

October 11, 2010

President Valerie Brown and District Directors  
Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District  
575 Administration Drive, Room 100A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

RE: SCAPOSD Citizens Advisory Committee Position  
Roblar Ranch Conservation Easement Exchange

Dear President Brown:

The SCAPOSD Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) convened a special meeting on October 7, 2010 to discuss the proposed Roblar Ranch conservation easement exchange and amendment. The purpose of the meeting was to provide CAC members and the public an opportunity to learn about the proposal being presented to the Board on October 19, 2010 and determine what recommendations the committee could prepare for the Board's consideration.

Though the staff report for the Board was not yet available, District staff presented details of the proposed exchange and amendment, as well as fielded questions from the CAC. The meeting was very well attended by members of the public. Most in attendance, including the project applicant, spoke for the record. A copy of the meeting summary notes is attached.

With a strong majority vote, the CAC authorized the executive committee to prepare this letter and include the following recommendation.

*The Advisory Committee to the SCAPOSD takes the following position:*

*We oppose the release of the easement for the Roblar Ranch Conservation Easement for the following reasons:*

- 1. The citizens of Sonoma County expect the easements acquired by the District will be permanent.*
- 2. Sale or release of easements for private purposes sets a dangerous precedent and should not be considered.*
- 3. Approval of a road through the easement will damage the reputation of the District and erode public trust that the District permanently protects properties it acquires.*

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this recommendation for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Andrew S. Rodgers, Chair  
SCAPOSD Citizens Advisory Committee

Attached: CAC Meeting Notes, October 7, 2010