The mission of Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) is to protect and care for open space, farms and parkland in and around Silicon Valley.

"Butano Farms is a source of local food. It’s home to diverse wildlife and vegetation. It’s a place where you can take a moment to appreciate the open space around you. It’s why we protect these lands."

// POST President Walter T. Moore
POST Conserves Coastside Agriculture with Purchase of Butano Farms

POST realized a 20-year dream last December with the acquisition of 903.5 acres in Pescadero known as Butano Farms. We purchased the property for $9.966 million from members of the Dias family, who inherited the property from their uncle, the late Pescadero farmer Noel Dias. POST maintained a decades-long relationship with Noel Dias, and we are pleased to be able to protect such a vital piece of Coastside land.

This property is of extreme importance in many aspects of the work POST does: protecting wildlife habitat and waterways, preserving our area’s agricultural history, expanding opportunities for local farmers, creating trail linkages and building long-term relationships — like with the Dias family — that enable us to protect at-risk lands before they vanish.

Preserving Land Rich in Resources

Butano Farms marks the southern boundary of the town of Pescadero. From the property’s hilltops there is an amazing view to the west, beyond the neighboring Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve out to the ocean. Turn to the south and you’re looking down into the folded terrain at the northern edge of POST’s Cloverdale Coastal Ranches. Turn to the north and you overlook the entire town, grounding you once again in the enormity of protecting this property from development.
“Butano Farms is a source of local food. It’s home to diverse wildlife and vegetation. It’s a place where you can take a moment to appreciate the open space around you. It’s why we protect these lands,” said POST President Walter T. Moore.

POST is preserving more than 550 acres of active agricultural land for grazing and row-crop farming. This includes more than 25 acres of state-designated prime farmland soils that are so vital to local food production.

Butano Farms connects thousands of acres of open space, including the 140-acre willow patch that winds through the property, following the lead of Butano Creek. The willow patch is one of the largest intact riparian habitats on the San Mateo Coast and is listed by The Nature Conservancy as an estuary/freshwater marsh priority habitat. It helps filter sediment and slow high-volume water flow into the Pescadero Marsh and floodplain.

In addition to feeding the willow patch, the 1.6 miles of Butano Creek that run through the property provide habitat for federally threatened steelhead trout. Three ponds on the land serve as likely habitat for federally threatened California red-legged frogs and federally endangered San Francisco garter snakes. POST is also helping protect the unique scrub and grassland landscape on the property that is becoming increasingly rare along the California coastline.

### Honoring a Family’s Legacy

There is a half-world’s distance between the Azores and Pescadero, but the archipelago off the coast of Portugal and the tiny town nestled against the Santa Cruz Mountains share a strong agricultural history. When Azoreans emigrated to the United States, many carried that tradition with them.

Among these immigrants in 1885 was nine-year-old John Dias. John grew up on the Coastside and eventually raised his own family — daughter Margaret and sons John Jr. and Noel — on Butano Farms. They grew hay, peas, fava beans and pumpkins on the family land.

In 1945, John Sr. established the John Dias & Sons Straw Flower Company, which became one of the largest straw-flower producers in the world. The company remained in business for the next 45 years and was a mainstay in the community, recruiting extended family and
employing many Pescadero residents to pick, dry and sort decorative straw flower arrange-
ments for shipping worldwide.

“We’d come over from Los Altos, where we lived, and help out with the flower business,”
remembered Margaret’s son, Bill, who as a teenager spent summers working on the farm.
“Town was a lot different back then. Few people knew where Pescadero was.”

Brothers John Jr. and Noel inherited Butano Farms following John Sr.’s death in 1979. Seven
years later, when John Jr. died, Noel became sole owner, actively farming the land until
2005. The following year, he was named San Mateo County Farmer of the Year. He died in
2010 at the age of 96. With no children of his own, he left the property to his nephew and
nieces, who made the ultimate decision to sell the land to POST for permanent protection.

