

Mohawk Valley Stewardship Council acquires White Sulphur Springs Ranch

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The California Department of Transportation's Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program has awarded the Mohawk Valley Stewardship Council a grant in the amount of \$500,000 toward the acquisition of the ranch for its value as a roadside recreational facility.

The program recognizes the importance of White Sulphur Springs Ranch, formerly known as McLearn's, as a community recreational asset and historical icon to Plumas County and the northern Sierra Nevada region.

Alice Berg, council president, who wrote the Caltrans grant said, "The Mohawk Valley Stewardship Council's hard work on this project, the incredible philanthropic donation by Steve Luczo and the tremendous public support has paid off."

In addition to the Caltrans grant, the MVSC also received support from the National Trust for Historic Preservation specifically designated as "seed money" to begin a capital campaign for restoration of the historical main building at White Sulphur Springs Ranch.

When Steve Luczo, owner of White Sulphur Springs Ranch, heard about the grant awards, he stepped forward to donate the remaining value of the property to the stewardship council. He was impressed with the ability of the council to raise funds in these difficult economic conditions.

Luczo is chairman of the board of directors, president and CEO of Seagate Technology and founder of Balance Vector, a privately held company that donates a majority of its profits to numerous charitable causes.

The donation of White Sulphur Springs Ranch was a good fit with his charitable giving goals and personal philosophy.

With the MVSC's acquisition of White Sulphur Springs Ranch, all donations of funds and labor will go towards renovation and preservation of the warm springs pool, landscaping the grounds, trail enhancement and restoring the historic buildings.

The council is an all-volunteer organization and is actively seeking grants for labor and materials for the property restoration but will also need the support of concerned donors.

The immediate needs are funds for the restoration of the pool and grounds.

The MVSC was established as a tax-exempt public benefit corporation in 2009 to foster protection, conservation and restoration of the region's physical, cultural, archeological, historical and living resources, and to encourage public cooperation to improve, protect and maintain agricultural, economic and community sustainability in the region.

Visit mohawkvalley.us for details and donation options. For additional information, contact Berg at 836-1201 or write the council at P.O. Box 25, Clio, CA 96106.