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Public Gains Easy Access to 2,000 Acres of Pristine Open Space Lands

Open Space Authority Dedicates New Trail and Parking Area in East San Jose Foothills

San Jose, CA, August 23, 2014: Today the Open Space Authority hosted hundreds of supporters at its *Sierra Vista: Your New Point of View* event to celebrate new and improved access to the nearly 2,000 acres of pristine wilderness at Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve and dedicate the new Aquila Loop Trail.

OSA Board Chair Mike Potter, said, “The Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve is exceptional: it has scenic, 360 degree views, expansive wildlife habitat and populations of squirrels, foxes, deer, mountain lions, and many species of birds including woodpeckers and raptors. This land helps protect our region’s watersheds and water supplies – and of course, offers over 10 miles of hiking, cycling and equestrian trails. We are making an exception at Sierra Vista – while we normally close our preserves at dusk, we will keep these gates open ½ hour past sunset – this will allow our visitors to enjoy the sunset from the parking area – now that’s what I call a new point of view.”

Sierra Vista’s popular network of trails which include the Boccardo Loop and the Sierra Vista Trails were previously only accessible by ascending 1,500 feet through Alum Rock Park. The new parking area on Sierra Road provides direct access to the Upper and Lower Calaveras Fault Trails that lead further into the nearly 2,000 acres of diverse terrains and species including Valley oak woodland and savannah, blue oak woodland, riparian forest, and native annual grasslands. The newly opened Aquila Trail, a 1.2 mile loop trail, offers expansive views of northern Santa Clara and Alameda County, grasslands and rock outcroppings that once were part of the ocean floor. For more details on Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve please visit:

<http://www.openspaceauthority.org/trails/sierra.html>

The dedication event was attended by a large crowd of supporters and featured speakers Senator Jim Beall, California Assembly Speaker pro Tem Nora Campos, Mayors Chuck Reed, San Jose and Jose Esteves, Milpitas, County Supervisor Cindy Chavez, San Jose City Councilmember Ash Kalra, Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce President Matt Mahood and Janet McBride of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.



OSA General Manager Andrea Mackenzie closed the program by saying, “Today we’ve shared perspectives and stories about the value that nature and open space bring to our communities, our economy and our region: Clean air and water, healthy food produced by local farms and ranches, wildlife habitat, places for healthy recreation, flood protection, and so much more. Places like Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve are permanently protected for all time by the people and for the people – they foster a sense of place and personal investment in the health of our Valley and planet. We hope you will return to Sierra Vista again and again; for as songwriter Woody Guthrie wrote, This Land is YOUR Land. Come for the views, the sunrises and the sunsets; come to recharge and revitalize your spirit; bring your best friend, your children, your parents, your grandparents – come here to put things in perspective; to get a NEW perspective.”

The Open Space Authority acknowledges the Bay Area Ridge Trail and the Coastal Conservancy for contributing generously to the Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve trails and staging area.

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The Open Space Authority conserves the natural environment, supports agriculture and connects people to nature by protecting open spaces, natural areas, and working farms and ranches for future generations.