

OSA Outlook



WINTER 2014



Measure Q Passes!

Dear Friends of Santa Clara County Open Space Authority,



We are extremely pleased and excited to announce that Measure Q has won with more than the required 2/3 majority of the vote. Measure Q is a \$24 annual parcel tax that will generate approximately \$7.9 million per year for open space protection in the cities of San Jose, Milpitas, Santa Clara, Campbell and Morgan Hill, and unincorporated areas of the County. On behalf of the Open Space Authority Board of Directors and staff, thank you for your vote of confidence and your support for the protection of open space for future generations.

Now we will turn our attention toward implementing the *Santa Clara Valley Greenprint*, and focus on connecting people with nature by opening more parks and trails, protecting our water resources from pollution, and preserving open space land in perpetuity, including wildlife habitat, scenic hillsides, redwood forests and agricultural land.

Urban parks and open space are included in the *Greenprint* and we will work with cities, schools, nonprofits and the County on projects that enhance urban areas such as trails, creek and floodplain restoration, tree planting and community gardens.

We will continue to be as transparent as possible as we implement all projects, and we invite you to participate by attending meetings and providing input as we progress. For regular updates on the *Greenprint* implementation, join our email list at <http://bit.ly/1xfk94f>.

We thank you for your support and trust in the Open Space Authority. Together we have accomplished a major milestone on a long journey to achieve healthy, sustainable, livable communities for the people of Santa Clara County that will endure well beyond the 21st Century. May we all continue to be good stewards of this Valley and work together to ensure we pass on our natural heritage to future generations.

Warm regards,

Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager

Private/Public Partnership Succeeds in Securing Pivotal Property

An innovative partnership between the Open Space Authority, Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) and the Santa Clara County Parks Department came to fruition with the purchase of 285-acres of open space land in the ruggedly beautiful and water rich Southern Santa Cruz Mountains region. Permanent protection of this property will serve the public's interest by expanding outdoor recreation and education opportunities, while closing gaps in regional trail connections.

"Permanent protection of this property will implement a shared vision between the Authority, POST and County Parks to protect and ensure public access to open space in this important region," said Matt Freeman, Assistant General Manager for the Authority. The Open Space Authority is purchasing the property from the Melchor family for \$1.4 million, with Santa Clara County Parks contributing \$718,000 (one-half of the total purchase price). The Authority will take ownership of the property and the County will hold a conservation easement which ensures the property will serve a public park purpose by providing future trail access.

"This property is key to completing the critical trail route to connect Uvas Canyon County Park to Uvas Reservoir County Park and the West Valley Trail," said County Supervisor Mike Wasserman, in whose district this parcel is located. "We will continue to work with POST and the Open Space Authority to secure the land necessary to implement these regional trails."

The Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) initiated the purchase of the property, coordinated details of the transaction and conducted the environmental due diligence. "An important component of POST's vision is creating a network of protected lands where people and wildlife can thrive," said POST President Walter T. Moore. "Partnering with the Open Space Authority and Santa Clara County Parks is key to making that vision a reality."

One of six ponds on the 285-acre property.

who
am I
?

I fly by night. I screech when I'm excited and my wings click continuously! I patrol the neighborhoods for yummy mice. Sometimes I leave evidence of my meals in the form of a regurgitated pellet (as much as I love mice, I cannot digest hair and bone, so I have to give those back)!

Volunteer Recognition

This summer, the Open Space Authority celebrated its large and invaluable circle of volunteers at a Volunteer Appreciation Party at the Blair Barn. The Authority recognized and honored over 100 volunteers—from Land Stewards, Docents, and Volunteer Trail Patrol members to Community Outreach Volunteers and Citizens Advisory Committee members. Thank you to all who attended—and to all the Authority's volunteers for their time, talents, passion and commitment!



(ABOVE) From left to right: Paul Billig, Jan Hintermeister, Dana Litwin and John Gurley.

(BELOW) From left to right: Alice Lynch, Terry B., Steve Corelis.



Celebrating Nature's Bounty in Community!

Thanks to all who attended the Coyote Valley Family Harvest Feast on September 27th and helped make it such a special day. Sincere gratitude to our guest speakers, Assemblymember Mark Stone, San Jose City Councilmember Ash Kalra and Rancher Janet Burbeck; our generous sponsors, Bay Area Parent, Greenwaste and Alhambra; and our many talented and dedicated volunteers!



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HIKE YOUR PIE OFF!



**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 29**

Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve
(in San Jose, above Alum Rock Park)
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Space is limited.

Register at <http://bit.ly/ZwAJ44>



You came. You feasted. You had a whole day to rest. Now it's time to **Hike Your Pie Off!** Burn some calories and enjoy the best views in the Valley! Choose from 3 different hikes — easy, moderate and challenging.



Hikes • Nature Walks • Stargazing • And More!



Visit our website to see a complete listing of activities:
openspaceauthority.org/activities



who
am I
?



ANSWER:

I am a Tyto Alba—or Barn Owl. I am the most common owl in the world, and one of the most common birds. I do most of my hunting at night, and I am especially good at hunting animals on the ground. I locate my prey by sound, as I have extremely good hearing, and most of my meals consist of small ground-dwelling mammals like mice.