



January 5, 2010

The Honorable Jerry Brown  
Governor  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

The California Rangeland Conservation Coalition congratulates you being recently sworn in as California's 39<sup>th</sup> governor and writes to introduce our unique partnership and share our priorities for 2011.

The California Rangeland Conservation Coalition is an unprecedented group of ranchers, environmental organizations, scientists and government agencies. Together, these partners strive to preserve private working landscapes, support the long-term viability of the ranching business and protect and enhance California rangeland, in the Central Valley and surrounding foothills, for both legally protected and still-common species. As Governor you are in a unique position to promote, support and foster the collaborative conservation approaches we believe are necessary to keep California's working rangelands intact.

It is important to preserve the state's ranchers, ranching lands and ranching traditions because of the environmental and economic benefits they provide to all Californians. These benefits include providing food for a growing population, wildlife habitat, jobs, open spaces and view sheds that all Californians can appreciate. During these lean budget times, California's ranchers are uniquely positioned to allow the state to meet its goals of habitat protection by investing in lower cost working land protection programs, such as conservation easements, rather than acquiring habitat land in fee.

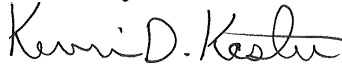
Some key topics for your administration to consider when setting priorities for your term include:

- Fully restore Williamson Act subvention funding to counties;
- Direct Cabinet members to dedicate staff to engage in assisting the Rangeland Coalition to achieve its goals by participating in partnership activities, specifically supporting voluntary enhancement and restoration projects on rangeland;

- Elevate the importance of using grazing as a conservation and management tool on public lands within the Rangeland Coalition's Focus Area;
- Support research systems that answer important questions about improving land management and revitalize Cooperative Extension so the research gets to the people on the ground who can implement the findings;
- Work with partners to identify means to recover imperiled species and enhance habitat on rangelands while seeking to streamline regulations and permitting processes that prevent habitat enhancement projects from being completed (please see recently released regulatory coordination white paper from the California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment attached);
- Persuade the Legislature to provide tax relief from income that ranchers derive from selling a conservation easement, thus leveraging conservation dollars to protect more acres; and
- Design current and future programs to support conservation easement program funding and the voluntary use of conservation easements on private working rangelands.

Thank you for considering our priorities, the partners of the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition look forward to working with you as Governor. We look forward to setting up a meeting with you and your staff to discuss these priorities in more detail. Please contact Tracy Schohr, Director of Rangeland Conservation at (916) 444-0845 or [tschohr@calcattlemen.org](mailto:tschohr@calcattlemen.org) to confirm a meeting time.

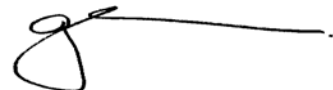
Sincerely,



Kevin Kester  
President  
California Cattlemen's Association



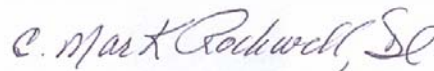
Kim Delfino  
California Program Director  
Defenders of Wildlife



Graham Chisholm  
Vice President & Executive Director  
Audubon California



Jay Ziegler  
Director of External Affairs and Policy  
The Nature Conservancy



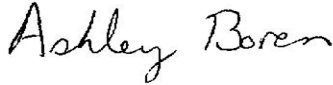
Dr. C. Mark Rockwell, D.C.  
California State Representative  
Endangered Species Coalition



Ed Pandolfino, Ph.D.  
Chair, Placer County Conservation Committee  
Sierra Foothills Audubon Society



John Sterling  
President  
Central Valley Bird Club



Ashley Boren  
Executive Director  
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Michael Post  
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Matt Rogers  
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California Deer Association



John Hopkins  
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Tara Hansen  
Executive Director  
California Native Plant Society



Nita Vail  
Executive Director  
California Rangeland Trust



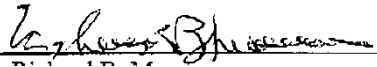
Robert Berner  
Executive Director  
Marin Agricultural Land Trust



Ernest White  
President  
Tehama County Resource Conservation District



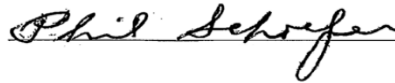
Renata Brillinger  
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California Climate & Agriculture Network (CalCAN)



Rich Morris  
On behalf of the  
Central Coast Rangeland Coalition



Karen Buhr  
Executive Director  
CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts



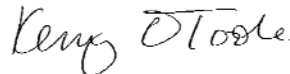
Phil Schoefer  
President, Board of Directors  
Western Shasta Resource Conservation District



Wade Belew  
President  
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Lesa Carlton  
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California Wool Growers Association



Kerry O'Toole  
President  
American Land Conservancy



Ernest White  
President  
Tehama County Resource  
Conservation District



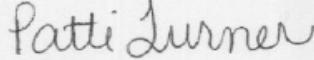
Maureen McCorry  
Director  
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Melanie Fowle  
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Agricultural-Natural Resources Trust  
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Patti Turner  
District Manager  
Colusa County Resource Conservation District



Kent Reeves  
Executive Officer  
Alameda County Resource Conservation District

Mary Lee Knecht  
Executive Director  
Sacramento River Watershed Program

Attachments: California Rangeland Resolution  
California Rangeland Conservation Coalition Area Map  
California Rangeland Conservation Coalition Strategic Plan  
California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment Regulatory Coordination White Paper