



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LandWatch Monterey County to Appeal Ferrini Ranch Court Decision

*Sprawling subdivision near Toro County Park
would cause irreversible damage*

Salinas, CA – After 12 years of engagement and a David-versus-Goliath fight, the non-profit LandWatch Monterey County announced today that it would appeal a lower court’s ruling on the Ferrini Ranch subdivision, a sprawling, low density 185-lot housing project straddling Toro County Park along Highway 68. Simultaneously, LandWatch also announces the launch of a fundraising campaign to cover the estimated \$45,000 in legal fees and costs associated with the lawsuit and appeal.

On August 16, 2017, Monterey County Superior Court Judge Thomas Wills issued a decision upholding Monterey County’s approval of the Ferrini Ranch subdivision, proposed for 870-acres. The Monterey County Board of Supervisors originally approved the project in December 2014 on a split 3-2 vote, despite overwhelming and consistent public opposition to it. LandWatch has been tracking the Ferrini Ranch project since 2005 when the project application was first deemed complete. During the past 12 years, LandWatch evaluated environmental documents, testified before the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors, wrote letters, produced videos, organized residents, and eventually filed suit to stop the project.

“Our membership remains resoundingly opposed to the Ferrini Ranch subdivision because of its impacts on water, traffic, greenhouse gas emissions, and views,” states Michael DeLapa, LandWatch’s Executive Director. “Ferrini Ranch represents exactly the kind of sprawling, wasteful, socially unnecessary, and environmentally damaging development that motivated residents to form LandWatch.”

LandWatch and its legal counsel have invested hundreds of hours in technical review, video production, and legal services, mostly uncompensated. LandWatch has also incurred substantial out-of-pocket costs. In close collaboration with its legal counsel M. R. Wolfe & Associates, P.C., LandWatch has decided to appeal Judge Wills' decision, following an exhaustive review of his decision, the facts, precedent related to the California Environmental Quality Act, and the legal costs and risks. It is our expectation that the Court of Appeal will understand the legal failings of the Superior Court decision and overturn it.

Individuals, foundations or businesses can donate to LandWatch Monterey County electronically via [the LandWatch website](#) or by mail (Post Office Box 1876, Salinas, CA 93902-1876).

For further information, contact:

Michael DeLapa, Executive Director
LandWatch Monterey County

(650) 291-4991 (cell)
execdir@landwatch.org

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Formed in 1998, LandWatch's mission is to promote sound land use policies that sustain and improve our community — its long-term economic vitality, high agricultural productivity, environmental health, and social equity.