

Deeply rooted in this place...



SONOMA LAND TRUST

2006 Annual Report

Looking back and moving ahead

Annual Reports by their nature look back. Last year seems a very long time ago, largely because we are so busy today building on the foundation we laid down in 2006.

Our key areas of focus in 2006 were project development with landowners and public funding.

Significant conservation land acquisition projects are years in the making. From our experience and the planning work that has been done by the Open Space District and many non-profit partners, we have a good sense of which properties throughout Sonoma County ought to be acquired over time for conservation. But it doesn't just happen. We need to get to know the many landowners, and they need to get to know us, so that when a landowner is ready to sell, he or she understands conservation is an option. Then it can take months or even years to structure a transaction that meets the landowner's needs. Conservation can be a slow business.

And then there is money. Rare properties, most notably the beautiful Laufenburg Ranch in Knights Valley and the historic Glen Oaks Ranch in Glen Ellen, have been donated outright to Sonoma Land Trust. More often our acquisitions are purchased using public funds. We are fortunate in Sonoma County to have the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, funded by a voter-approved quarter-cent sales tax.



The view from Little Black Mountain Preserve. Photo © Stephen Joseph.



Watershed Science student checks Stuart's Creek water quality at Glen Oaks Ranch. Photo courtesy of Circuit Rider Productions.

And in California, voters have a history of generously funding conservation bond measures.

At the beginning of 2006, however, State and local acquisition funds were nearly depleted. The District was planning to go back to the voters to reauthorize its quarter-cent sales tax for another 20 years (Measure F). At the State level a campaign was getting under way for a \$5.2 billion bond measure to fund land and water conservation projects (Proposition 84). Sonoma Land Trust participated in both campaigns, and both were successful. Measure F passed with a remarkable 75% yes vote. There can be no more clear demonstration of the value the people of Sonoma County put on the protection of our beautiful natural, agricultural and open lands.

With public coffers replenished—and building on the landowner relationships we have developed—Sonoma Land Trust is moving “with all deliberate speed” to acquire a set of exceptional properties throughout the county which might otherwise be lost to development. These include the Jenner Headlands, Pitkin Marsh, and a major addition to Tolay Lake Regional Park.

Our task is to marshal and secure the public funds available for these acquisition opportunities, but our ability to do so ultimately depends upon generous individual and foundation gifts such as those acknowledged in this Annual Report.

2006 saw our Baylands Program take a major step forward and face a major challenge. By the end of the year most of the planning was completed for our ambitious Sears Point Wetlands and Watershed Restoration Project. Thanks to the generous support of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, we now have a blueprint for restoring a significant natural estuarine ecosystem and developing seasonal wetlands, six



Chaparral pea at Elarra. Photo by Georgiana Hale.

miles of the Bay Trail, and a viewing pavilion. Maintaining viable agricultural uses will be essential to our management of that beautiful, open land where Sonoma County meets the Bay. In a troubling development, the Port Sonoma marina (which wants to be a ferry terminal) continued dumping saline dredge material on one of the Highway 37 ranches over which we hold an agricultural conservation easement, and we found it necessary to sue to enforce the conservation easement. This litigation is continuing.

We added the 60-acre Elarra conservation easement above Sonoma Valley to our tally of protected lands. Our pre-acquisition work to save the spectacular Jenner Headlands was furthered with a generous grant from Tellabs. A grant from Medtronic Foundation supported ongoing on-the-land student environmental restoration activities. A matching grant from the Dennis and Carol Ann Rockey Fund at the Marin Community Foundation and additional funds from the Bothin Foundation will help us build a classroom and viewing pavilion at Sears Point Ranch.

Sonoma Land Trust is here for the long haul—in perpetuity—and we appreciate the abiding support of all who help advance our mission.

Thank you!



New handheld GPS equipment aids staffers Wendy Eliot, Nathan Boone and Amy Chesnut in ground truthing. Photo by Georgiana Hale.

