

NORTH COAST & STATE

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Northcoast Regional Land Trust to hold conservation workshop

The Times-Standard

The Northcoast Regional Land Trust will be hosting a free workshop highlighting the provisions of the new Pension Protection Act that contain tax incentives for the donation of conservation easements and other contributions that support private land conservation.

The workshop, to be held March 30 at the Fortuna River Lodge, from 9:15 a.m. to 3 p.m., will cover how conservation easements are created, appraised and what the requirements are. These incentives are only available through December 2007.

"This workshop will provide a wealth of information" Jim Petruzzi, executive director of the Northcoast Regional Land Trust, said in a press release. "It has been made possible through a grant from the California Council of Land Trusts and the California Department of Conservation's California Farmland Conservancy Program."

"These new tax incentives present an incredible opportunity to maintain the scenic nature, healthy ecosystems and quality of life in this area through conservation of our working lands and wild spaces,

"These new tax incentives present an incredible opportunity to maintain the scenic nature."

JIM PETRUZZI

Executive director, Northcoast Regional Land Trust

and we want to make sure people throughout the North Coast are aware of them," Petruzzi.

The bulk of the workshop will be lead by Attorney Ellen Fred, with the San Francisco Law firm of Coblenz, Patch, Duffy and Bass, Attorneys at Law. Fred serves clients

on all aspects of land conservation law, including drafting and customizing conservation easements and related documents, analyzing the state and federal income, gift and estate tax implications of employing various conservation approaches, and negotiating with landowners, tax-exempt organizations, and governmental agencies.

Appraiser Chris Bell will also be sharing insight into the process of calculating the monetary value of rural properties on the North Coast, and explains the difference a conservation easement can make to property value.

There will be a hosted lunch, and a free workbook of information and sample scenarios to assist in future efforts. Call the Northcoast Regional Land Trust for more information and to R.S.V.P. 822-2242; info@nrcrlt.org