**Finding New Solutions for Local Farming**

POST has a long history of protecting local agricultural land from development, especially
along the San Mateo Coast. Across the Peninsula down to the South Bay, we have placed
conservation easements on 13,500 acres of row-crop and ranch properties over the past 30
years. The acquisition of Butano Farms comes at a critical time for keeping valuable local
farmland available for agriculture. Rising land prices have been a barrier to entry to the next
generation of farmers, while the current generation faces a retirement dilemma—try to save
a legacy, or cash out and sell the land.

In the face of these increased pressures, POST is taking a proactive approach to preserving
local farmland so that prime soils remain in agricultural production and we can help maintain
access to locally grown foods.

“We’re reaching out to assess the needs of current and future farmers,” said POST Vice
President of Land Stewardship Paul Ringgold. “Part of that process is exploring options that
allow tenant farmers to build equity in the lands they work and create a viable, sustainable
future for themselves and their families.”

Properties like Butano Farms give POST the flexibility to offer and refine these new tools and
help turn the tide before our local farming legacy exists only in history.
**Restoring an Adjacent Ecosystem**

Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve contains the largest coastal marsh between the Golden Gate Bridge and Monterey Bay. This mixture of saltwater, brackish and freshwater habitats is fed by Pescadero and Butano creeks. Perennial plants flourish in the year-round growing season, and the marsh is an important way station for migratory birds.

Unfortunately, the early settlers’ attempts to re-route Pescadero Creek, combined with nearby logging operations in the 1920s, significantly altered the landscape. In addition, levees built in the 1930s inhibit natural tidal action, leading to sediment build-up that shrinks the marsh and contributes to local flooding.

In the mid-1980s, POST worked with then-owners Noel and John Dias Jr. of Butano Farms, as well as the Sequoia Audubon Society and the California Coastal Conservancy, to implement the Pescadero Marsh Watershed Enhancement Plan. This five-year restoration effort included repairing dikes on Pescadero Creek and reducing erosion and silt buildup from channels leading to the marsh.

The partners realized that they would need a comprehensive plan—something that addressed the full ecosystem and not just those areas within the boundaries of the preserve. POST continued its commitment by acquiring 61 acres of land adjacent to the marsh in 1992 and transferring 27 acres to the state for additional restoration of the marsh. The remaining upland acres were transferred to local farmers Neil and Alix Curry and are protected under a conservation easement.

“Most of the marsh is under the jurisdiction of the state. Changes in available funding and diverse stakeholder opinions have posed challenges for continued restoration efforts there,” said POST Vice President of Land Stewardship Paul Ringgold. “POST’s ownership of Butano Farms may provide a new opportunity to help this adjacent sensitive ecosystem.”

**Looking to the Future**

POST will hold onto Butano Farms until a permanent conservation solution can be identified. This might include transfer to a public agency or sale to a private conservation buyer such as a farmer. POST would hold back an easement to ensure that farm fields and natural resources on the land are protected forever.

In the short term, Butano Farms will be integrated into POST’s Cloverdale Coastal Ranches property, expanding Cloverdale from approximately 5,800 acres to 6,700 acres. POST is continuing to lease to the grazing and farming tenants on the property.

Although it contains no county-planned trails, 547 acres of Butano Farms falls within the San Mateo County Scenic Corridor. The property has the potential to someday provide recreational access between Cloverdale Ranch, Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve and downtown Pescadero.

Each time POST protects a property, we are reminded of the years of planning and partnerships that enable us to do this work. In this case it was our decades-long relationship with the Dias family and previous collaboration with them on the Pescadero marsh (see sidebar below). More than 35 years of experience have equipped us with a unique ability to meet the increasingly complex challenge of land conservation in such a highly desirable area.

“To be effective, POST cultivates long-term relationships with landowners and must always be at the ready with sufficient funds in hand,” said Moore. “Generous support from our donors, the community, foundations and public agencies allows us to take action quickly when opportunities arise to protect extraordinary landscapes like Butano Farms.”
Protected Land in South Bay Expands by 358 Acres

On February 28, South Bay land protection got a boost with POST’s purchase of the Seven Oaks Hill property near Morgan Hill. POST bought the land from private owners for $1.075 million. The property helps protect the local watershed and has potential to link to other protected lands, prompting Resources Legacy Fund, the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, and the California State Coastal Conservancy to assist POST with the purchase.

