

# Land Acquisition Policy

## 1. Consistency With Mission Statement:

Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) Mission Statement: To promote the appreciation, conservation, and restoration of ecosystems, focusing on the biological diversity of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats, particularly in San Luis Obispo County, California.

- The primary acquisition goal of any parcel is the conservation of rare habitats of high quality (based on San Luis Obispo County or State Resource Agency designations) with minimal need for restoration.
- Primary use of any land acquired by MCAS will be for habitat value and wildlife use. Gifts of real property that are not suitable for conservation purposes may be accepted if the gift allows subsequent resale.

Any potential gift of land must adhere to the MCAS *Land Acquisition Policy*.

## 2. Proximity:

Any parcel considered for acquisition by MCAS must be located within San Luis Obispo County.

## 3. Habitat Value:

Habitat values for any potential acquisition or gift parcel must meet the following standards:

- Need minimal restoration to provide high quality wildlife habitat.
- Host sensitive plant and/or wildlife resources.
- Proximity or connections with other open space preferred; surrounding land compatible with conservation goals.
- Large enough to provide adequate protection to species of concern.

- Designation as an ESHA (Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area) by San Luis Obispo County Local Coastal Program.
- Not have any hazardous waste or significant garbage located within the boundaries of the property.

4. Funding:

MCAS will carefully assess the one time and ongoing maintenance costs for a property prior to acquisition and realistically evaluate the ability of MCAS to supply the needed revenues over the long term. MCAS will only accept property if it is determined that sufficient funding is available for acquisition and maintenance, or the fundraising potential for the property is high.