Financial statements

The amounts presented here are derived from Sonoma Land Trust's audited financial statements for the years ending December 31, 2006 and December 31, 2005. Complete copies of the audited reports are available on request.



Landowner Marc Schwager gets an overview from Elarra, an aboriginal name meaning Valley of the Moon. Photo by Georgiana Hale.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	
Membership	537,283
Contributions	358,274
In-kind Contributions	21,421
Project Revenue and Fees	490,331
Other Income	151,172
<i>Total Support and Revenue</i>	1,558,481
EXPENSES	
General and Administrative	551,077
Fundraising	205,427
Projects and Stewardship	1,631,992
<i>Total Expenses</i>	2,388,496
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS*	(830,015)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005

ASSETS	2006	2005
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,909,883	2,439,666
Investments	559,188	509,404
Contracts and Other Receivables	88,967	342,569
Pledges Receivable	22,500	66,000
Conservation Lands and Easements	27,451,515	27,474,697
Property and Equipment, Net	920,756	914,858
Deposits	7,377	1,500
<i>Total Assets</i>	30,960,186	31,748,694
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
<i>Liabilities</i>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	262,286	233,746
Current Maturity of Long Term Debt	202,085	—
Long Term Debt	10,882	200,000
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	475,253	433,746
<i>Net Assets</i>		
Unrestricted		
Available for Operations	1,447,290	1,357,841
Board Designated: Conservation Projects	367,685	417,736
Board Designated: Conservation Lands and Easements	27,451,515	27,474,697
Temporarily Restricted	1,218,443	2,064,674
<i>Total Net Assets</i>	30,484,933	31,314,948
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	30,960,186	31,748,694

*Sonoma Land Trust reports in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. This tends to result in timing differences from year to year. For example, grants are recorded in the year received, while the expenses they finance are recorded in the year incurred. This accounts for the negative change in net assets stated here. Grants from prior years were being spent.

Our diversified portfolio of conservation projects

For more project information, see www.sonomalands.org

ANCHOR PRESERVES

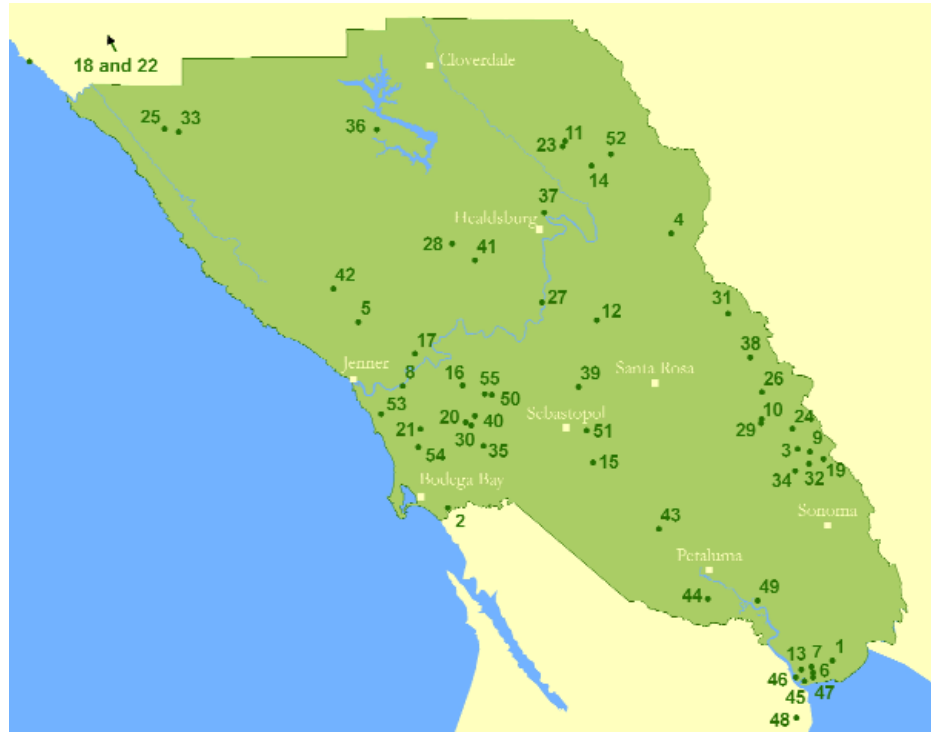
1 Baylands: Sears Point	2,327
2 Estero Americano Preserve	127
3 Glen Oaks Ranch	236
4 Laufenburg Ranch	179
5 Little Black Mountain	500

