Mr. Jim E. Ball, Executive Director
Solano Land Trust
P.O. Box 115
Fairfield, CA 94533

Dear Mr. Ball:

I am writing in strong support of Solano Land Trust’s plans to purchase the Vallejo Swett Ranch in Solano County. This acquisition will preserve a key piece of critical undeveloped land in an area of Solano County under threat of urbanization. It will also form an important link to a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail at Lynch Canyon Open Space dedicated in November 2002.

The Vallejo Swett Ranch is a 908-acre part of the proposed Sky Valley-Cordelia Hills Open Space. The project is a partnership of public and private groups, including the Cities of Benicia, Fairfield, and Vallejo; Greater Vallejo Recreation District; Solano County; and Solano Land Trust. Upon completion, 10,000 acres of land will be preserved for public recreation, wildlife conservation, watershed preservation, and ranching. Preserving these lands will have the added benefit of encouraging smart growth within existing city areas by securing an open space buffer rather than having these lands lost to urban sprawl.

I also support this request because Solano Land Trust has already demonstrated responsible project management for working to ensure matching funds. Your organization has set aside $400,000 mitigation monies you have received to complete the purchase of the Vallejo Swett Ranch. Solano Land Trust is currently poised to take advantage of an exceptional opportunity. You have found a willing seller in PG&E, but it is uncertain when a situation like this one will arise again. Hopefully I will be successful in obtaining $2,000,000 from the reauthorization of the federal gas tax.

I applaud your efforts and am pleased to be part of this acquisition.

Sincerely,

George Miller
Member of Congress
7th District, California
April 12, 2004

Mr. Jim Ball
Executive Director
Solano Land Trust
PO Box 115
Fairfield, CA 94533

Dear Mr. Ball,

I am writing in support of the Trust’s plans to purchase the Vallejo Swett Ranch in Solano County.

Your organization’s acquisition will preserve a key piece of undeveloped land in the County. Currently, the region is undergoing rapid growth. By securing the Vallejo Swett Ranch for open space use, the Trust is providing an important solution to the challenges of urbanization. At the same time, the project will form an essential link to a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail’s Lynch Canyon Open Space, which your organization also manages.

I understand that the over 900 acres of the Vallejo Swett Ranch will play an important role in the Solano Land Trust’s program to create the Sky Valley–Cordelia Hills Open Space. A diverse group of public and private stakeholders have come together for the Open Space Project, including the Cities of Benicia, Fairfield, and Vallejo; Greater Vallejo Recreation District; Solano County; and the Solano Land Trust. This project will also play an important role in the greenbelt that you have helped plan for the communities of Fairfield, Vacaville, and Benicia. Securing these lands will prevent unplanned sprawl and encourages smart growth within existing city areas. Upon completion, the entire the Sky Valley–Cordelia Hills Open Space Project will preserve 10,000 acres of land for public recreation, wildlife conservation, watershed preservation, and ranching.

I also support this request because the Trust has already demonstrated responsible project management by working to ensure matching funds. Your organization has set aside $400,000 mitigation monies you have received to complete the purchase of the Vallejo Swett Ranch.
EXHIBIT 7: Letters of Support

The Trust is currently posed to take advantage of an exceptional opportunity. You have found a willing seller for these acquisitions in PG&E, but it is uncertain when a situation like this one will ever arise again. This is a special chance to preserve what limited open space is still available for our community today and future generations.

I support this project and hope that you will keep me updated on its progress.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ellen O. Tauscher
Member of Congress
April 9, 2004

Mr. Paul Morabito, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1130 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Morabito,

I strongly urge you to support Solano Land Trust’s grant request to the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council for the purchase of the Vallejo Swett Ranch. This acquisition will preserve a key piece of critical undeveloped land in an area of Solano County under threat of urbanization. It will also form an important link to a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail at Lynch Canyon Open Space dedicated in November 2002.

The Vallejo Swett Ranch is a 908-acre part of the proposed Sky Valley-Cordelia Hills Open Space. The project is a partnership of public and private groups, including the Cities of Benicia, Fairfield, and Vallejo; Greater Vallejo Recreation District; Solano County; and Solano Land Trust. Upon completion, 10,000 acres of land will be preserved for public recreation, wildlife conservation, watershed preservation, and ranching. Preserving these lands will have the added benefit of encouraging smart growth within existing city areas by securing an open space buffer rather than having these lands lost to urban sprawl.

Time is not on our side. We must act now to preserve our future and we currently have a willing seller in PG&E for these acquisitions.

Thank you and the Conservancy Board for your favorable consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

WESLEY CHESBRO
Senator, Second District

WC/bo
April 6, 2004

Mr. Paul Morabito, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1130 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Morabito,

I strongly urge you to support Solano Land Trust’s grant request to the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council for the purchase of the Vallejo Swett Ranch. This acquisition will preserve a key piece of critical undeveloped land in an area of Solano County under threat of urbanization. It will also form an important link to a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail at Lynch Canyon Open Space dedicated in November 2002.

The Vallejo Swett Ranch is a 908-acre part of the proposed Sky Valley–Cordelia Hills Open Space. The project is a partnership of public and private groups, including the Cities of Benicia, Fairfield, and Vallejo; Greater Vallejo Recreation District; Solano County; and Solano Land Trust. Upon completion, 10,000 acres of land will be preserved for public recreation, wildlife conservation, watershed preservation, and ranching. Preserving these lands will have the added benefit of encouraging smart growth within existing city areas by securing an open space buffer rather than having these lands lost to urban sprawl.

Time is not on our side. We must act now to preserve our future and we currently have a willing seller in PG&E for these acquisitions.

Your support will make a difference. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

LOIS WOLK
Assemblywoman, 8th AD
November 16, 2004

Mr. Paul Morabito, Chairman
Board of Directors
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Morabito:

I am writing to express our support for the Solano Land Trust’s application for a grant of $200,000 to acquire the Vallejo Swett Ranch in Solano County. This acquisition will preserve a critical piece of undeveloped land and form an important link to segments of the Bay Area Ridge Trail at Lynch Canyon (managed by the Solano Land Trust), Hiddenbrooke Open Space and Blue Rock Springs Park.

Vallejo Swett Ranch is a 908-acre part of the proposed Sky Valley-Cordelia Hills Open Space. Preserving this land will support public recreation, wildlife conservation, and watershed protection in the rapidly urbanizing Interstate 80 corridor.

Our 2002 Vallejo Ridge Trail Route Study: Hiddenbrooke to Blue Rock Springs Park, funded in part by the Coastal Conservancy, found the acquisition of the Vallejo Swett Ranch would be a major link in the regional trail system because it will connect major existing trails and ultimately help provide trail connections between the cities of Fairfield, Vallejo and Benicia.

We believe this project would preserve the land needed to complete the Bay Area Ridge Trail in this part of Solano County and would provide significant public benefits to the residents of the region. Many thanks for your favorable consideration of the Solano Land Trust’s proposed acquisition.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Holly Van Houten
Executive Director