



County of Santa Cruz

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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ALVIN D. JAMES, DIRECTOR

June 3, 1999

Agenda: June 15, 1999

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, California 95060

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM

Dear Members of the Board:

On March 23, 1999 your Board directed Planning Department staff to return with a final report after escrows closed for the acquisition of agricultural conservation easements (ACE) on portions of the Coast Dairies and Land Company (Coast Dairies) property and the Cardoza Ranch. As you may recall, funds for the purchase of the easements were granted to the County under the California Wildlife, Coastal and Park Land Conservation Act of 1988 (Proposition 70).

Staff is pleased to report on the successful closing of both escrows and the expenditure of all of the grant funds and interest earned on the funds. Both easements were offered on a voluntary basis and represent the sale of the current and future development rights associated with the properties for the permanent protection of the agricultural resource values.

The County acquired a Deed of Agricultural Conservation Easement on a 165 acre portion of the Coast Dairies and Land Company property. The value of the easement was appraised for \$815,000. The Trust for Public Lands conveyed the easement to the County for the amount of \$766,600.

The Open Space Alliance conveyed a Deed of Agricultural Conservation Easement to the County on the agriculturally usable land areas of the Cardoza Ranch off Harkins Slough Road in Watsonville for the amount of \$200,000. The value of the easement was

appraised for \$212,000. The remaining portion of the property consists of wetlands and a steeply sloped uplands area which will be protected under a separate wetlands easement.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board accept this final status report of the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.

Sincerely,



ALVIN D. JAMES
Planning Director

ADJ/DB:pln714

RECOMMENDED:



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

cc: Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau
The Land Trust of Santa Cruz
The Trust for Public Land
Open Space Alliance
California Department of Parks and Recreation