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2ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0502

September 6, 2016

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

Dear Chairman. Bosco:

I am writing in support of the Bay Area Open Space Council’s application to your Bay Area Program for conservation planning in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. The funds would be used to update and modernize the *Conservation Lands Network* and to conduct outreach among Bay Area land conservation entities and the public regarding conservation of the region’s biodiversity and open space.

Founded in 1990, the Bay Area Open Space Council (Council) is a unique network of member nonprofits and public agencies in the greater San Francisco Bay region. As of 2015, the Council's members have collectively stewarded and protected nearly 1.4 million acres of parks, open space, rangelands and protected farmland that serve tens of millions of people annually. The Council's Conservation Lands Network analysis has established a long-term goal to conserve two million total acres of priority lands in the greater San Francisco Bay area. Through Outdoor Voice, the Council is educating Bay Area residents on the value of conserved lands, watersheds, trails, protected agricultural land and other open spaces.

The Open Space Council seeks support from the Coastal Conservancy’s Bay Area Program to continue providing the much-needed services upon which the region has come to depend. Specifically, they plan to:

1. *Update the Conservation Land Network.* In 2011 the Council released the Conservation Lands Network (CLN), the first comprehensive science-based plan for conserving the region’s biodiversity. The goal of the updated CLN is to provide Bay Area land managers and conservationists with a robust decision-making tool that also can articulate the full range of social and environmental benefits of land conservation.
2. *Develop regional media for promoting understanding of the value of regional open space.* The Council will promote open space conservation and stewardship for the region using consistent messaging and materials by expanding Outdoor Voice, a social media based platform.

This work is critical to the success of the region’s ability to protect open space. Thank you for your serious consideration of the Open Space Council’s grant application.

Sincerely,



JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress

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Assembly
California Legislature



MARC LEVINE
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TENTH DISTRICT

September 8, 2016

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

Subject: Letter of support for the Bay Area Open Space Council Grant Application

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing in support of the Bay Area Open Space Council's application for a grant from the Coastal Conservancy's Bay Area Program to update the *Conservation Land Network*, and the Council's conservation educational outreach program *Outdoor Voice*. Both of these projects will advance the Council's important conservation work in the greater San Francisco Bay Area and benefit the region's biodiversity and open space.

The Bay Area Open Space Council is a unique network of member nonprofits and public agencies in the greater Bay Area region. The Council's members have collectively stewarded and protected nearly 1.4 million acres of parks, open space, rangelands and farmland that serve tens of millions of people.

In 2011 the Council released the *Conservation Land Network*, the first comprehensive science-based plan for conserving the region's biodiversity. The *Conservation Land Network* established a long-term goal of conserving two million acres of priority lands in the greater San Francisco Bay area. The Council seeks support from the Coastal Conservancy's Bay Area Program to update the *Conservation Land Network*. The goal of the updated plan is to provide Bay Area land managers and conservationists with a robust decision-making tool that articulates the full range of social and environmental benefits of land conservation.

The Council is also seeking funding to expand *Outdoor Voice*, through which the Council educates Bay Area residents on the value of conserved lands, watersheds, trails, agricultural land, wildlife corridors and other open spaces. By expanding *Outdoor Voice* the Council will promote open space conservation and stewardship using consistent messaging in a social media based platform. This tool will also enable these messages to reach new and diverse audiences, some of whom may become the Bay Area's conservation leaders of the future.

I urge you to approve the Bay Area Open Space Council's application which will enable the continuation of this important conservation work.

Sincerely,


MARC LEVINE

Exhibit 2: Project Letters

CC: Deb Callahan, Executive Director, Bay Area Open Space Council
Brenda Buxton, State Coastal Conservancy



Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

GENERAL MANAGER
Stephen E. Abbors

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

September 8, 2016

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

Subject: Letter of support for the Bay Area Open Space Council

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I believe that by working together we can achieve more and therefore fully support the efforts of the Bay Area Open Space Council to lead the region to preserve land and connect people to it. With that in mind, I am writing on behalf of the **Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen)** in support of the Bay Area Open Space Council's application to the Coastal Conservancy's Bay Area Program to advance conservation planning in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. As you may know, Midpen's mission is to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education. Over its 44-year history, it has protected over 63,000 acres of open space in and around Silicon Valley and is one of the largest regional open space districts in California.

Founded in 1990, the Bay Area Open Space Council is a unique network of member nonprofits and public agencies in the greater San Francisco Bay region. As of 2015, the Council's members have collectively stewarded and protected nearly 1.4 million acres of parks, open space, rangelands and protected farmland that serve tens of millions of people annually. The Council's Conservation Lands Network analysis has established a long-term goal of two million total acres of conserved priority lands in the greater San Francisco Bay area. Through Outdoor Voice, the Council is educating Bay Area residents on the value of conserved lands, watersheds, trails, protected agricultural land and other open spaces.

