

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 16, 2014

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

Re: Muir Heritage Land Trust Grant Proposal

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing in support of the Muir Heritage Land Trust's request to the Coastal Conservancy for funding of the West Hills Farm property acquisition in Contra Costa County. Acquisition of West Hills Farm will meet the goals and objectives of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program by protecting natural habitat of regional significance while providing public access and recreational opportunities to the surrounding communities. Therefore, I urge you to give full and fair consideration to this request.

This 44-acre biologically-rich property was once home to a ranch and farm owned by John Swett, the father of California's public school system. John Swett was a close friend of John Muir's and the two visited each other frequently. The parcel of land is directly contiguous to the U.S. National Park Service John Muir National Historic Site's 325-acre Mount Wanda property, which was acquired for the NPS in 1991 through MHLT's assistance.

MHLT's purchase of the West Hills Farm property will protect wildlife habitat, water and air quality, and the historic nature of the site. The acquisition will also expand the Muir Historic Site on its southern boundary and create trail systems for hikers, bikers and equestrians, including connections to the 550-mile Bay Area Ridge Trail and nearby protected lands. In so doing, preservation of this property will expand access to and utilization of a number of other open spaces. Visitors will also enjoy stunning views of Briones Regional Park and the Alhambra Hills from the property's hilltops.

West Hills Farm lies within the Alhambra Creek watershed, and protecting it will also help protect valuable waterways and water quality. Strentzel Creek, named after John Muir's father-in-law, traverses the land and flows into Alhambra Creek. Muir often walked the property with his two daughters to admire the coast live oak, blue oak, valley oak, and bay trees that grow there, as well as the native shrubs, perennials, grasses and annual wildflowers that punctuate its grassy hillsides.

The property is linked to the Franklin Ridge corridor, which provides varied terrain and unbroken habitat for native wildlife, including the Alameda whipsnake — a federally listed threatened species — in addition to California red-legged frog and western pond turtle. It also provides rich foraging grounds for Cooper's hawk, white-tailed kite, northern harrier, golden eagles and red-tailed hawk.

Exhibit 5: Project Letters

Completion of this project will benefit riparian habitat and several endangered species, as well as offer recreational and interpretive opportunities that will enhance the health and well being of Contra Costa County residents. This project will have immediate and lasting benefits to the ecosystem and community.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

GEORGE MILLER
Member of Congress

cc: Melanie Denninger, Project Manager

Exhibit 5: Project Letters

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4003
FAX (916) 651-4903

DISTRICT OFFICES
1040 MAIN STREET
SUITE 101
NAPA, CA 94559
TEL (707) 224-1990
FAX (707) 224-1992

555 MASON STREET
SUITE 275
VACAVILLE, CA 95688
TEL (707) 454-3808
FAX (707) 454-3811

985 WALNUT AVENUE
VALLEJO, CA 94591
TEL (707) 551-2389
FAX (707) 551-2390

1350 TREAT BLVD.
SUITE 240
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94597
TEL (925) 926-6148

SENATOR.WOLK@SENATE.CA.GOV

WWW.SEN.CA.GOV/WOLK

December 17, 2014

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

Re: Muir Heritage Land Trust Grant Proposal

Dear Chairman Bosco:

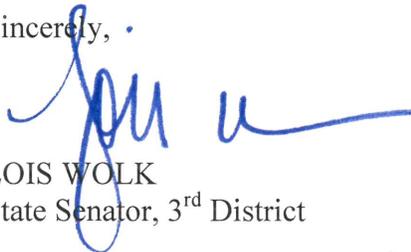
I am writing in support of the grant request to the California State Coastal Conservancy to fund the West Hills Farm property acquisition in Contra Costa County by the Muir Heritage Land Trust (MHLT). Acquisition of West Hills Farm meets the goals and objectives of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program by protecting natural habitat of regional significance while providing public access and recreational opportunities to the surrounding communities.

MHLT's purchase of the West Hills Farm property will protect wildlife habitat, water and air quality, and preserve its historic nature. The acquisition will also expand the Muir Historic Site on its southern boundary and create trail systems for hikers, bikers and equestrians, including connections to the 550-mile Bay Area Ridge Trail and nearby MHLT protected lands. Visitors will enjoy stunning views of Briones Regional Park and the Alhambra Hills from the property's hilltops.

