service approved a grant proposal for a non-traditional Section 6 Recovery Lands Acquisition Grant of \$671,250 and that the property owner has agreed to sell the property for \$525,000, substantially less than the fair market appraised value. This suggests that acquisition of this property would be a very good deal for the state of California and for long-term protection of an ecosystem and biological diversity of great value to its citizens. We hope you will support this proposal.

Sincerely yours,


Nancy R. Morin, President, DKY Chapter

Protecting California's Flora since 1965

Dorothy King Young Chapter, P. O. Box 577, Gualala, California 95445

www.cnps.org

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