OTHER SLT OWNED LANDS

6 Baylands: Leonard Ranch	244
7 Baylands: North Parcel	279
8 Freezeout Redwoods	89
9 Secret Pasture	300
10 Sonoma Creek	2
11 White Rock Preserve	92

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

12 Airport Boulevard	50
13 Baylands: Lower Ranch	528
14 Bear Canyon	96
15 Blucher Creek	7
16 Bohemia Ranch	937
17 Canelis Old Growth Redwoods	1
18 Cuffeys Cove	1068
19 Elarra	60
20 Enchanted Wood	8
21 Finley Creek	240
22 Fish Rock Ranch	7
23 Gird Creek	100
24 Knaus Forest at Nuns Canyon	36
25 Little Creek	40
26 Mason	18
27 Middle Reach	44
28 Mill Creek Old Growth	54
29 Morgan Hill	22
30 Mother Gardens at OAEC	3
31 Nefertierra	78



32 Oak Hill Farm	677
33 OGA Little Creek	73
34 Old Hill Ranch	37
35 Quail Hill	81
36 Rancheria Creek Recesses	602
37 River Bend	32
38 Santa Rosa Creek Headwaters	162
39 Summerfield Waldorf School	32
40 Sunrise Redwoods	20
41 Van Winkle Redwoods	46
42 Ward Creek	240
43 Watson Ranch	530
44 Westridge Knolls	74

OTHER COMPLETED PROJECTS

45 Baylands: Halperin Baylands	11
46 Baylands: Petaluma River Marsh	49
47 Baylands: Sonoma Baylands	348
48 Bel Marin Keys	1500
49 Cloudy Bend	388
50 Harrison Grade Serpentine	32
51 Laguna de Santa Rosa	535
52 McCord Ranch	2786
53 Red Hill	910
54 Rigler Preserve	370
55 Wild Turkey Hill	8



Left: River otter at Estero Americano. Photo by Andy Wernette. Right: Estero Americano. Photo © Stephen Joseph.

2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Peter Mattson, Chair	Johanna Patri
Mark Jacobsen, Vice-chair	Lew Reid
David Smith, Vice-chair	Harry Richardson
Carol Williams, Secretary	Peter Rogers*
Robert Brent	Tom Simone
Hall Cushman	Kathy Tierney
Mary Hafner	Denny Van Ness

* Joined Board in 2007

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

John Ash, Ted Eliot, Peggy Elliott, Michael Ellis, Carolyn Johnson, Bill Kortum
Peter Leveque, Jean Schulz, Daphne Smith, Anne Teller, Rick Theis, Mike Wright

2006 STAFF

Ralph Benson, Executive Director

Projects and Stewardship

Nathan Boone, John Brosnan, Amy Chesnut, Wendy Eliot
Georgiana Hale, Bob Neale, Taber Ward

Development and Communications

Michael Hayes, Stacey Kaufman, Reta Lockert

Finance and Administration

Lois Downy, Shanti Wright

Volunteer Coordinator

Joe Ficarelli

Sonoma Land Trust protects the scenic, natural, cultural, agricultural and open landscapes of Sonoma County for the benefit of the community including future generations by

- ✦ developing long term land protection strategies
- ✦ promoting private and public funding for land conservation
- ✦ acquiring land and conservation easements
- ✦ practicing stewardship including the restoration of conservation properties
- ✦ promoting both a sense of place and a land ethic through activities, education and outreach

Cover photo: Winter's green grass sets off a venerable oak awaiting spring's leafing out at Glen Oaks Ranch. © Stephen Joseph

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