



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 17, 2010

Contact:

Peggy Flynn

Community Relations Manager

[Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District](#)

707.565.7347 office

707.293.4592 cell

Two Rock Valley Ranch Joins Protected Ag Land Cluster

District works with the Camozzi family to continue agricultural legacy

SANTA ROSA, Calif. – “Uncle Henry’s Ranch,” a 98-acre farm owned by the Camozzi family since the 1940s, will be added to the 1,384 acres of contiguous agricultural land protected by the District—the largest assemblage of land protected solely for agriculture in Sonoma County—in the coastal agricultural belt. In total, the District has protected more than 10,000 acres, from east of Petaluma to the Pacific Ocean, for family farms and ranches.

Today, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, acting as the District’s Board of Directors, approved a \$1 Million acquisition of a conservation easement that will prevent the threat of development of four parcels and will ensure that highly-productive land will stay in agriculture.

“By connecting our protected lands, we are able to ensure that prime farmland stays in production and that we have the ability to feed our community for generations to come,” said Mike Kerns, Second District Supervisor. “Agricultural preservation continues to be a high priority for the District.”

Located northwest of Petaluma and near the intersection of Bodega Highway and Two Rock Road, the property is primarily pastureland which supports the family’s dairy operation on Pepper Road by minimizing the need for supplemental feeding and providing housing for the dairy’s workforce. It is adjacent to four properties protected by easements held by the District, three of which are now owned by the Camozzi family.

“We needed a way to keep this land in agriculture to meet the daily needs of our dairy operation,” said Robert Camozzi, property owner and operator of Triple C Dairy. “By protecting this property and the surrounding land we can stay viable and remain a family business.”

Additionally, the property—named after the family’s late relative Henry D’Ambrogi—is located along a County-designated scenic corridor and is classified as “Grazing Land and Farmland of Local Importance” by the Federal Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program which aids policymakers in analyzing land use impacts on agricultural resources.

Throughout the County, the District has protected more than 33,000 acres for agriculture—nearly half of all the land protected by the District since its creation by Sonoma County voters in 1990.

“Agricultural production contributes a significant amount to our County’s economy and the state’s income,” said Bill Keene, General Manager of the District. “Much of this benefit could not be realized without the land conservation tools put in place by the voters in our community.”

About the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District

The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District permanently protects the diverse **agricultural, natural resource** and **scenic open space** lands of Sonoma County for future generations. Since 1990, the District has protected more than 83,000 acres. Agricultural and open space lands have been protected through a 1/4-cent sales tax approved by voters in 1990 and reauthorized in 2006. For more information, please visit www.sonomaopenspace.org

###