

## Preserve Calavera Accomplishments 2000-2021

### Natural Lands Conserved

- Initiated a coalition to help save farmland in South Morro Hills area of Oceanside.
- Supported the acquisition of a 1-acre parcel at the summit of Denk Mtn.
- Completed the acquisition of 60 acres at Village H in Carlsbad Raised over \$ 30,000 for Land Acquisition Fund.
- Secured additional preserve land at site of future Veteran's Park and Aviara Park through Poinsettia 61 agreement.
- Supported BVAS with acquisition of a key parcel on Buena Vista Lagoon.
- Secured numerous development project footprint reductions and open space increases.
- Secured commitment from city of Carlsbad to set aside over \$5m for land acquisition and supported Citizen's Open Space Committee report recommending acquisition priorities for key parcels throughout Carlsbad.
- Led the community fundraising effort that resulted in the acquisition of the 134 acre Sherman property in the Buena Vista Creek Valley.
- Established a restricted land acquisition fund at the San Diego Foundation in order to leverage further funding for acquisition.
- Prepared detailed information packets on over a dozen potential acquisitions for funding agency consideration.
- Secured 35 acres additional mitigation credit from Calavera Hills and 8 fewer homes at Calavera Hills Phase II to mitigate for illegal clearing.
- Supported the 99 acre Sipple acquisition in Calavera core area.

### Wetlands Protection

- Awarded grants to Oceanside Boys and Girls Club,,North County Lifeline, and the Nature Collective to engage youth in water quality improvement projects.
- Worked with RWQCB to improve Water Quality Improvement Plan to address increased levels of coliform bacteria in Agua Hedionda sub-watershed.
- Formally established Kasey's Lab for water quality monitoring program for Buena Vista, Agua Hedionda and Batiquitos sub-watersheds.

- Secured mitigation for illegal wetlands impacts we discovered at four different locations
- (La Mirada Creek, Calavera Creek).
- Removed creek debris, restoring normal creek hydrology at sites along La Mirada creek.
- Supported creating a new friends group to be stewards of Canyon de las Encinas watershed.
- Secured improved wetlands protection criteria in regional conservation plan. Supported improved watershed- based planning and storm water monitoring and enforcement by Regional Water Quality Control Board through participation in the Carlsbad Watershed Network.
- Secured permanent protection of the sacred El Salto waterfall and increased the protected creek corridor to 350' plus an additional 100' biological buffer on each side.
- Did preliminary research that led to a major grant award and successfully completed the Agua Hedionda Watershed Management Plan.
- Testified at public hearings and submitted comment letters that supported \$395k award from the Regional Water Quality Control Board to restore the BV Valley.
- Participated in stream water quality and bioassessment through San Diego Coastkeeper and Army Corps of Engineers for CA Rapid Assessment Model (CRAM) evaluations of stream condition monitoring. Established local volunteer teams to conduct these evaluations.
- Stopped proposed draining of Lake Calavera to repair valves in the dam and got police shooting range relocated to eliminate wetlands impacts.

### **Protection of Wildlife/Corridors**

- Worked with City of Carlsbad to initiate camera and field monitoring to reduce the impacts of potential off-leash dog park on wildlife movement corridor at Village H.
- Continued and expanded citizen scientist programs including deer movement and scat studies, grunion monitoring, and road kill monitoring.
- Participated in wildlife corridor pinch point movement studies.
- Supported installation of Bat boxes at Lake Calavera C.
- Funded cowbird trapping program to reduce loss of native bird populations.

- Got equestrian guidelines built in to local trail plans.
- Held special community education events in response to neighborhood concerns about coyotes and pets.
- Identified roadkill problem areas and worked with local agencies to implement corrective actions.
- Worked for improved guidelines for wildlife undercrossings, and secured signage and fencing at key locations to improve function.
- Built one of four local wildlife tracking teams in San Diego County and have conducted quarterly surveys of four key wildlife movement areas for over 15 years.
- Funded additional field data collection as part of the first major study of wildlife movement corridors in coastal north county.

