

## EXHIBIT 4: Project Letters

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**Assembly  
California Legislature**



**RICHARD S. GORDON**  
ASSEMBLYMAN, TWENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

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BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #3 ON  
RESOURCES AND TRANSPORTATION

**SELECT COMMITTEES**  
CHAIR: SEA LEVEL RISE AND THE  
CALIFORNIA ECONOMY

April 21, 2014

Douglas Bosco  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Subject: Support for 174-acre Loma Mar Property Acquisition Grant

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I write to strongly encourage the California Coastal Conservancy to award a \$500,000 grant to San Mateo County for the acquisition of the 174-acre Loma Mar Property from the San Mateo County Office of Education. This project is worthy of California State Coastal Conservancy support. This grant represents the final funding needed to fully underwrite the property acquisition.

The Loma Mar Property will make an important addition to San Mateo County's Memorial County Park. The property's natural resources include second growth Douglas fir and redwood forest habitat and an intermittent stream that supports steelhead trout in Pescadero Creek. Public access improvements such as trails are needed in this region and are possible through use of existing logging roads that can be linked to trails in Memorial County Park. There are also ideal locations for future camping areas.

In addition to contributing to the conservation of open space and provision of recreational opportunities, it is also a great example of public-private partnerships. The San Mateo County Parks Department is able to acquire this property because of a long term working relationship with Peninsula Open Space Trust. Peninsula Open Space Trust is contributing the balance of the acquisition cost through donations and their Revolving Land Fund.

I highly recommend this project to receive your grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard S. Gordon".

Richard S. Gordon  
Assemblyman, Twenty- Fourth District



EXHIBIT 4: Project Letters



Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

April 29, 2014

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

GENERAL MANAGER  
Stephen E. Abbors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Pete Siemens  
Yoriko Kishimoto  
Jed Cyr  
Curt Riffle  
Nonette Hanko  
Larry Hassett  
Cecily Harris

RE: Support for 174-acre Loma Mar Property Acquisition Grant

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District), I am writing to express our strong support for the Coastal Conservancy grant application that has been submitted by San Mateo County to fund the purchase of the 174-acre Loma Mar Property as a natural addition to the adjacent Memorial County Park. The proposed \$500,000 Coastal Conservancy grant would support a regionally significant land acquisition partnership between San Mateo County and Peninsula Open Space Trust, and expand the existing network of protected lands in San Mateo County.

The Loma Mar Property is particularly noteworthy as it contains mature groves of mixed redwood forest and sensitive riparian habitat within the Pescadero Creek watershed that are home to a number of threatened and endangered species, including marbled murrelet and steelhead trout. Purchase of the Loma Mar Property would also provide an opportunity to enhance the existing trail network for the enjoyment of hikers, cyclists and equestrians, and offer future new camping opportunities in the Santa Cruz Mountains that would be cherished by people living in the Bay Area and beyond.

As you may already know, the District recently completed an intensive 18-month vision planning process that was informed by robust scientific data and guided by extensive public input, receiving more than 2,000 comments from the general public. We are excited to inform you that the Loma Mar Property Acquisition closely aligns with our Vision Plan and with the expressed public values and desires by promoting partnerships between public agencies and nonprofit organizations, providing critical wildlife corridors, protecting redwood forests, and increasing the regional trail system in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen E. Abbors".

Stephen E. Abbors  
General Manager

cc: Don Horsley, President, Board of Supervisors  
Marlene Finley, Parks Director  
Walter Moore, President, Peninsula Open Space Trust

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## Peninsula Open Space Trust

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President

Walter T. Moore

May 13, 2014

Douglas Bosco, Chair  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

**RE: Support for 174-acre Loma Mar Redwoods Property Acquisition Grant**

Dear Mr. Bosco,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), I would like to express my strong support for the grant application submitted by San Mateo County to fund the acquisition of the 174-acre Loma Mar Redwoods property. A grant of \$500,000 from the Coastal Conservancy would enable the County to move forward with this significant land purchase that will provide critical connections to a nearly 8,000-acre complex of County parkland in that area.

POST is providing matching funds for the acquisition of the Loma Mar Redwoods project, which has been a top priority for our organization for years—not only because of the essential connection it will provide to adjacent parkland, but also for the significant redwood forest on the property. POST is currently in the second year of its Heart of the Redwoods Campaign—an effort to protect 20,000 acres of the last remaining redwood forests in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Public funds from the Coastal Conservancy will be highly leveraged with private funding from POST, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Save the Redwoods League and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation—a critical and innovative partnership during this time of minimal available public funding for land conservation. Additionally, since the Office of Education staff is legally restricted to using the proceeds of any sale for outdoor education, a grant from the Conservancy would also be supporting outdoor education for children across San Mateo County.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your support of this grant request when it comes before the Conservancy Board for consideration.

Thank you for all that you do for conservation across California.

Sincerely,

Walter T. Moore  
President

EXHIBIT 4: Project Letters



COMMITTEE FOR  
GREEN FOOTHILLS

May 4, 2014

Douglas Bosco  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

RE: Support for 174-acre Loma Mar Property Acquisition Grant

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of Committee for Green Foothills, I write in enthusiastic support for the proposed \$500,000 grant to San Mateo County for acquisition of the Loma Mar Property, San Mateo County. This Loma Mar Property will be added to the Pescadero Creek County Park Complex of Memorial, Sam McDonald and Pescadero Creek County Parks containing over 7,000 acres of parks and open space.

The acquisition of the six-parcel 174-acre Loma Mar Property will protect the property from future development and logging of its second-growth redwood and Douglas fir forest. Instead, the land will be preserved as open space with dispersed recreation such as non-motorized recreational trails and camping.

While a biological survey hasn't yet been completed, the federally threatened marbled murrelet has been documented nesting on horizontal branches of old-growth redwood trees in adjacent Memorial Park. As the second growth forest at Loma Mar reaches maturity, scientists are hopeful that the murrelets will have increased nesting opportunities. Additionally, Pescadero Creek, which is adjacent to the property, supports the federally threatened steelhead trout; protection will help maintain favorable stream conditions for this and other aquatic species.

The Committee for Green Foothills wholeheartedly supports this acquisition that will provide more protected contiguous habitat for wildlife while allowing low-impact public recreation and the opportunity for nature study for many future generations of Bay Area residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

Lennie Roberts  
San Mateo County Legislative Advocate