Saddle Mountain

Board of Directors
January 10, 2006
Acquisition Plan 2000
Designations

- Natural Resources
  - Species Richness Area
  - Priority Oak Woodland
  - Priority Conifer
  - Priority Riparian

- Greenbelt
  - Expanded Greenbelt

- Recreation
  - Will provide recreational opportunities while protecting unique natural habitats and scenic areas.
Property Characteristics

• 960 Acres
  – Located off of Calistoga, Plum Ranch and Erland Roads just north of the Santa Rosa city limits

• 1989 Sonoma County General Plan
  – *Open Space*: Community Separator, Scenic Landscape Unit, Critical Habitat Area
  – *Land Use*: Resources and Rural Development, 40-acre density
  – Rural Residential, 10-acre density
  – Recorded final map for 30-lot subdivision

• Scenic Backdrop to the City of Santa Rosa
  – Highly visible from Rincon Valley and northeast Santa Rosa, Highway 12 and 101, Howarth Park, Spring Lake Regional Park and Annadel State Park
View from Canyon Trail, Annadel State Park
View of Saddle Mountain from Spring Lake Park
Natural Features

• Water Resources – Russian River Basin
  – Mark West Creek and Santa Rosa Creek Watersheds
  – Three creeks feed into Mark West Creek, one of the last remaining streams with coho

• Habitat – Species Richness Area
  – Together with the four stream corridors, the dry interior location affected by damp coastal fog provides for complex habitat types
  – Rare communities (Sedge, Foothill Needlegrass, Leather Oak and Sargent Cypress)
  – Rare plant species (Sonoma ceanothus and Lobb’s buttercup)

• Wildlife Diversity – Complex mosaic of vegetation
  – Important linkages for wildlife (Mayacamas range and to Bothe-Napa State Park)
  – Recent large mammal sightings (mountain lion, black Saddle, bobcat and mule deer)
Recreational Features

• Important Park Facility on the Urban Fringe
  – topography, diverse vegetation communities and
    exceptional territorial views provide a broad range
    of recreational experiences.

• Proximity to other parklands
  – Hood Mountain Regional Park
  – Sugarloaf Ridge State Park

• Trail Connectivity
  – potential connection for a developing system of
    trails in the area associated with State, Regional
    and City parklands and the Bay Area Ridge Trail
Project Structure

- SCAPOSD Purchase Price: $9,213,000
- District contributes $8,213,000; partially funded through lease-purchase agreement
- District takes title to 960-acres
- California Coastal Conservancy contribution of $1,000,000 towards acquisition and an additional $200,000 for development of a management plan
Project Structure

- District retains open space easement over 2 landowner-retained parcels
- District acquires trail easement over landowner-retained parcels
- Landowner donates $100,000 endowment
- Due diligence period ends January 13, 2006
- Close of escrow March 14, 2006