The property is steep, named for a vantage point that boasts seven large oak trees. Chaparral and coast live oak dominate the landscape, providing habitat for red-tailed hawks, California whiptail, and variable checkerspot butterflies. There is also a seasonal tributary to Uvas Creek, one of Santa Clara County’s prominent spawning streams for endangered steelhead trout.

A portion of Seven Oaks Hill drains directly into the adjacent Uvas Reservoir. The water from the reservoir is used for residences as well as agriculture and industry. Preserving this property protects the creek and reservoir from development run-off that would affect water quality.

From Development Plans to Preservation

The property’s former owner, Ray Scoffone, acquired the land in 1966 from a developer who tried to build 200 units on the land, but became embroiled in a lawsuit with PG&E over eminent domain and its impact on his plans. Scoffone and his wife, Virginia, gave only fleeting thought to developing the property. When they received an introductory letter from POST in 2010, they began to think about possibilities for the property’s future.

“When you go up there you can appreciate the fresh air and great views,” said Scoffone. “I saw some of the development happening nearby and thought, I’d hate to see that happen here. When POST approached me, I was happy with the idea that the land would become part of an open space or park.”

POST received $268,750 from the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, $268,750 from Resources Legacy Fund (as part of the Living Landscape Initiative), and $250,000 from the Coastal Conservancy toward the purchase.

Connecting Lands in the South Bay

The County of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department will manage the property, with plans to eventually take over ownership. The department currently manages the land around Uvas Reservoir and has identified a portion of Seven Oaks Hill that could connect to planned trails on that parkland.

Over the years, POST has protected several other properties in south Santa Clara County that are now part of the Sierra Azul and Rancho Cañada del Oro open space preserves and Calero and Mount Madonna county parks.

“Seven Oaks Hill sits at an important juncture, with the potential to link thousands of acres of protected lands for wildlife and sensitive habitats,” said POST President Walter T. Moore. “Although we acquire these lands one property at a time, we are always looking to the bigger picture and the benefits we can all realize when these lands are interconnected.”
In December 2012, POST worked quickly to acquire four properties and assisted Save the Redwoods League in protecting another two properties through our Heart of the Redwoods Campaign.

**Butano Crest East and West near Pescadero**

POST purchased the Butano Crest East and West properties from private landowners on December 14 for $1.32 million. The non-contiguous parcels are 160 acres each and part of the Pescadero Creek watershed.

Butano Crest East is surrounded by Pescadero Creek County Park on three sides. Butano Crest West borders Butano State Park on two sides. Both parcels contain chaparral, open grassland and significant areas of redwood forest. Butano Crest West also contains old-growth redwoods that are desirable habitat for the endangered marbled murrelet and two endangered endemic plant species—Anderson’s manzanita and the Santa Cruz cypress.

Despite the remote nature of these parcels, there are some hiking trails and fire roads in the vicinity of each. POST protection will ensure that the wildlife habitat and rare vegetation that exist here remain undisturbed.

**Driscoll Ranch in La Honda**

Immediately off Highway 84 sits Driscoll Orchards, a 318-acre property POST purchased on December 14 for $7.25 million. POST received a $6.2 million loan from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and a $1 million grant from Resources Legacy Fund as part of the Living Landscape Initiative toward the purchase.
Part of San Gregorio Creek runs through the property, home to rainbow trout and Coho salmon. There is also a tiny apple orchard, cattle grazing land, the Driscoll Ranch event center, and a small but spectacular redwood grove.

Driscoll Orchards was kept separate from the larger Driscoll Ranch complex protected by POST in 2002. Those 3,681 acres are now part of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District’s La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. The hope is to incorporate Driscoll Orchards into the preserve as well.

“My dad’s goal was always to keep this property as open space,” said Rudy Driscoll Jr. “That’s why we decided to sell to POST. It’s wonderful now to see my dad’s dream completed.”

