



PRESERVE CALAVERA

Coastal North San Diego County

November 2008

Dear Friend of Open Space:

With your support, Preserve Calavera has become the largest conservation organization in coastal north San Diego County- working every day to protect the plants, wildlife, creeks canyons and open hillsides that we all treasure.

We had some significant successes in 2008:

- Secured a grant to restore the first 1.8 acres of the newest nature preserve in north county- the Buena Vista Creek Ecological Reserve (former Sherman property)- and helped turn last year's sewer spill into funds for the next 4 acres of restoration. This takes us half way toward restoring all of the former agricultural lands to a natural area supporting a rich diversity of native plants and wildlife.
- Held three Wildlife Appreciation events focusing on amphibians, raptors, and coyotes and enriching all who attended with a deeper understanding of a few of the special critters that share this urbanized landscape with us.
- Secured support from state and federal wildlife agencies to pursue funding for acquisition of parcels that will increase our local preserved lands and the important wildlife corridor linkages between them.
- Continued our partnership with Buena Vista Audubon Society to successfully oppose development that could damage Buena Vista Lagoon.
- Served as part of the stakeholder group that completed the first Agua Hedionda Watershed Management Plan. The Plan is the critical next step in broad-based cooperation to improve this watershed through strategic acquisition, improved creek buffers, and the use of bioengineering and Low Impact Development.
- Implemented innovative community outreach programs, such as Artists Day in the Valley, lecture/field trips to our local extinct volcano (Mt. Calavera), and a watershed discovery tour.
- Continued our hands-on efforts to preserve our natural lands. This is our fifth year of hand watering oak and willow trees, and our seventh year of clean-ups removing tons of debris from our local creeks.
- Secured numerous project improvements through advocacy, comment letters and follow-up.

We have significant challenges facing us in 2009:

- Permanently protecting land before it is lost to development

We want to protect the rest of the Buena Vista Creek Valley and the sacred El Salto Falls, the critical links in the regional wildlife corridor like Village H, the Kato and Mandana properties, and key parcels along our lagoons like the Boardwalk. The current downturn in the housing market has slowed the pace of development. Everyone benefits from preservation of these special places resulting in increased property values, increased local taxes, clean air, clean water, and the opportunity for us, our children, and grandchildren to experience nature literally in our own backyard.

- Continued degradation of our creeks, lagoons and coastal waters

The draft "Reclamation Plan" for the Hanson Aggregates site in the BV Creek Valley (old rock quarry along # 78) puts concrete along the sacred El Salto waterfall. Funding is needed to restore our local lagoons and reduce pollution along our coast. Many local creeks remain highly polluted and under threat of being channeled into culverts instead of being allowed to enrich our local lands.

- Inadequate habitat management

Illegal off-road vehicles tear up trails, trash attracts vermin, and invasive plants waste taxpayer dollars while management of open space remains fragmented and poorly funded.

How will your donation help us preserve this land?

We can do nothing to preserve these priceless natural resources of north San Diego County, without **your** ongoing involvement and financial support.

Your donation will allow us to:

- Support multiple land acquisition strategies to protect land from development **now**, while prices are low and developers have few choices.
- Hire technical experts to support acquisition and restoration
- Continue outreach and public education activities so everyone has the opportunity to experience the uniquely diverse natural land, plants and wildlife of this area

We can't stop development, but, with your help, we can shape it so you, your children and their children will still be able to hear a gnatcatcher, smell the sage in the spring, and feel the air cooled by a natural flowing creek.

Please make an investment with a guaranteed return and send your **tax-deductible** donation to Preserve Calavera in the enclosed envelope. Together we will continue to preserve, protect and enhance the natural resources of coastal North County.

Sincerely,

Diane Nygaard, President

On Behalf of Preserve Calavera

PS : Note that you can designate a portion of your donation to the restricted Rosebrook Land Acquisition Fund. This will help us leverage even more funds toward critical acquisitions.