

June 12, 2011

From: Butch Kronlund  
President, Coast Property Owners Association (CPOA)  
48280 Highway 1  
Big Sur, CA 93920

To: State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Rights  
Attn: Paul Murphey  
PO Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Re: Big Sur River Hearing

My name is Butch Kronlund. I am President of the Big Sur Coast Property Owners Association and nearly a life long resident of the Central Coast. For the last 23 years I've lived in Big Sur, building homes and relationships on a foundation of trust, honesty and hard work.

Anyone that has ever spent any time in Big Sur knows that the place is very special. Those of us that own property here, recognize, that there is a responsibility of stewardship associated with that privilege. No single property owner in Big Sur, better exemplifies that sense of responsibility than El Sur Ranch.

In my capacity as President of CPOA, I am aware of a host of issues in which El Sur Ranch has been instrumental in making a difference for both the residents and the environment. Among those contributions has been a commitment to successfully see to its adoption, the Monterey County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. El Sur Ranch, through its counsel, Pamela Silkwood, was instrumental in brokering a satisfactory resolution to a contentious process. Without that leadership, Monterey County would still be without an important tool in securing grants to make neighborhoods safe from wildfire.

That willingness to engage in tough, hard to solve problems, I believe, is a contributing factor in the demonstration of "new thinking" on the part of local government and State and Federal Agencies. That new thinking, currently stretching it's legs as a Forest Service Program known as "Firescape Monterey", has the makings to reset a history of mistrust among the players that traditionally have been unable to accomplish anything due to set agendas.

I could go on and on about the things, big and small, that El Sur Ranch has done to sustain the Big Sur Community. Those good deeds run the gamut from offering to supply a part time Deputy Sheriff at no expense to the County along 70 miles of coast, when needed, to the donation of critical fire fighting equipment to support our volunteer Fire Brigade. The long list of good deeds includes native tree planting and the large scale removal of invasive plant species. The list also includes outreach to their immediate neighbors at the State Park to provide qualified back up in cases of emergency.

Having said all that, it is my opinion that El Sur Ranch is a trusted, value and capable steward of lands under its control. That the mouth of the Big Sur River is an environment worth protecting is strong evidence that the El Sur Ranch has exercised exemplary stewardship over the last 60 years of pasture operations. Those operations should be allowed to continue for the benefit of the environment and the Big Sur community.

Sincerely,

Butch Kronlund  
President, CPOA  
48280 Highway 1  
Big Sur, CA 93920  
Office: 831-667-0332  
Fax: 831-667-2906  
Cell: 831-595-7221

Cc: Mark A. Blum  
Pamela Silkwood  
Horan, Lloyd Law Offices