In re: Another Large Step to Help Conserve Your Land

Dear [4]:

I write to let you know that The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County (“The Land Trust”) has taken another important step to help forever preserve the vision of landowners, like you, who have [purchased or voluntarily agreed to conserve] land protected by a land trust conservation easement.

That vision is an important part of our mission. In addition to the easement that we hold on your property, The Land Trust holds easements that protect 15,500 acres of farms, ranches, oak woodland, marshland, nature preserves, parks, shorelines, and trails throughout the County.

Our Membership in Terrafirma Risk Retention Group

Until recently, hundreds of local land trusts stood alone in their efforts to monitor and defend the conservation easements that they were charged to uphold.

We are pleased to report that The Land Trust has become a charter member of a one-of-a-kind liability insurance company created by the national Land Trust Alliance called Terrafirma Risk Retention Group LLC (“Terrafirma”) that will help defend easements throughout Santa Barbara County, as well as over 20,000 other properties conserved by community land trusts, like ours, across the country.

Our Monitoring and Enforcement Commitment to You

The Land Trust regularly estimates and takes steps to provide long-term financing for its local staff costs, including the costs of our annual monitoring visits. As a result, monitoring of your conservation easement will continue to be handled by our staff without outside assistance.

While we have set aside significant funds to enable us to monitor easements that we hold, as the number of conservation easements grows, it becomes more difficult to predict just how many challenges may occur and what it will cost to address those challenges in perpetuity.