



**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
In the Matter of:
Hearing Regarding Water Rights Application
30166 of El Sur Ranch**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF JOHN O'NEIL ON BEHALF OF
CENTRAL COAST LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS**

Central Coast Lighthouse Keepers (CCLK) is a 501.c.3 public benefit corporation formed to support Point Sur State Historic Park (PSSHP) in Big Sur. The State Park currently includes the Point Sur Lightstation and the Point Sur Naval Facility. These two parts of the State Historic Park are either entirely surrounded by the El Sur Ranch or mostly surrounded by it. This letter is written solely on behalf of the Central Coast Lighthouse Keepers.

The CCLK has been supporting Pt. Sur State Historic Park since the corporation was formed in 1993. To date it has contributed over \$1,500,000 to this effort, mainly to restore the 1889 Lightstation. CCLK operates the Gift Shop and Visitors' Center in the Park, but primarily depends on grants and donations to fund its contribution to the restoration of the Lightstation.

The El Sur Ranch has been a large financial contributor to the Lightstation restoration effort and CCLK enjoys an excellent relationship with the Ranch.

El Sur Ranch has also offered other assistance to CCLK in its restoration endeavor. For example, the Ranch has offered to fill the 53,000 gallon Cistern at the Lightstation to provide sufficient water reserves for fire protection. Additionally, a supply of sandstone is required to complete restoration of the three stone buildings at the Lightstation. Since the original quarry is no longer available to supply matching stone, the Ranch has offered to pay to transport matching stone to Pt. Sur from whatever viable source could be found.

The Ranch sold a conservation easement to Monterey County of over 3,000 acres of critical view shed. Much of this easement surrounds the installations which CCLK seeks to restore and keep open to the public for its enjoyment. This easement enhances the setting and appreciation of these unique historic resources along California's Central Coast.

Sincerely,

John O'Neil
Chairman