

VENTANA WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Conserving Native Wildlife and their Habitats

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December 19, 2007

Doug Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:



The Ventana Wildlife Society (VWS) would like to express its support for the Big Sur Land Trust's request for funding for the acquisition of the McWhorter Property on the Carmel River. VWS is committed to conserving native wildlife and their habitats through research, education and outreach. VWS is very familiar with the McWhorter property having monitored the site for riparian birds since 2000. VWS has a long history of monitoring sites along the Carmel River and the McWhorter property has shown itself an important riparian forest for use by several Partners in Flight Riparian Focal Species including the Wilson's Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Swainson's Thrush.

VWS envisions exciting opportunities by partnering with BSLT on this property to bring educational programs about riparian forest protection and Neotropical migrants and resident birds species. This opportunity would not be available if the property remained as private property. We encourage your support of the BSLT grant request to purchase and provide this property for public benefit. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly J. Sorenson
Executive Director



**MONTEREY PENINSULA
WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

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December 20, 2007

Doug Bosco, Chair
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

**SUBJECT: Funding for Acquisition of McWhorter Property, Carmel River
APN 169-171-008**

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I would like to express the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's (MPWMD) support for the Big Sur Land Trust's request for funding for the acquisition of the McWhorter Property on the Carmel River.

MPWMD's mission is to manage, augment, and protect water resources for the benefit of the community and the environment. One of the ways we achieve this objective is through an active program to restore riparian habitat along the Carmel River. MPWMD's Schulte Restoration Project is one of the first areas to be restored under our program. A series of projects on the McWhorter property and adjacent parcels was begun in the early 1980s, and a major restoration was concluded in 1987. MPWMD has a strong interest in preserving this property because we have invested significant resources in the long-term monitoring of this project. Data sets associated with the Schulte Restoration Project include plant growth, vegetation moisture stress, river cross-sections, and steelhead spawning activity. Since 1987 MPWMD has increased riparian habitat in the area by 232 percent by planting over 6,000 riparian trees. MPWMD, aided by the Ventana Wildlife Society, has also been conducting avian monitoring on the property since 1992 to evaluate the quality of the restored habitat. The property contains important instream habitat for steelhead trout including significant riffle, run and pool habitat.

This property has been the subject of many restoration conferences and field trips because of its historical significance with regard to restoration of the Carmel River and in California. MPWMD has been working with the Big Sur Land Trust on projects associated with the Carmel River, and acquisition of the McWhorter property is a worthy project for protecting the Carmel River now and in the future. We encourage your support of this grant request.

Sincerely,

David A. Berger
General Manager