

September 9, 2011

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



Subject: Acquisition of the Morrison Property, Forest Knolls, Marin County Parks

Dear Mr. Bosco:

Marin Conservation League (MCL) would like to add its voice in support of the efforts by Marin County Parks to acquire the Morrison property adjacent to the Gary Giacomini Open space Preserve. The League has played a major role over the past 77 years in facilitating the acquisition of many of Marin's significant public lands and was instrumental in the establishment of the County Open Space District 40 years ago. The League continues to promote any opportunities to add key parcels that will improve public access to the preserves and at the same time protect vulnerable habitats in the county.

The 22-acre Morrison property offers a unique opportunity to preserve public access in perpetuity to a significant open space preserve and adjacent public lands, as well as to protect a variety of species – including two rare plants and northern spotted owl – in important forest and chaparral habitats. The property has been a high priority for acquisition since the Giacomini Preserve was established in 1995.

Acquiring the property will offer other advantages to the environment as well as the public. For example, it will enable Marin County Parks to continue its efforts to improve the condition of the Manzanita Fire Road and thereby reduce sedimentation into San Geronimo Creek, which provides major spawning habitat and is designated as critical habitat for the endangered Coho salmon. This fire road also provides connections for hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers to the San Geronimo Ridge Fire Road (a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail) and the adjacent public lands of Marin Municipal Water District, Samuel P. Taylor State Park, and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

MCL understands that the value of the property has been estimated at \$650,000 and that the owner is a willing seller. With the staff- recommended Coastal Conservancy grant in the amount of \$450,000 and Parks commitment of \$100,000, Parks could initiate a fundraising campaign to close the gap and acquire the property. MCL will join Marin County Parks and other non-profits in that effort, as it has in previous campaigns to raise funds for key open space acquisitions.

PHONE: 415.485.6257  
FAX: 415.485.6259

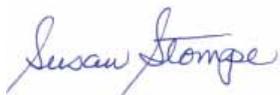
EMAIL: [mcl@marinconservationleague.org](mailto:mcl@marinconservationleague.org)  
URL: [www.marinconservationleague.org](http://www.marinconservationleague.org)

ADDRESS: 1623-A Fifth Avenue  
San Rafael, CA 94901



In conclusion, MCL strongly urges the Coastal Conservancy to award the proposed grant and thereby enable the purchase of this important property. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Stompe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Susan Stompe, President

cc: Linda Dahl, Director, Marin County Parks  
James Raives, Senior Planner, Marin County Parks