



# PRESERVE CALAVERA

Coastal North San Diego County

December 2009

## Dear Friend of Open Space:

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

## We had some significant successes in 2009:

- Completed our **first year of restoration** on 1.8 acres of the Buena Vista Creek Ecological Reserve. With the help of 900 hours of community volunteers, this degraded former agricultural land is being returned to a diverse natural area supporting native plants and wildlife.
- Researched and prepared background information on over a dozen properties, laying the foundation for **potential acquisition** and permanent protection as open space.
- Raised community awareness about preservation of our local heritage through sponsoring a tree-naming contest. **El Abuelo (The Grandfather), a 100-year-old coast live oak** reminds us of both the tenacity and fragility of our natural lands.
- Sponsored presentation of “Coyote Speaks” as part of our **special Wildlife Appreciation** Event. Traditional Native American storytelling was combined with modern experience to provide all who attended with a deeper understanding of this often misunderstood neighbor.
- Successfully negotiated an agreement with the Carlsbad Unified School District regarding the proposed new high school at College and Cannon. Our efforts resulted in **an improved buffer for Calavera Creek**, protecting downstream areas from flooding and pollution, a wildlife corridor study to help protect natural movement corridors, a Transportation Demand Management Plan that should reduce air pollution and traffic congestion, and many other changes that benefit the surrounding land.
- Continued our partnership with Buena Vista Audubon Society to initiate Phase I of a comprehensive **Watershed Management Plan** for the Buena Vista Watershed.
- Implemented innovative **community outreach and education** programs, including fire safety at the wildland/urban interface and demonstrations on how to replace your yard with low water use native plants.
- Continued our hands-on efforts to preserve our natural lands. This is our sixth year of watering oak and willow trees, and our eighth year of cleanups that have **removed tons of debris** from our local creeks.
- Were recognized for our efforts with the prestigious D.A.R. Conservation Award and Cox Conserves Heroes environmental award.

## We have significant challenges facing us in 2010:

- Permanently protecting land before it is lost to development

We were all horrified to first see “For Sale” and then “Sold” signs on Village H of Calavera Hills. We offered to help fund the acquisition, but the City of Carlsbad refused to try to purchase this land that was identified as the #2 priority for acquisition by their own citizens’ committee. What neighbors call “the enchanted forest” could have been purchased for a song, yet now it is the hands of developers. The La Costa Town Square project will allow a 100,000 sq ft big box store where there was supposed to be a small local shopping center. We can’t allow other special properties like these to be lost to excessive development.

- Continued degradation of our creeks, lagoons and coastal waters

The draft Reclamation Plan for the Hanson Aggregates site (the old rock quarry along # 78) in the Buena Vista Creek Valley puts concrete along the sacred El Salto waterfall and allows 500 housing units. Our local lagoons need restoration, and 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 pollutes, 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. 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.