Alpine Ranch in La Honda

True to its name, 353-acre Alpine Ranch in La Honda features forested hillsides, including oak and abundant redwoods. POST purchased the land from owner Deborah Ettinger on December 19 for $5 million.

Pescadero Creek and Sam McDonald county parks border Alpine Ranch. The property contains more than a mile of tributaries to Pescadero Creek and habitat for several threatened and endangered species including steelhead trout, California red-legged frog, San Francisco garter snake and San Mateo woolly sunflower.

“When I bought Alpine Ranch [in 1975] it was the beauty of the land and its great expanse that inspired love at first sight,” said Ettinger. “I never felt like I was its owner—I was its caretaker. The most important thing to me was to keep the ranch intact. The transfer into POST’s care is the right thing at the right time.”

POST Teams with Save the Redwoods League to Preserve Old-growth Trees

POST and Save the Redwoods League have partnered to permanently protect 359 acres of local redwood forest. In support of POST’s Heart of the Redwoods Campaign and our participation in the Living Landscape Initiative, POST contributed $1.125 million to preserve 145 acres of redwoods in La Honda and 214 acres of redwoods in Boulder Creek.

The Peters Creek Old-growth Forest in La Honda borders Portola Redwoods State Park. Experts say it contains the third-largest old-growth redwood grove in the Santa Cruz Mountains. A future transfer to California State Parks would provide a significantly shorter route to see old-growth trees.

The League initiated the $8 million project with the Holmes family, whose 214-acre Boulder Creek Forest ranch abuts Big Basin Redwoods State Park. A conservation easement will ensure permanent protection of the land.

“These forests face a real and present danger from encroaching development,” said POST President Walter T. Moore. “As the local land trust specializing in this area, POST is proud to do its part alongside Save the Redwoods League to protect our region’s magnificent redwood forests.”
**POST Reaches Major Campaign Milestones Ahead of Schedule**

We launched the Heart of the Redwoods Campaign to secure $50 million to permanently protect 20,000 acres of the last remaining redwood forests in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Now, less than a year and a half into our five-year campaign, we have achieved nearly 50 percent of our land protection goal and more than 50 percent of our overall campaign goal.

POST has saved almost 9,700 acres of redwood forest and secured committed campaign funds totaling $27 million to date. This includes designated funds from our Living Landscape Initiative (LLI) partners — Save the Redwoods League, Sempervirens Fund, The Nature Conservancy and Land Trust of Santa Cruz County — for CEMEX Redwoods, our first campaign property, and other collaborative land-protection projects. Through the LLI we also have received significant funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and Resources Legacy Fund.

Of the $50 million campaign goal, POST is seeking $10 million from individuals. To date, we are $3.4 million closer to that amount. A $1 million leadership gift from Mark and Debra Leslie in late 2011 helped with the purchase of CEMEX Redwoods. Our recent $1 million leadership gift from Gordon and Betty Moore (see p. 11) is another significant boost to our redwood-protection efforts. We have also received major gifts recently from Godfrey and Suzanne Sullivan and Gayle and Henry Riggs. We are grateful to all our supporters for their Redwoods Campaign gifts as well as their ongoing annual operating contributions to POST.

Our local redwood forests evoke a sense of wonder and awe of natural history we can’t afford to lose. They are becoming increasingly rare, and POST’s campaign is designed to save what remains of this unique landscape in our region. Our success — and the future of these forests — depends on the support of donors like you.

For more information about POST’s Heart of the Redwoods Campaign, please contact POST Director of Individual Gifts Kathleen Phan at kphan@openspacetrust.org or (650) 854-7696 x303.
Gordon and Betty Moore Give $1 Million to POST’s Heart of the Redwoods Campaign

Long-time POST supporters Gordon and Betty Moore recently made a leadership gift of $1 million to our Heart of the Redwoods Campaign. The computer industry icon and his wife are well known for the philanthropic generosity of their foundation. We are pleased that POST’s Redwoods Campaign resonates with them on a personal level—this donation came directly from the couple.