Completion of this project will benefit riparian habitat and several endangered species, as well as offer recreational and interpretive opportunities that will enhance the health and well-being of Contra Costa County residents. This project will have immediate and lasting benefits to the ecosystem and community.

Thank you for your consideration of this grant request.

Sincerely,



LOIS WOLK
State Senator, 3rd District

cc: Melanie Denninger, Project Manager



California State Senate

SENATOR
LOIS WOLK

THIRD SENATE DISTRICT



CHAIR
GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE
ENERGY, UTILITIES & COMMUNICATIONS
HEALTH
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER

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INVASIVE SPECIES
OLIVE OIL PRODUCTION &
EMERGING PRODUCTS

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AUTISM & RELATED DISORDERS
CALIFORNIA'S WINE INDUSTRY

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY:
BIOTECHNOLOGY &
GREEN ENERGY JOBS

EXCELLENCE, INNOVATION &
ACCOUNTABILITY IN
STATE GOVERNMENT
MENTAL HEALTH

THE SACRAMENTO-
SAN JOAQUIN DELTA

JOINT COMMITTEES
FAIRS, ALLOCATION & CLASSIFICATION
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0014
(916) 319-2014
FAX (916) 319-2114

DISTRICT OFFICE
2151 SALVIO STREET, SUITE 395
CONCORD, CA 94520
(925) 521-1511
FAX (925) 602-1536

Assembly
California Legislature



COMMITTEES
HEALTH
UTILITIES AND COMMERCE

SUSAN A. BONILLA
CHAIR, BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

December 16, 2014

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

Re: Muir Heritage Land Trust Grant Proposal

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I write to express my strong support of the Muir Heritage Land Trust's (MHLT) grant request to the Coastal Conservancy in order to fund the acquisition of the West Hills Farm property in Contra Costa County.

MHLT's purchase of the West Hills Farm property will protect wildlife habitat, and water and air quality, and preserve its historic nature. The acquisition of West Hills Farm also meets the goals and objectives of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program by protecting natural habitat of regional significance while providing public access and recreational opportunities to the surrounding communities.

Furthermore, this acquisition will also expand the Muir Historic Site on its southern boundary and create trail systems for hikers, bikers and equestrians, including connections to the 550-mile Bay Area Ridge Trail and nearby MHLT protected lands. Completion of this project will benefit riparian habitat and several endangered species, as well as offer recreational and interpretive opportunities that will enhance the health and well being of Contra Costa County residents. This project will have immediate and lasting benefits to the ecosystem and community.

As the State Assemblywoman who represents the area in which West Hills Farm property is located, I respectfully request the Coastal Conservancy give favorable consideration to the Land Trust's application for funding. Should you have any questions about this worthwhile endeavor, please do not hesitate to contact my District Office at (925) 521-1511. I thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan A. Bonilla".

Susan A. Bonilla
Assemblywoman, 14th District



Federal D. Glover

Supervisor, District Five
Contra Costa County, Board of Supervisors

district5@bos.cccounty.us
www.cccounty.us/supervisorglover

December 17, 2014

Douglas Bosco, Chair of the Conservancy
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

District V Includes

Re: Muir Heritage Land Trust Grant Proposal

Dear Douglas Bosco,

I am writing in support of the grant request to the Coastal Conservancy to fund the West Hills Farm property acquisition in Contra Costa County by the Muir Heritage Land Trust (MHLT). Acquisition of West Hills Farm meets the goals and objectives of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program by protecting natural habitat of regional significance while providing public access and recreational opportunities to the surrounding communities.

This 44-acre biologically-rich property was once home to a ranch and farm owned by John Swett, the father of California's public school system. John Swett was a close friend of John Muir's and the two visited each other frequently. The parcel of land is directly contiguous to the U.S. National Park Service John Muir National Historic Site 325-acre Mount Wanda, which was acquired for the NPS in 1991 when Muir Heritage Land Trust stepped in to save the property for public use by pledging the funds to accomplish its purchase.

MHLT's purchase of the West Hills Farm property will protect wildlife habitat, and water and air quality, and preserve its historic nature. The acquisition will also expand the Muir Historic Site on its southern boundary and create trail systems for hikers, bikers and equestrians, including connections to the 550-mile Bay Area Ridge Trail and nearby MHLT protected lands. Visitors will enjoy stunning views of Briones Regional Park and the Alhambra Hills from the property's hilltops.

