

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 4061
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-4900
(916) 445-6671
(916) 327-2433 FAX

DISTRICT OFFICE
13801 MISSION BLVD, SUITE 103
FREMONT, CA 94539
(510) 413-5960 OR
(408) 286-0329
(510) 413-5965 FAX

E-MAIL:
SENATOR.FIGUEROA@SEN.CA.GOV
WEBSITE:
WWW.SEN.CA.GOV/FIGUEROA

California State Senate

SENATOR
LIZ FIGUEROA

TENTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

SENATE COMMITTEE ON
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS
CHAIR

COMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
INSURANCE
TRANSPORTATION



July 19, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chair
CA State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Ste 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing in strong support of the East Bay Regional Park District's \$400,000 grant application to the California State Coastal Conservancy for acquisition of the 106-acre Vinson property, a portion of Devaney Canyon, located at the northern boundary adjacent to Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park in central Alameda County.

With this purchase, EBRPD has an opportunity to consolidate key blocks of sensitive habitat and create nearly 5,000 acres of contiguous protected terrain. The Vinson property is the key linkage for trail access, as well as much-needed emergency vehicle access, from Dublin Canyon Road to the north end of Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park. The Vinsons are willing sellers who are keeping a portion of the land to be developed and selling the remainder to the District for preservation as open space in perpetuity.

This acquisition will add strategic acreage to Pleasanton Ridge, provide an important habitat linkage to publicly-owned property, and protect a wildlife corridor in this highly urbanized region. I urge the California Coastal Conservancy to give favorable consideration to this request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Liz Figueroa".

LIZ FIGUEROA
State Senator, 10th District

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JUL 20 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 53
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596

July 14, 2005

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Pleasanton Ridge Corridor Acquisition

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, I would like to express our strong support for East Bay Regional Park District's grant application to the State Coastal Conservancy for the acquisition of the 106-acre Vinson property in Alameda County near Pleasanton.

The proposed acquisition contains rich riparian habitat in Devaney and Hedd Canyons, as well as oak/bay woodland, chaparral, and grassland. As a result, this property provides critical habitat for several state and federally listed and endangered species, including California red-legged frog and the Alameda whipsnake, as well as the mountain lion and golden eagle. Abundant year-round water supports migratory songbirds and a diverse resident population of birds and other wildlife.

It is our understanding that this property is under threat of subdivision and development. Relentless pressure from encroaching urbanization makes the assemblage and protection of ridgeline corridors and large parcels of habitat more critical than ever. Besides containing a valuable wildlife corridor, the Vinson property will provide a critical link for the Calaveras Ridge Trail, an important regional corridor for hikers, bikers and equestrians. Thanks to the owners' donation of a recreational trail easement through their remaining property, members of the public will be able to gain access to the adjacent 5,000± acre Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park for excellent wildlife viewing.

The Vinson property will be a significant addition of protected quality habitat for a variety of species. A diverse and healthy natural community is vital to our quality of life. East Bay Regional Park District's plans to acquire this property and protect it from development are consistent with Mt. Diablo Audubon Society's mission and goals. Accordingly, we strongly urge the Coastal Conservancy to support this proposal.

Sincerely,

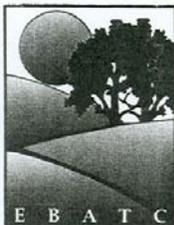
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Michael R. Williams
President

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JUL 22 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND CALIF



East
Bay Area
Trails
Council

2950
Peralta
Oaks
Court

Oakland,
California

94605

The EBATC
is composed
of public
agencies,
equestrians,
hikers,
bicyclists,
and
conservation-
ists who are
committed
to furthering
the
protection of
the scenic
and
recreational
resources of
the East Bay.

July 20, 2005

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr Bosco:

The East Bay Area Trails Council (EBATC) is a coalition of hiking, equestrian, bicycling and environmental groups working with land managing agencies to establish, manage and preserve trails in the East Bay (Alameda and Contra Costa) Counties. We have active members in the Pleasanton and Tri-Valley area who frequently visit the Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park.

Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park is located in the coastal range between two heavily urbanized areas in the south-central portion of Alameda County in the East Bay. The park has grown incrementally through key acquisitions over the past few years to become a significant public resource and habitat area. The trail system has provided hikers and riders a unique outdoor experience in what was historically largely private rangeland.

We support the East Bay Regional Park District's application to the State Coastal Conservancy for assistance in acquiring this property through a request for a \$400,000 grant. We are particularly interested in this acquisition because of the potential for a trail connection to the north end of Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park at Devaney Canyon, which is currently inaccessible due to the lack of a connection between Dublin Canyon Road and the parkland. This access will also provide a connection to the long distance north-south Calaveras Ridge Regional Trail.

Additionally, the rich riparian corridor in Hedd Canyon will support habitat for a number of threatened or endangered species including the California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander and Alameda whipsnake.

We encourage the State Coastal Conservancy to give favorable consideration to this request.

Sincerely,

Glenn Kirby, Board Member
East Bay Area Trails Council

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JUL 22 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.