



**LAND  
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# Protect Wildlife Build Trails Save Land

## A letter from the President of the Land Trust Board

I'm a third generation farmer in the Pajaro Valley. My father always says, about farming and life, that you reap what you sow.

In the past year the Land Trust has sowed a lot of different seeds – and now it is harvest time. We need your help to reap what we've sowed.

We are just weeks away from having to put up the money to buy 280 acres for the Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing – and still a long way from our \$1 million goal. The recent death of another mountain lion at Laurel Curve underscores the need to act now – to save mountain lions, deer and other wildlife from unnecessary death.

Sometimes I think we've tried to do too much. You decide when you consider what we can do in the days and months ahead with your support today.

- We will protect 280 acres east of Highway 17 for the Wildlife Crossing – and plant the seeds to protect the final 190-acre segment west of the highway in the coming year.
- We will do the environmental review and get the permits to open up San Vicente Redwoods to public access – giving everyone in our county miles of new trails to explore on foot, bikes, and on horses.
- We will protect two prime farms in the Pajaro Valley – and plant the seeds to protect still more farmland in the years ahead.

And that is not all we can do with your support. We are working on public access at our Watsonville Slough Farm and on the Glenwood Open Space Preserve. We are working with our conservation partners to protect more land in the Pajaro Hills.

In January, we will make our first contribution to the Coastal Rail Trail by giving the City of Watsonville the funds to design their segment of this trail that will run the length of our county.

And we will continue to be exemplary stewards of the land we have already protected: Antonelli Pond, Byrne-Milliron Forest, and Star Creek Ranch.

We've done the math on all this and to reap what we've sowed, we need to raise \$1 million by the end of the year. Your support today will make all this happen. In fact, it can only happen with your support.

Your support will be multiplied many times over by the government and foundation grants we receive. And your membership in the Land Trust will entitle you to attend member-only events on lands not open to the public, like our Star Creek Adventures in the spring.

If you contribute \$1,000 or more, your gift will be doubled by Pamela and Allen Rozelle, who have generously put up \$150,000 to match these gifts.

We have planted all these seeds because we want a bumper crop!

We want our farmland and forests permanently protected from the development pressures. We want all our citizens to have access to the beauty around us, and for our children to love the natural world as we do. We want to protect the wildlife living with us in this beautiful place we get to call home.

If you want what we want, help us bring in this harvest. Together we can do it, I know it.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rogelio Ponce, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rogelio Ponce, Jr.  
President, Land Trust Board of Trustees