“Gordon and Betty Moore have had a tremendous impact on land conservation globally and locally,” said POST President Walter T. Moore (no relation). “Their visionary patronage has contributed to the high quality of life we are able to enjoy in our area. POST is deeply grateful for their gift in support of our Heart of the Redwoods Campaign.”

The Moores are generous donors to POST, in particular through the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, which has provided support for large-scale efforts like our Saving the Endangered Coast Campaign as well as the Living Landscape Initiative, of which POST is a partner.

The couple is also intimately familiar with our local redwoods. In 1991 they bought 24-acre Mountain Meadow, which was part of the original 1,252-acre redwood-forested Phleger Estate. The Moores’ purchase was integral to the funding POST needed to complete the acquisition and preservation of the entire estate. Mountain Meadow is permanently protected through a POST conservation easement that restricts it from subdivision or commercial use. The remainder of the Phleger property is now part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Growing up on the Coastside imprinted the tech titan with a love of the outdoors. This made Gordon a good match for Betty, who grew up on “the other side of the hill” near Los Gatos on her grandparents’ fruit ranch. She met Gordon when they were both students at San José State University. Betty graduated with a degree in journalism and worked in advertising and public relations, helping to support the couple during Gordon’s graduate school days at California Institute of Technology. Like him, she is an outdoors enthusiast.

“Together Gordon and Betty Moore have created an immeasurable legacy, borne out of their common love of the land and their personal vision to create positive outcomes for future generations,” said POST President Moore. “
Meet Jeanine Crider, POST’s New Director of Planned Giving

What happens when a scientist gets tired of looking at agar gels in a lab? She turns to the nonprofit sector where people skills count more than handling a test tube. This realization moved Jeanine Crider, POST’s new director of planned giving, to land her first job in the nonprofit sector at Earthjustice in San Francisco in 2005. It proved to be the right position in which to develop her planned giving knowledge and capitalize on her desire to promote “green values.”

“I grew up in Washington State, just across the Columbia River from Portland,” says Jeanine. “I spent my summers playing with worms, gardening with my mother, climbing trees. My family went to the Oregon coast regularly, where we walked the wide, sandy beaches. My mom and I would look for shells and agates while my dad picked up trash.”

It was an idyllic time, and the bond with nature proved important. By the time she finished her degree in biology at Linfield College, Jeanine had spent time collecting data at a local wetland prairie, led a campus environmental awareness club, and volunteered to remove trash from local beaches and creeks. These activities reinforced her belief that working with people to protect the environment would be her career path.

“One of the surprising aspects of planned giving is the significance of contributions from donors who are unaware of their own giving capacity. Showing donors how much impact they can have over time is one of the great rewards of this kind of work,” she says.

Though new to POST, Jeanine is enthusiastic about working here because the results of our land-protection projects and campaigns are so tangible. “Look in all directions and you can see properties POST has had a hand in saving,” she says.

Increase Your Impact, Become a Monthly Donor!

Monthly gifts provide a dependable source of income for POST, enabling us to act quickly to protect threatened local landscapes. Becoming a monthly donor is an easy and effective way to support POST throughout the year. You won’t need to remember to make a donation, and you will no longer receive renewal reminders in the mail, helping us to stay “green” and use less paper. You can easily adjust your donation amount or cancel at any time.

To make a lasting difference for our local lands, enroll online at www.openspacetrust.org/donate or contact Hillary Nicholson at hnicolson@openspacetrust.org or (650) 854-7696 x310.

Make a Gift to POST from Your IRA

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, passed by Congress this past January, renewed special incentives for making charitable gifts to organizations like POST. If you are 70 ½ years of age or older, you can make charitable gifts from your Individual Retirement Account through the end of 2013. As with previous IRA charitable rollover legislation, contributions need to be made directly from your IRA or Roth IRA administrator to POST. The transferred amount counts toward your required minimum distribution and is excluded from your taxable income. You may choose to make charitable distributions from your IRA in any amount up to $100,000. A couple with separate IRAs can each make gifts up to $100,000. For more information, contact POST Director of Planned Giving Jeanine Crider at jcrider@openspacetrust.org or (650) 854-7696 x312.
Hit the Trail with POST and MROSD!

