

California Rangeland Conservation Coalition

Ranchers, Conservationists, and Government Working Together For The Benefit of All

June 19, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: May Revise – Williamson Act

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

Partners to the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition are alarmed by the May revise to your fiscal year 07-08 budget which proposes the elimination of subvention funding to California counties for the Williamson Act. This proposed elimination is contrary to the underlying goals of our partnership, to protect California's rangeland landscape.

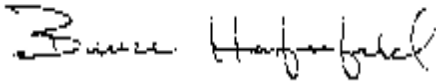
The California Rangeland Conservation Coalition is an unprecedented group of California ranchers, environmentalists and agencies. Together, we want to preserve private working landscapes, support the long-term viability of the ranching industry, and protect and enhance California rangeland for protected and common species. We recognize the Williamson Act is intrinsically linked to our Coalition's ability to fulfill the guiding principles outlined within the enclosed California Rangeland Resolution, the foundation of the Rangeland Coalition.

Partners of the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition are strong supporters of the Williamson Act and we truly recognize the role it plays in preserving rangeland. According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Fire and Resource Assessment Program California is losing tens of thousands of acres of rangeland annually. This significant conversion of rangeland contributes to the loss of open space, groundwater recharge, homes of common and threatened species, and family ranchers. Research on these rangelands finds that nearly all of the species of grassland birds, most native plants and the threatened vernal pool ecosystem actually benefit from responsible grazing practices. The Williamson Act plays an important role in preserving California's rangelands which are a critical foundation of the economic and social fabric of California's ranching industry and rural communities, and will only continue to provide habitat for plants, fish and wildlife if the Williamson Act remains a viable tool for landowners.

The California Rangeland Conservation Coalition strongly supports subvention funding to California's counties for the Williamson Act. Should you have any questions regarding our support please contact Tracy Schohr, Director of Rangeland Conservation, California Rangeland Conservation Coalition at (916) 444-0845 or tschohr@calcattlemen.org.

Sincerely,


Partners of the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition



Bruce Hafenfeld
President
California Cattlemen's Association



Kim Delfino
California Program Director
Defenders of Wildlife



Mark Kramer
Director, Federal Government Relations
California Chapter, The Nature Conservancy



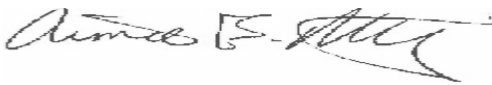
Doug Mosebar
President
California Farm Bureau Federation



Ralph Grossi
President
American Farmland Trust



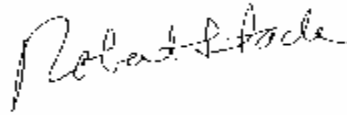
Mark Bergstrom
President
American Land Conservancy



Aimee Rutledge
Executive Director
Sacramento Valley Conservancy



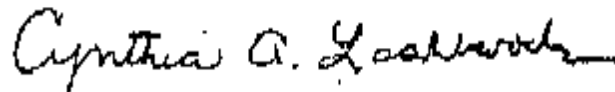
Nita Vail
Executive Director
California Rangeland Trust



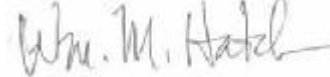
Robert J. Stack, Ph.D.
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Pia Sevelius
District Manager
Butte County Resource Conservation District



Cynthia Lashbrook
Merced Alliance for Responsible Growth



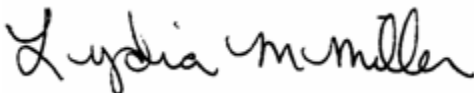
William M. Hatch
San Joaquin Valley Conservancy



Doug Johnson
Executive Director
California Invasive Plant Council



Lesa Osterholm
Bear River Watershed - Coordinator
Nevada County Resource Conservation District - Manager



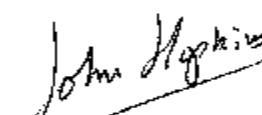
Lydia M. Miller
San Joaquin Raptor/Wildlife Rescue Center



Royce Larsen
President
California-Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management



Karen Sweet
Executive Officer
Alameda County Resource Conservation District



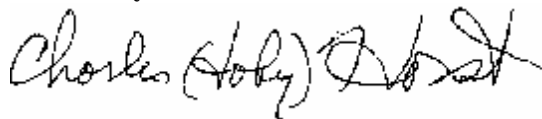
John Hopkins
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Lorri Pride
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Glenn County Resource Conservation District



Vance Russell
Director of Landowner Stewardship Program
Audubon California



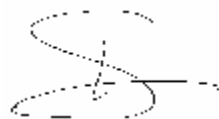
Charles (Toby) Horst
Director/Treasurer
Sierra Resource Conservation District



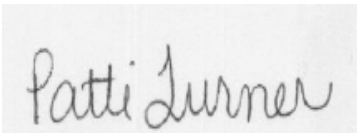
Carol W. Witham
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Lesa Eidman
Executive Director
California Wool Growers Association



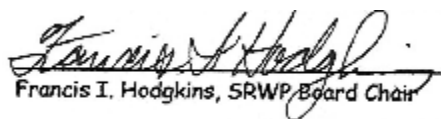
Tacy Currey
Executive Director
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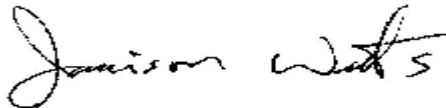
Patti Turner
District Manager
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Janet Cobb
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Francis I. Hodgkins, SRWP Board Chair

Francis I. Hodgkins
Board of Trustees Chair
Sacramento River Watershed Program



Jamison Watts
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Northern California Regional Land Trust



Judy Ahmann
President
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Kirk Ford
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Mary Mitchell
District Manager
Western Shasta RCD

Chuck Peck
Executive Director
Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Enclosure: California Rangeland Resolution