

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

January 6, 2020

The Honorable Gavin C. Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni G. Atkins
Senate President pro Tempore
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom, President pro Tempore Atkins, and Speaker Rendon,

We are writing to encourage you to make it an urgent priority to help acquire the N3 Ranch in Alameda, Santa Clara, San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties and preserve it as public parkland. This once-in-a-generation opportunity would help protect a crucial watershed, preserve critical habitat, fight climate change and provide accessible backcountry wilderness to millions of Californians.

This is a matter of urgent concern because this irreplaceable property is for sale now, and non-profit conservation groups have assembled funding commitments that could finance more than half the cost.

A \$20 million appropriation from the state, if approved quickly, would complete the funding package and create one of the largest public parks in the state.

We encourage you to dedicate the necessary money from the one-time surplus in this year's state budget or include it in one of the resource bond bills currently moving through the Legislature.

At nearly 80 square miles, the N3 Ranch would rank among the five largest California State Parks and would establish a backcountry wilderness open to the public in a region of more than 7 million people, within an hour's drive of San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, Stockton and Modesto. With more than 200 miles of established routes, visitors could enjoy a casual picnic stroll or begin a week-long backpacking trip from a bus stop in Fremont. The 14 historic cabins could support a unique hut-to-hut experience similar to Yosemite's or those found in Europe but in the heart of the Bay Area.

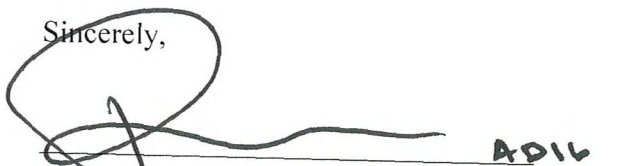
Eighty percent of the property, including 9,600 acres of the Alameda Creek watershed, captures drinking water for Bay Area residents and millions of Californians. With over 2 million tons of carbon sequestered, its varied habitats serve a critical niche for many protected species.

The N3 Ranch was listed for sale in July 2019 for the first time in 85 years and has attracted purchase offers and interest from around the country and world. Immediate action will be necessary to secure the property as a public park for the people of California.

Fortunately, The Nature Conservancy and The Trust for Public Lands – the nation’s two largest conservation organizations – have secured commitments to cover \$30 million of the purchase price. Now is the time for the state to step up and make this happen.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


AD16
Man Fenil AD10

Buffy Weck AD15
Scott Wiener SD11

Jim Hahn SD13

Anna Sinner SD9

Attilio Galgioni

Quadr. Caballero
SD12

Rob Bonta AD18

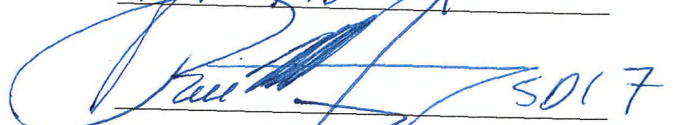
Julia O'Connell AD14

Steve Elgin SD7

Bill Larkin AD20

Roberta Wecknick SD10

Jim Beahm SD15


SD17

David Chan AD17


AD24

cc: The Honorable Benjamin Allen, Chair of Senate Environmental Quality Committee
The Honorable Henry Stern, Chair of Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
The Honorable Anthony Portantino, Chair of Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Bob Wieckowski, Chair Senate Budget Sub Committee 2
The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair of Assembly Budget Committee

The Honorable Holly J. Mitchell, Chair of Senate Budget Committee

The Honorable Richard Bloom, Chair of Assembly Budget Sub Committee 3

The Honorable Kevin Mullin, Member of Assembly Budget Sub Committee 3

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia, Chair of Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee