

SPRING 2015



Purchase of Farmland in Upper Pajaro Protects Agriculture, Floodplains, and Wildlife

The Open Space Authority has purchased a critical 183-acre parcel of farmland at the intersection of the Pajaro River and Llagas Creek. Just a half-mile south of Gilroy, the Montes farm was at risk of urban development, and is located in one of the ten Conservation Focus Areas targeted for protection in our *Valley Greenprint*.

"The Montes farm is a great example of how we can use our conservation resources wisely to protect lands that offer multiple benefits," said Matt Freeman, Assistant General Manager. "Purchase of this land helps sustain regional agriculture while also protecting a critical floodplain and a significant wildlife corridor."

Through a re-grant from its partner The Nature Conservancy, the Authority received \$650,000 for the purchase from the Living Landscape Initiative Challenge Grant Program of Resources Legacy Fund, which is funded by the Gordon and Betty

Moore Foundation. In addition, the California Department of Water Resources and the Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority contributed \$490,000 towards the purchase. With this generous assistance, the Open Space Authority purchased the row crop farm from José and Anna Montes for \$2.8 million.

The Montes family has farmed in the region for several generations. Recently used to grow tomatoes, peppers, and leaf lettuces, the parcel is part of a complex of protected farms in a landscape that is still largely agricultural.

Protecting this property also reduces the need for additional levees and costly stormwater infrastructure. Undeveloped, this parcel and other lands in the area are able to absorb and store rainwater and runoff, reducing the risk of flooding to downstream communities of Watsonville and Pajaro.

continued on page 2

MEASURE Q INVESTING IN NATURE

As we embark on a new year, our highest priority is planning for the implementation of Measure Q, the open space funding measure approved by the voters in November 2014.

The Open Space Authority will receive the first funds from the measure in January 2016. In the meantime, we are preparing documents for the Santa Clara County Controller's Office, reviewing our tracking and reporting systems to ensure fiscal accountability, and creating the Measure Q Financial Oversight Committee.

We are committed to updating you as the funding measure is implemented. To receive periodic updates, please join our Measure Q/Valley Greenprint email list at tiny.cc/MQGreenprint.

Purchase of this scenic 183-acre farm along the Pajaro River will allow the Open Space Authority to meet multiple conservation goals.



Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve to Open in Summer

Our newest preserve – 348 stunning acres of agricultural lands with spectacular views of Coyote Valley – will soon be open to the public. This summer, picnickers, hikers, equestrians, and cyclists will be able to enjoy the Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve.

Once slated for housing development, the easily accessible preserve is roughly in the center of the Valley, between San Jose and Morgan Hill. The preserve will remain in conservation-friendly grazing, consistent with the private farms and rangelands surrounding it. The Open Space Authority's purchase of the property means that public recreation, environmental interpretation, and resource protection will also be priorities. Planned trails over the western hills will eventually connect to Calero County Park and Rancho Cañada del Oro.

Field crews are working hard to ready a vehicle/equestrian staging area, multi-use trails, and bridges — with materials brought in by helicopter. In just two hours, the helicopter brought more than five tons of materials to a remote bridge construction site without damaging the landscape or habitat.



To get updates about opening festivities, sign up for our eNews at tiny.cc/eNews.

PURCHASE OF FARMLAND

(continued from page 1)

The purchase also protects a critical linkage connecting hundreds of thousands of core habitat areas in the Santa Cruz, Gabilan, and Mt. Hamilton Ranges. Preservation and restoration of the wildlife corridor along the Upper Pajaro River will allow animals to move between these habitat remnants, while also offering opportunities for plants and animals to adapt to a changing climate.

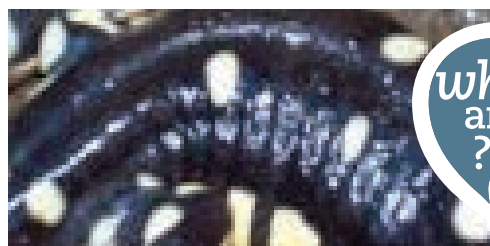
The Open Space Authority will continue the farm's current lease while preparing a comprehensive conservation and management plan to identify opportunities for flood control, habitat restoration, agricultural viability, public access, and environmental education.

Marc Landgraf Open Space Authority External Affairs Manager



Public and private conservation partnerships are critical to the work of preserving open space, and our new staffer has years of success in such matters. The Open Space Authority has welcomed new External Affairs Manager Marc Landgraf to the staff. He brings many years of experience in land conservation, including nearly 7 years at Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), where he helped to pass Measures AA and Q.

When he's not in the office, Marc loves being outdoors with his family – hiking, biking and cross-country skiing. Look for him on the trails!



who
am I
?

I am about 8" long and like to eat insects and other invertebrates, fish, and even small mammals. Wide-bodied, spotted, and bug-eyed, I spend most of my life in burrows created by ground squirrels and gophers.

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

2013-2014 Annual Report



The McPhee family donated to the Open Space Authority a 116-acre parcel in the eastern foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains.



Martial Cottle Park

This year, The Open Space Authority finalized the **Santa Clara Valley Greenprint** to guide the Authority's work over the next 30 years. The *Valley Greenprint* identifies the 10 highest priority areas for conservation, along with strategies for open space land acquisition and stewardship.

The Julian McPhee family generously donated to the Open Space Authority a **116-acre property in the Upper Uvas Creek Watershed** adjacent to Uvas Canyon County Park. This property includes redwood forest, riparian habitat, and landscape linkages, and future opportunities for public recreation.

The Open Space Authority purchased **160+ acres in the Llagas Creek Watershed** just west of the Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve. Lush with mixed evergreens and coast live oak, this purchase protects important watershed lands and riparian habitat and offers opportunity for future trail connections.

Since 1998, the Authority has granted **\$8.05 million** to provide people living in dense, urban environments with access to open space and trails.

This year, the Open Space Authority funded \$300,000 for site development and environmental restoration at **Martial Cottle**, a former 287-acre farm located in San Jose's Santa Teresa neighborhood. Now a Santa Clara County park, the site celebrates the agricultural heritage of Santa Clara Valley.

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority 2013-2014 Financials

REVENUES

Unrestricted Reserve Fund	\$ 498,386
Assessment District 1	\$ 4,205,669
Interest Income	\$ 136,978
Donations.....	\$ 5,532
Land Management Income.....	\$ 63,384
Grant Income.....	\$ 87,784
Misc. Income.....	\$ 4,650
TOTAL.....	\$5,002,383

EXPENDITURES

Land Acquisition	\$ 203,477
Vehicle and Capital Improvements	\$ 395,066
Administrative	\$ 1,873,821
Land Management	\$ 1,089,545
Professional Services	\$ 1,187,225
Planning	\$ 31,373
Board of Directors	\$ 16,691
Public Relations	\$ 149,179
Volunteers and Outreach	\$ 67,236
TOTAL.....	\$5,013,613

Urban Open Space Accounts as of June 30, 2014

JURISDICTION	ALLOCATED TO DATE	INVESTED TO DATE	ACCOUNT BALANCE
Campbell	\$ 386,445	\$ (363,650)	\$ 22,795
Milpitas	\$ 520,689	\$ (356,837)	\$ 163,852
Morgan Hill	\$ 211,237	\$ (184,000)	\$ 27,237
San Jose	\$ 7,733,957	\$ (6,186,946)	\$ 1,547,010
Santa Clara	\$ 935,906	\$ (51,953)	\$ 422,953
County	\$ 760,120	\$ (450,000)	\$ 310,120
TOTAL	\$10,548,354	\$(8,054,386)	\$2,493,967

Our heartfelt thanks to our generous donors

DONORS

Burr, Pilger, Mayer	New Leaf Community Markets
City of San Jose	Frank Nichols, Jr.
Larry Coons	Peninsula Open Space Trust
Greenbelt Alliance	Kenneth J. Rone, Jr.
Karen Hegglin	Donald R. Slinkard in Honor of Donna Hale
Keith A. Monk in Memory of Evelyn Zingham	The Villages Hiking Club

IN-KIND DONORS

Bwiebe Events
Committee for Green Foothills
Guglielmo Wineries
Lighthearted Cellars
Magnolia Jazz Band
Party Helpers
Santa Clara Valley Water District
Tom Whitnah
Youth Sciences Institute

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike Flaughner
Kalvin Gill

Sequoia Hall
Virginia Holtz

Alex Kennett
Dorsey Moore

Mike Potter

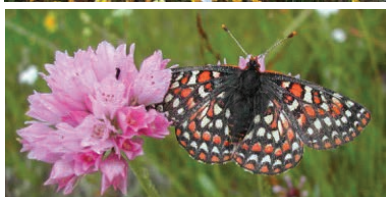
openspaceauthority.org



Like us on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter



Activities in Your Open Space

SPRING HAS ARRIVED ON COYOTE RIDGE IN SOUTH SAN JOSE

Coyote Ridge

In warm spring weather, Coyote Ridge gives rise to an amazing wildflower display accompanied by the emergence of thousands of endangered Bay Checkerspot butterflies. Throughout the month of March, the Open Space Authority will offer hikes along the hillsides to experience these beautiful natural resources. For more details and to register for hikes, please visit openspaceauthority.org. We look forward to seeing you on Coyote Ridge!

STARRY NIGHTS — AND JUPITER'S MOONS

Saturday, March 21 | 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve

A crisp, clear winter evening under the stars can be beautiful, peaceful, and breathtaking. Join our awesome volunteer astronomers, who will share their scopes, identify constellations, and look for the many moons of Jupiter! Meet in the main parking lot; please turn off your headlights as you drive in, to help preserve night vision. Rain or clouds cancels.

DIRECTIONS: From Highway 101 or 85, turn west onto Bailey Avenue. Turn left onto McKean Road, then right onto Casa Loma Road. Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve is at the end of the public access portion of the road; we'll meet in the parking lot.

who
am I
?



ANSWER: I am a California tiger salamander, *Ambystoma californiense*. Because non-native bullfrogs like to eat me, and urbanization is destroying the ponds I use for breeding, I became listed as a federally threatened species in 2004. I am native to California and rarely seen, but you might see me in the grasslands and ponds at the Open Space Authority's Sierra Vista Preserve.