



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

C-10

For the meeting of: July 11, 2017

Date: July 3, 2017
To: Board of Supervisors
From: Supervisor Estelle Fennell
Subject: Letter of Support for the Van Arken Community Forest Project located in the Mattole River Headwaters, Humboldt County, CA

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Board of Supervisors authorize the Chair to sign the letter of support.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: The Van Arken Community Forest Project is a one-time opportunity to keep over 1600 acres of ecologically significant and pristine forestland intact; keeping working lands in production under ecologically sound and sustainable forest management, and allowing for much needed streamflow enhancement and salmonid habitat restoration, improve resiliency to climate change, and provide open space for educational and recreational opportunities.

The project will complete the vision of a connected Mattole headwaters and secure the foundation from which the recovery of wild runs of native Mattole salmonids can be achieved.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: Letter of Support

Handwritten signature of Estelle Fennell

Prepared by Kathy Hayes, Signature, REVIEW: Auditor, County Counsel, Personnel, Risk Manager, Other

TYPE OF ITEM: [X] Consent, Departmental, Public Hearing, Other

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL: Board Order No., Meeting of:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
Upon motion of Supervisor Fennell Seconded by Supervisor Wilson
Ayes: Fennell, Wilson, Bass, Bohn
Nays:
Abstain:
Absent: Sundberg

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: July 11, 2017
By: Bob [Signature]
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
**COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**  
825 5TH STREET, ROOM 111  
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501 PHONE: (707) 445-7266

Galen C. Doherty, Lands Program Director  
Sanctuary Forest Inc.  
P.O. Box 166  
Whitethorn, CA 95589  
July 11<sup>th</sup> 2017

Dear Galen,

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors I would like to express our strong support for the Van Arken Community Forest Project located in the Mattole River headwaters, Humboldt County, CA. This project will result in the acquisition of over 1600 acres of pristine or recovering forestland; conserving the entire Van Arken Creek watershed along with the neighboring headwaters of McKee, Green, and Ravashoni Creek(s). Taken in the context of the last 30 years of conservation efforts, which has resulted in the creation of the Upper Mattole River and Forest Cooperative, a ~5,500 acre old growth redwood forest and salmon refuge, this conservation action will complete the vision of an intact, connected Mattole headwaters and secure the foundation from which the recovery of wild runs of native Mattole salmonids can be achieved.

The Van Arken Community Forest Project is a one-time opportunity to keep these ecologically significant forestlands intact and forestall fragmentation and negative land use impacts in this priority watershed. This project will keep working lands in production under ecologically sound and sustainable forest management, allow for much needed streamflow enhancement and salmonid habitat restoration, improve resiliency to climate change, and provide open space for educational and recreational opportunities.

Also, of significant interest to our County, is the impact of illegal marijuana growing in the surrounding area. It is safe to say that with the legalization of cannabis in California there is a significant possibility that if these lands are not protected, the property may very well be developed for highly intensive and potentially harmful commercial practices. WE urge your support for this very worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bass  
Chair of the Board