



Placer County Board of Supervisors
Attn: All Supervisors
175 Fulweiler Ave.
Auburn, CA 95603

October 3, 2016

Dear Supervisors,

The Truckee Donner Land Trust and The Trust for Public Land are in receipt of an amendment to our option with Sierra Pacific Industries to purchase the 6,376 acres east of the Martis West Project (the East Parcel.) The Board tentatively approved the Martis West project on September 12, 2016. We will not, however, be signing the amendment and are writing to explain why.

As you heard in testimony from the September Board meeting, The Trust for Public Land and Truckee Donner Land Trust have been engaged in protecting Martis Valley and the surrounding lands for decades. In the last several years, we have been involved in discussion regarding protection of the Martis Valley East Parcel owned by SPI and adjacent to Waddle Ranch, a property protected as a result of our successful partnership with Placer County.

Comments by Board members at the September meeting make it clear that you are aware of the importance of conserving the East Parcel. We, of course, agree. Permanent protection of the 6376-acre East Parcel as open space would complete the protection of 50,000 acres of connected open space between Mt Rose and Martis Valley, protecting a significant wildlife corridor and creating tremendous recreational possibilities.

As shared in TPL's public testimony on September 12th, while we are hopeful for the opportunity to put the East Parcel in public or land trust ownership ensuring public access and enhanced protection of its resources, it is premature to assume it will be successful. In 2013 we entered an agreement to acquire the East Parcel. TPL and TDLT have now been presented with an amendment to the option agreement by SPI for \$7.6M, a purchase price equal to half the original appraised value. Despite this notable and appreciated reduction, it simply is not feasible to raise this amount of funding while the project is embroiled in controversy. Additionally, our organizations will not be engaged with this effort until after developers and the environmental groups challenging the project have reached a settlement. Given these considerations, we will not be signing the amendment.

TPL and TDLT remain committed to conservation of the East Parcel, and will continue to work with SPI, based on three decades of working with them on successful conservation transactions.

Please let us know if you have questions or concerns.

Most sincerely,

Perry Norris



Truckee Donner Land Trust

David Sutton



The Trust for Public Land

Cc: Gary Blanc
Blake Riva
Tom Mooers
Alexis Ollar