Curious to learn more about the decades-long relationship between POST and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD)? An outing on MROSD’s spring 2013 schedule will be a joint hike with POST on land we have protected and transferred to the District. To reserve your spot, visit MROSD online at www.openspace.org/reservations, or call them at (650) 691-2150 and enter “Option 2.”

Head Honchos Hike – MROSD and POST
Friday, May 17
10:00am – 1:00pm
Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

Join POST President Walter T. Moore and MROSD General Manager Stephen E. Abbors for a moderately-paced, 4- to 5-mile hike at Windy Hill Preserve, POST’s first land acquisition project in the late 1970s and first major land transfer to the District. Find out how iconic Windy Hill came to be protected, and learn about past successes, current projects and future goals resulting from this fruitful conservation partnership.

Bring your own lunch.
Reservations will be accepted by MROSD on or after May 2.

Djerassi Sculpture Tours: Where Art Meets Sky

The Djerassi Resident Artists Program (DRAP) sits on a 580-acre Woodside property where a POST conservation easement protects the land’s natural beauty. DRAP is offering three types of public tours for 2013:

• Director’s Tours: Visit more than 25 sculptures, an architectural installation and two artist studios on this 3.5-mile hike led by DRAP Executive Director Margot H. Knight. $50 per person, payable to DRAP. Five tours from May through September.
• Two-mile Tours: Visit 20 sculptures on this free tour led by DRAP staff. Six tours from August through November.
• Private Tours: A limited number of private tours are available for groups of up to 25 for a suggested donation to DRAP. Advance reservations required for all tours. Routes consist of steep uphill and downhill hiking, totaling approximately 300 feet in elevation. Contact DRAP for reservations and more information: www.djerassi.org or (650) 747-1250.
Vince Garrod—South Bay farmer, conservationist and 23-year member of POST’s Board of Directors—passed away on December 30, 2012. He lived and died on the family homestead on Mount Eden Road in the hills above Saratoga. Family history on the land dates back 120 years. From the beginning, this remarkable family worked the land together and shared it with their community.

Vince meant a lot to me. I can still remember my first visit to Vince and Jane’s home. They radiated energy and good spirits, and an embracing confidence and love for each other. Vince was at all times the peer of venture capitalists, attorneys and other high-powered Silicon Valley professionals. He understood land-use policy in ways few others did. He believed the best way to acquire open space for public enjoyment was to buy it or secure it with conservation easements.

Vince learned about land from the ground up. He had a hand in all the work needed to keep the farm viable—from cutting and hauling firewood, to growing apricots and prunes, to building an equestrian center with a junior vaulting program, to adding a winery. He understood the inevitability of change and found joy in the challenges. In addition to managing the farm in Saratoga and a hay and cattle ranch in Lassen County, Vince worked as an independent agricultural consultant. He served on the Saratoga Union School District Board, the Board of Governors of Farmers Insurance Exchange, and with the California Canners and Growers. He served on fire commissions, soil conservation districts, water districts and the Saratoga Parks and Recreation District. He joked that his hobby was meetings, yet he also found time to play bass with his band, the Skillet Likkers.

Over the years, the Garrod family’s commitment to open space and farming set an example for other landowners. In 1980, the Garrods made a bargain sale of 120 acres to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District as an addition to Fremont Older Open Space Preserve, protecting beautiful ridgelines forever for public use. Later the family made a bargain sale to POST of 40 acres of forest land, which became an addition to the Long Ridge Open Space Preserve.

Vince and Jane had six children, two foster children and an open door that welcomed other relatives, friends and friends of their children. Vince lived to see ten members of the fourth-generation Cooper-Garrod extended family choose to stay connected to the farm. His son Jan has followed in his footsteps as a current POST Board member. Vince’s life is a testament to the strengths that come from living close to the land, to family and to community. His great wisdom and capacity for joy will be greatly missed. His legacy continues.
POST // Tribute Gifts
A portion of the gifts received since October 16, 2012.

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