

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



The California coast has been a focal point for my family from the time I was a child to now, as I introduce my new son to its spectacular beauty. Few places on earth can match the coast for its

interplay of ocean, forest, and sky and immense power to amaze, delight, and inspire.

It is hard to imagine that a place so powerful nevertheless faces such enormous risk. In the last 35 years, seven million people have settled in California. By 2050 an estimated 60 million people will live in the state. It will take our best efforts to ensure that the wildlife habitat and open spaces we enjoy on the coast today will still be there for our children and grandchildren.

The American Land Conservancy has its roots in protecting coastal resources. This issue of American Landscapes tells the story of how those efforts have continued for nearly two decades, resulting in an impressive legacy and a clear view of the task ahead. Our first coastal project took 10 years to complete, but we ultimately succeeded. We are applying that same dogged

determination today as we work to protect one of the largest remaining private parcels on the central coast, Wild Cherry Canyon (see page 16).

Our past and current projects are part of a long-term effort to complete the West Coast Trail along the Pacific Coast, with current efforts focused in California, where coastal resources are most imperiled. On page 10 you will find the story of the trail and on page 17 can read about already-protected areas you and your family can enjoy.

You can also read about our work to protect other threatened natural resources throughout the country, learn about controlling noxious weeds on your land, and see how the slump in the real estate market has created new opportunities for conservation.

We invite you to join us in this important work, and extend a special thank-you to our members and partners for helping us protect America's great landscapes.

*Kerry O'Toole*

KERRY O'TOOLE, PRESIDENT



Wild Cherry Canyon

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Get Outside!

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