The Open Space Council seeks support from the Coastal Conservancy's Bay Area Program to continue providing the much-needed services upon which the region has come to depend. Specifically, they plan to:

1. *Update the Conservation Land Network.* In 2011 the Council released the Conservation Lands Network (CLN), the first comprehensive science-based plan for conserving the region's biodiversity. The goal of the updated CLN is to provide Bay Area land managers and conservationists with a robust decision-making tool that also can articulate the full range of social and environmental benefits of land conservation.

Exhibit 2: Project Letters

2. *Develop regional media for promoting understanding of the value of regional open space.* The Council will promote open space conservation and stewardship for the region using consistent messaging and materials by expanding Outdoor Voice, a social media based platform.

By updating and modernizing the *Conservation Lands Network* and conducting outreach among Bay Area land conservation entities and the public regarding conservation of the region's biodiversity and open space, this tool will have a significant impact on the San Francisco Bay Area region's ability to effect meaningful conservation activities.

Thank you for your consideration to support the important work of the Open Space Council. They are critical to the success of the region's ability to protect open space.

Sincerely,



Stephen E. Abbors
General Manager, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

CC: Deb Callahan, Executive Director, Bay Area Open Space Council



September 12, 2016

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

Attention: Brenda Buxton

Subject: Letter of support for the Bay Area Open Space Council

Dear Chair Bosco,

I believe that by working together we can achieve more and therefore fully support the efforts of the Bay Area Open Space Council to lead the region to preserve land and connect people to it. On behalf of the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, I am writing in support of the Bay Area Open Space Council's application for support from the Coastal Conservancy's Bay Area Program to advance open space planning in the greater San Francisco Bay Area by updating and modernizing the *Conservation Lands Network* and conducting outreach among Bay Area land conservation entities and the public regarding the multi-faceted benefits of protected open space.

Founded in 1990, the Bay Area Open Space Council is a unique network of member nonprofits and public agencies in the greater San Francisco Bay region. As of 2015, the Council's members have collectively stewarded and protected nearly 1.4 million acres of parks, open space, rangelands and protected farmland that serve tens of millions of people annually. The Council's Conservation Lands Network analysis has established a long-term goal of two million total acres of conserved priority lands in the greater San Francisco Bay area. Through Outdoor Voice, the Council is increasing awareness among Bay Area residents on the value of restored and protected lands, watersheds, trails, protected agricultural land and other open spaces.

The Open Space Council seeks support from the Coastal Conservancy's Bay Area Program to continue providing the much-needed services upon which the region has come to depend. Specifically, they plan to:

1. *Update the Conservation Land Network.* In 2011 the Council released the Conservation Lands Network (CLN), the first comprehensive science-based plan for conserving the region's biodiversity. The goal of the updated CLN is to provide Bay Area land managers and conservationists with a robust decision-making tool that also can articulate the full range of social and environmental benefits of land conservation. The update will include data about existing and potential trail corridors, which will land managers and decision-makers gain new insights and leverage multiple objectives.



2. *Develop regional media to promote understanding of the value of regional open space, and ultimately to increase support and stewardship.* The Council will promote open space protection and stewardship for the region using consistent messaging and materials by expanding Outdoor Voice, a social media based platform.

Thank you for your consideration to support the important work of the Open Space Council. They are critical to the success of the region's ability to protect open space.

Sincerely,



Janet McBride
Executive Director

CC: Deb Callahan, Executive Director, Bay Area Open Space Council





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September 6, 2016

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

Subject: Letter of Support for the Bay Area Open Space Council

Dear Mr. Bosco:

Thank you for your continued leadership of the Coastal Conservancy. As a strong proponent of the Bay Area Program, we are writing in support of the Bay Area Open Space Council’s (BAOSC) application to support modernization of the *Conservation Lands Network (CLN)* platform.

The *Conservation Lands Network* is a regional vision and guide to protect the Bay Area’s irreplaceable landscapes. The original report was released in 2011 as a dynamic vision for biodiversity conservation. It has been an extremely valuable tool for agencies like the Park District. Much has happened in the past five years, and the BAOSC is working to update and modernize the *CLN*. Among the things that have happened is the launch of *Outdoor Voice* by BAOSC in 2015. *Outdoor Voice* is a social media platform designed to promote increasing investment of resources – time, money and people – in taking care of the Bay Area’s natural wonders. It helps to connect BAOSC programming, like the *CLN*, to the people and communities they serve. We support this work and the BASOC funding request the Coastal Conservancy’s Bay Program for both *CLN* and *Outdoor Voice*.

Founded in 1990, the BAOSC is a unique network of member nonprofits and public agencies in the greater San Francisco Bay region. As a founding Board Member, I have seen these relationships firsthand for the past 26 years. As of 2015, the Council’s members have collectively stewarded and protected nearly 1.4 million acres of parks, open space, rangelands and protected farmlands that serve tens of millions of people annually. The *CLN* analysis has established a long-term goal of two million total acres of conserved priority lands in the greater San Francisco Bay Area.

