



August 14, 2018

Bert Whitaker
Sonoma County Regional Parks
2300 County Center Drive Suite 120A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Dear Mr. Whitaker,

I write on behalf of the City of Santa Rosa in support of Sonoma County Regional Parks' proposal to the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District to appropriate funds for acquisition of the Cooper Creek Addition, a 54-acre open space parcel located within the City of Santa Rosa directly north of Taylor Mountain Regional Park.

We strongly support this grant application and its focus of expanding neighborhood access to Taylor Mountain Regional Park, enabling future connections between the park and planned urban trails, and protecting riparian habitat on the scenic hillside property.

This proposal will improve the quality of life for residents of several southeast Santa Rosa neighborhoods where the availability of personal greenspace is limited. It will connect those neighborhoods to the City's new Kawana Springs Community Park development, as well as to Taylor Mountain Regional Park & Open Space Preserve and Trione-Annadel State Park. Additionally, we fully support the project's aim of preserving the scenic hillside above the City's Fairgrounds neighborhood. We note and understand that housing options on the site are limited due to the Rogers Creek fault zone.

The General Plan land use designation for the site is Very Low Density Residential, which allows a residential density range of 0.2-2 units per acre. Pursuant to General Plan Policy LUL-E-4, the City seeks to "protect the rural quality of Very Low Density areas within the Urban Growth Boundary through design and development standards in the Zoning Code, and development review." Given the steep terrain in this area, much of which includes slopes of greater than 25%, coupled with the fact that the Santa Rosa Zoning Code discourages development on slopes greater than 25%, the residential development potential would be limited. Further, the Santa Rosa General Plan includes numerous goals and policies related to open space preservation, including Policy OSC-A-4, which specifically encourages "the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District to appropriate funds for acquisition of open space within and surrounding Santa Rosa". One of the identified priorities for this policy is acquisition of open space at Taylor Mountain Regional Park.

In partnership with Sonoma Land Trust, Sonoma County Regional Parks staff have put together a strong proposal for funding of the acquisition through public grant funds and

CHRIS COURSEY
Mayor

CHRIS ROGERS
Vice Mayor

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private philanthropy. We look forward to and appreciate your leadership in securing this valuable open space asset for Santa Rosa and Sonoma County residents and visitors.

The City of Santa Rosa will benefit greatly from the acquisition of the Cooper Creek addition and you have my full support and best wishes on this exciting venture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Coursey", with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Chris Coursey
Mayor

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