West Hills Farm lies within the Alhambra Creek watershed, and protecting it means that valuable waterways and water quality will also be preserved. Strentzel Creek, named after John Muir's father-in-law, traverses the land and flows into Alhambra Creek. Muir often walked the property with his two daughters to admire the coast live oak, blue oak, valley oak, and bay trees that grow there, as well as the native shrubs, perennials, grasses and annual wildflowers that punctuate its grassy hillsides.

The property is linked to the Franklin Ridge corridor, which provides varied terrain and unbroken habitat for native wildlife, including the Alameda whipsnake — a federally listed threatened species — plus California red-legged frog and western pond turtle, as well as rich foraging grounds for Cooper's hawk, white-tailed kite, northern harrier, golden eagles and red-tailed hawk.

Completion of this project will benefit riparian habitat and several endangered species, as well as offer recreational and interpretive opportunities that will enhance the health and well being of Contra Costa County residents. This project will have immediate and lasting benefits to the ecosystem and community.

Thank you for your consideration of this grant request.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Federal Glover

cc: Melanie Denninger, Project Manager

Antioch (North)

Hercules

Martinez

Pinole (North)

Pittsburg

Alhambra Valley

Bay Point

Briones

Clyde

Crockett

Mt. View

Pacheco

Port Costa

Reliez Valley

Rodeo

Tormey

Vine Hill

315 E. Leland Road
Pittsburg, CA 94565
Phone: (925) 427-8138
Fax: (925) 427-8142

651 Pine Street
Martinez, CA 94553
Phone: (925) 335-8200
Fax: (925) 335-8208

151 Linus Pauling Drive
Hercules, CA 94547
Phone: (510) 262-8800
Fax: (510) 262-8808

Exhibit 5: Project Letters



Friends of Alhambra Creek

P.O. Box 2315 Martinez, CA 94553 friendsofac@gmail.com

December 12, 2014

Douglas Bosco, Chair of the Conservancy
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Muir Heritage Land Trust Grant Proposal

Dear Douglas Bosco,

I am writing in support of the grant request to the Coastal Conservancy to fund the West Hills Farm property acquisition in Contra Costa County by the Muir Heritage Land Trust (MHLT). Acquisition of West Hills Farm meets the goals and objectives of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program by protecting natural habitat of regional significance while providing public access and recreational opportunities to the surrounding communities.

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MHLT's purchase of the West Hills Farm property will protect wildlife habitat, and water and air quality, and preserve its historic nature. The acquisition will also expand the Muir Historic Site on its southern boundary and create trail systems for hikers, bikers and equestrians, including connections to the 550-mile Bay Area Ridge Trail and nearby MHLT protected lands. Visitors will enjoy stunning views of Briones Regional Park and the Alhambra Hills from the property's hilltops.

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The property is linked to the Franklin Ridge corridor, which provides varied terrain and unbroken habitat for native wildlife, including the Alameda whipsnake — a federally listed threatened species — plus California red-legged frog and western pond turtle, as well as rich foraging grounds for Cooper's hawk, white-tailed kite, northern harrier, golden eagles and red-tailed hawk.

Completion of this project will benefit riparian habitat and several endangered species, as well as offer recreational and interpretive opportunities that will enhance the health and well being of Contra Costa County residents. This project will have immediate and lasting benefits to the ecosystem and community.

Thank you for your consideration of this grant request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shirley Skaredoff".

Shirley Skaredoff
Chair, Friends of Alhambra Creek

cc: Melanie Denninger, Project Manager



December 16, 2014

Douglas Bosco, Chair of the Conservancy
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Muir Heritage Land Trust Grant Proposal

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The property is linked to the Franklin Ridge corridor, which provides varied terrain and unbroken habitat for native wildlife, including the Alameda whipsnake — a federally listed threatened species — plus



Exhibit 5: Project Letters

California red-legged frog and western pond turtle, as well as rich foraging grounds for Cooper's hawk, white-tailed kite, northern harrier, golden eagles and red-tailed hawk.

Completion of this project will benefit riparian habitat and several endangered species, as well as offer recreational and interpretive opportunities that will enhance the health and well being of Contra Costa County residents. This project will have immediate and lasting benefits to the ecosystem and community.

Thank you for your consideration of this grant request.

Sincerely,



Janet McBride
Executive Director

cc: Melanie Denninger, Project Manager