The BAOSC seeks support from the Coastal Conservancy’s Bay Area Program to continue providing the much-needed services upon which the region has come to depend. Specifically, they plan to:

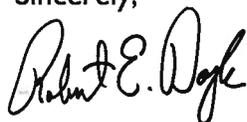
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1. *Update the Conservations Lands Network.* The 2011 release of the CLN was the first comprehensive science-based plan for conserving the region's biodiversity. Updating this robust decision-making tool, will provide Bay Area land managers and conservationists a constructive way to articulate the full range of social and environmental benefits of land conservation.
2. *Develop regional media for promoting understanding of the value of regional open space.* The Council will promote open space conservation and stewardship for the region using consistent messaging and materials by expanding Outdoor Voice.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. The work of the BAOSC remains critical to the success of the region's ability to protect open space.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Doyle
General Manager
East Bay Regional Park District

CC: EBRPD, Board of Directors
Deb Callahan, Executive Director, Bay Area Open Space Council



August 29, 2016

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

Subject: Letter of support for the Bay Area Open Space Council

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I believe that by working together we can achieve more and therefore fully support the efforts of the Bay Area Open Space Council to lead the region to preserve land and connect people to it. With that in mind, I am writing in support of the Bay Area Open Space Council's application for support from the Coastal Conservancy's Bay Area Program to advance conservation planning in the greater San Francisco Bay Area by updating and modernizing the *Conservation Lands Network* and conducting outreach among Bay Area land conservation entities and the public regarding conservation of the region's biodiversity and open space.

Founded in 1990, the Bay Area Open Space Council is a unique network of member nonprofits and public agencies in the greater San Francisco Bay region. As of 2015, the Council's members have collectively stewarded and protected nearly 1.4 million acres of parks, open space, rangelands and protected farmland that serve tens of millions of people annually. The Council's Conservation Lands Network analysis has established a long-term goal of two million total acres of conserved priority lands in the greater San Francisco Bay area. Through Outdoor Voice, the Council is educating Bay Area residents on the value of conserved lands, watersheds, trails, protected agricultural land and other open spaces.

The Open Space Council seeks support from the Coastal Conservancy's Bay Area Program to continue providing the much-needed services upon which the region has come to depend. Specifically, they plan to:

Exhibit 2: Project Letters

1. *Update the Conservation Land Network.* In 2011 the Council released the Conservation Lands Network (CLN), the first comprehensive science-based plan for conserving the region's biodiversity. The goal of the updated CLN is to provide Bay Area land managers and conservationists with a robust decision-making tool that also can articulate the full range of social and environmental benefits of land conservation.
2. *Develop regional media for promoting understanding of the value of regional open space.* The Council will promote open space conservation and stewardship for the region using consistent messaging and materials by expanding Outdoor Voice, a social media based platform.

Thank you for your consideration to support the important work of the Open Space Council. They are critical to the success of the region's ability to protect open space.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Keene". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" and last name "Keene" clearly distinguishable.

William J. Keene
General Manager
Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation
And Open Space District

CC: Deb Callahan, Executive Director, Bay Area Open Space Council



September 9, 2016

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

Subject: Letter of support for the Bay Area Open Space Council's Conservation Lands Network Update Project

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing in support of the Bay Area Open Space Council's (BAOSC) application for grant funding from the Coastal Conservancy's Bay Area Program to advance conservation planning in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. By updating and modernizing the Conservation Lands Network and conducting outreach among Bay Area land conservation entities and the public, the BAOSC will help to conserve the region's natural areas and foster engaged citizenry.

Founded in 1990, the Bay Area Open Space Council is a unique network of member nonprofits and public agencies in the greater San Francisco Bay region, to which the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority belongs. As of 2015, the Council's members have collectively stewarded and protected nearly 1.4 million acres of parks, open space, rangelands and protected farmland that serve tens of millions of people annually. The Council's Conservation Lands Network analysis has established a long-term goal of two million total acres of conserved priority lands in the greater San Francisco Bay area. Through Outdoor Voice, the Council is educating Bay Area residents on the value of conserved lands, watersheds, trails, protected agricultural land and other open spaces.

The Open Space Council seeks support from the Coastal Conservancy's Bay Area Program to continue providing the much-needed services upon which the region has come to depend. Specifically, they plan to:

1. Update the Conservation Lands Network (CLN). In 2011 the Council released the Conservation Lands Network (CLN), the first comprehensive science-based plan for conserving the region's biodiversity. The goal of the updated CLN is to provide Bay Area land managers and conservationists with a more robust decision-making tool that also can articulate the full range of social and environmental benefits of land conservation. The Open Space Authority is a frequent user of the existing CLN tools, and we look forward to this added functionality.

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Exhibit 2: Project Letters

2. Develop regional media to promote understanding of the value of regional open space. The Council will promote open space conservation and stewardship for the region using consistent messaging and materials by expanding Outdoor Voice, a social media based platform.

Thank you for your consideration to support the important work of the Open Space Council. They are critical to the success of the region's ability to protect open space.

Sincerely,



Andrea Mackenzie
General Manager

CC: Deb Callahan, Executive Director, Bay Area Open Space Council
Board of Directors, Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority