



May 23, 2017

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-1410

Re: Support for Sonoma Land Trust's Grant Request – Southeast Greenway
Acquisition

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing to express the City of Santa Rosa's support of Sonoma Land Trust's request to the State Coastal Conservancy for a grant of \$500,000 to support the acquisition of the Southeast Santa Rosa Greenway ("Greenway").

This project benefits the city in multiple ways: reducing greenhouse gas emissions, expanding opportunities for car-free transit, restoring the health of a local watershed and creating new educational opportunities for nearby schools. Establishment of the Greenway will:

- Help advance the City's emissions reduction goals through tree planting, expansion of the existing network of bicycle and pedestrian trails, minimal new paving to reduce ambient temperatures, and community gardens to increase local food production.
- Advance implementation of the City's Santa Rosa Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan goal to develop continuous bicycle and pedestrian pathways that serve the community and link neighborhoods with schools, parks, shopping, and employment centers.
- Enable the City to restore Spring Creek, restoring the creek's natural base flow by allowing water to flow through a section of Spring Creek that has been dewatered since the 1990s. This restoration will help the City of Santa Rosa meet the Proposition 1 goals of restoring natural system functions in an urban river that contribute to water quality, flood management and watershed health.
- Create an important new educational resource for local schools. Teachers and administrators at nearby public schools have plans to use the Greenway's restored creeks and wetlands as an educational resource, providing students with an "outdoor classroom" within walking distance of their schools.

CHRIS COURSEY
Mayor

JACK TIBBETTS
Vice Mayor

JULIE COMBS
ERNESTO OLIVARES
CHRIS ROGERS
JOHN SAWYER
TOM SCHWEDHELM

In short, the Southeast Santa Rosa Greenway project will help advance the city's greenhouse gas reduction, sustainable transportation, watershed, and education goals. This project is being advanced by a strategic alliance of local government agencies and non-profits working together to make the Greenway a reality. The City and Sonoma Land Trust together were awarded a \$1M acquisition grant

by a strategic alliance of local government agencies and non-profits working together to make the Greenway a reality. The City and Sonoma Land Trust together were awarded a \$1M acquisition grant from the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District last year and we wholeheartedly support Sonoma Land Trust's application for these critical and timely funds.

Sincerely,

Chris Coursey
Mayor, City of Santa Rosa

Cc: Wendy Eliot, Sonoma Land Trust
Matt Gerhart, State Coastal Conservancy