ESTPORT VILLAGE SOCIETY

P. O. Box 446, Westport, CA 95488 http://www.westportca.org/

supporting local charitable and educational projects and fostering the preservation and interpretation of the environment since 1992.

06/29/22

The Westport Village Society (WVS) will be submitting a grant application to the California State Coastal Conservancy (CSCC) on July 15, 2022 to fund the acquisition of a 26 acre parcel of coastal bluff property. WVS is inviting interested governmental and private groups as well as individuals interested in land conservation to write a letter of support to the CSCC. The grant application will be reviewed by CSCC staff between July and October, with a recommendation to be presented to the CSCC Board September 22 for consideration. Our understanding is that it may take six to eight weeks before the Board decision is made public. Public and governmental agency input on projects like ours are an important consideration for the CSCC Board to make decisions on how to best allocate their grant funds.

This project will acquire privately owned oceanfront land with pristine headlands, beach, wetlands, and a perennial creek, preventing future development and ensuring public access and habitat/resource conservation is guaranteed. DeHaven Beach, located toward the north end of this property, is regularly used by the public and local communities including tribes who continue to actively pursue subsistence and other traditional activities there while camping in Westport Union Landing State Beach, a State park abutting the north end of this parcel. DeHaven beach is highly visible from State Route 1 and relatively easy to reach from the far north end of the property resulting in significant informal and unmanaged public visitation. Improved oversight of that public access can be expected to alleviate resource impacts/conflicts while offering an opportunity for educational enrichment of visitors. The project comprises land acquisition and subsequent planning to prepare for responsible public access improvements. long term management and conservation. The configuration of future access improvements is not fully known and will be informed by proposed studies and public input.

A sample letter, maps and a photo of the parcel are attached. More information is available at the WVS website: <u>www.westportvillagesociety.org</u>. You may also email WVS at <u>wvs@westportvillagesociety.org</u> for specific questions or comments related to the DeHaven Creek Headlands Project.

Thank you for your consideration,

Bio Knorge

(707) 964-7355

President, WVS

wvs@westportvillagesociety.org



Bill Knapp (President)

Thad Van Bueren (Vice President)

Rock Bush (Treasurer)

Robert Finnell (Acting Secretary)

Doríne Real

Gary Quinton

Derek DiOrio

DeHaven Creek Headlands Project as described in the CSCC Grant application

Legend Signs Possible Trails Possible Parking DeHaven Acquisition WUL State Beach Dehaven_Creek

0

Dehaven Greek

50



Oblique View DeHaven Creek Headlands, April 2019 from Google Earth



Sample Support Letter for DeHaven Creek Headlands Grant Application by WVS to the California State Coastal Conservancy

{Date}

Douglas Bosco, Chairman Governing Board California State Coastal Conservancy 1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor Oakland, CA 94612-1401

Re: Support for Westport Village Society Grant Application for "DeHaven Creek and Headlands Acquisition Project"

Honorable Chairman Bosco and Governing Board:

[I/We] strongly urge you to support the Westport Village Society's Grant Application for the "DeHaven Creek and Headlands Acquisition Project." That grant will help preserve a pristine 26 acre oceanfront property about one mile north of Westport, California, guaranteeing future public access and habitat preservation.

The property that would be acquired with the grant is a treasure that contains a perennial stream that supports salmonids, a beach, wetlands, headlands, and other resources. The acreage is a confluence of natural habitats for migrating birds, coastal mammals and aquatic species. It provides the only high tide DeHaven Creek Beach access for visitors, local residents, and tribes who have pursued subsistence and other traditional activities there for millennia. It adjoins Westport Union Landing State Beach's south boundary, offering a chance to extend the California Coastal Trail another half mile south.

The WVS has negotiated a purchase agreement that depends on this grant for successful acquisition. They are an experienced land trust and have raised funds in the local community and offers in-kind contributions that will help support the acquisition and reduce planning costs. If this opportunity is missed, the property will remain in private ownership and may be developed, compromising public access, natural habitats and scenic views. It is an investment well worth making for public benefit.

Thank you for considering {my/our} views.

Sincerely,

{Name, Title Affiliation}

Cc: Westport Village Society, PO Box 446 Westport CA 95488 or WVS@westportvillagesociety.org

{Mail letters to the address above or email them to Karyn Gear (Karyn.Gear@scc.ca.gov)}