

For Immediate Release  
August 12, 2004

## Wildlife Conservation Board Votes to Approve Hearst Ranch Purchase; Plan Now Moves to Coastal Conservancy and State Parks and Recreation for Review

The Wildlife Conservation Board today voted its approval of the proposed Hearst Ranch Conservation Plan, a key step in ensuring the preservation of what has been called “California’s Crown Jewel of the Central Coast” in San Luis Obispo County. The State Coastal Conservancy and the Department of Parks and Recreation must also approve the Hearst Ranch Conservation Plan before it is finalized.

“We are very pleased that the Board has voted to approve the project. The preservation of these lands and the acquisition of these key coastline properties will be a tremendous benefit for the State. This is a unique project that sets a new standard for conservation projects in California,” said Mike Chrisman, California Secretary for Resources.

The proposed terms of the Hearst Ranch Conservation Plan would give the State title to 13 of Hearst's 18 miles along the shoreline as well as a conservation easement protecting nearly 80,000 acres of Hearst property near San Simeon in perpetuity. The State will provide \$95 million (\$80 million in cash and \$15 million in State tax credits) to Hearst from Proposition 40 and 50 bond funds, which have been earmarked for preservation of unique natural assets for future generations. This proposal does not involve the use of State General Fund money.

The public has been kept informed of the process through posting of many of the key transactional documents and information about the property on the Resource Agency’s website. For more information go to the California Resources Agency website at [www.resources.ca.gov](http://www.resources.ca.gov)

###