## **Public Education**

- Held community education events about threats to Monarch butterflies and distributed over 200 milkweed seedlings.
- Created special ways to engage with nature under Covid restrictions including holding a Bioblitz, nature scavenger hunt, journaling and photo contest.
- Completed 4<sup>th</sup> California Naturalist certificate program through U.C. Continuing Education and graduated 93 naturalists through 2020.
- Held First family Nature Day event at Village H.
- Co-hosted 4<sup>th</sup> King Tide event .
- Continued and expanded citizen scientist programs including deer movement and scat studies, grunion monitoring, and road.
- Partnered with Buena Vista Audubon to hold 8th annual and only Endangered Species Day event in San Diego County (on-going). Built a subscriber list of over 4.400 families and provide regular updates through email newsletters, website and Facebook.
- Distributed over 15,000 fliers to inform residents of issues of concern.
- Conducted numerous hikes, over four different routes for all ages and physical abilities- including special hikes for boy scouts and school children.

- Raised public awareness by providing re-cycling at local clean-up events.
- Secured signatures from over 12,300 local residents on petitions expressing concern about saving Calavera area and the Buena Vista Creek valley.
- Developed creative media events to call attention to issues of concern including a memorial service for an oak tree, “Eat the Invasives” picnic and "Have a Heart" press conferences.
- Produced a video highlighting key open space parcels at risk of development in Carlsbad.
- In partnership with the National Wildlife Federation conducted "Frogwatch" training class for citizen monitors of local frog populations.
- Supported the development of new watershed education brochure "Little Things Count".
- Developed a new program with Native Talk using Native American story telling to learn about how to better coexist with coyotes.
- Funded and participated in design and installation of interpretive signs at the Calavera Preserve.
- Conducted a number of community meetings about parks and open space in Carlsbad; identified 23 additional parcels for conservation and supported grass roots effort to create a new park at Buena Vista Reservoir.
- Held first "Wildlife Appreciation Day" in north county -introducing residents to local wildlife and things they can do to help protect them.

### **Land Restoration/Clean-up**

- Worked with city of Oceanside and community stakeholders to develop a template emergency evacuation plan in response to wildland fires.
- Expanded restoration work at Rancho to La Costa to include native grassland site.
- Partnered with Friends of El Corazon and City of Oceanside to initiate volunteer restoration work on El Corazon.
- Worked with City of Carlsbad to adopt Non-toxic program.
- Initiated coastal sage scrub restoration site at Rancho La Costa.
- Held Village H and Garrison Creek clean ups.

- Organized and funded cleanup of Buena Vista Creek Ecological Reserve.
- Initiated third phase of restoration of core habitat in Village H to coastal sage scrub.
- Got non-native plants removed and replaced with natives in numerous developments.
- Led or participated in invasive plant removal projects targeting artichoke thistle, black mustard, and fennel.
- Successfully restored the first 1.8 acres of the BV Valley with a grant from the So CA Wetlands Recovery Project.
- Planted and cared for 139 coast live oak trees in riparian corridors along Buena Vista Creek in Carlsbad, Agua Hedionda Creek in Vista, and Calavera Creek in Oceanside plus 60 willows at the Buena Vista Creek Ecological Reserve.
- Removed an estimated 9 tons of debris at 12 clean-ups at Calavera, along Buena Vista Creek, and at the deadend of S. Melrose in Vista.
- Supported improved management and monitoring through MHCP, HMP and regional habitat conservation programs.
- **Management of Protected Lands**
- Initiated improved monitoring of CHER
- Got inclusion of Cal-IPC list of invasive plants included as part of routine project review process for Carlsbad, Vista, and Oceanside.
- Got wildlife agencies to link permits to take sensitive species to provisions for permanently managing habitat.
- Secured improvements in Monitoring and Management Plans for several projects including Calavera Hills, Home Depot, Quarry Creek, and Raceway.
- Mapped off road vehicle access points and worked with local police to improve off-road vehicle enforcement.
- Worked with County of San Diego Vector Control to establish formal protocols to reduce damage to sensitive lands.
- Got MHCP edge effect mitigation added as standard project conditions in the cities of Carlsbad, Oceanside, and Vista.
- Lobbied for improvements in habitat management provisions and funding at regional and local government hearings.

## **Climate Stabilization**

- Supported local efforts to adopt/improve Climate Action Plans in Vista, San Marcos, Carlsbad, and Oceanside and have local jurisdictions join Community Choice Energy providers.
- Worked with partner organizations to raise community awareness and with elected officials to improve response to climate change.
- Provided comments on CEQA documents to improve targets and mitigation measures to reduce Green House Gasses (GHG).
- Established a community stakeholder group to support implementation of the city of Vista's Climate Action Plan including tree planting, composting workshops, and community planning on CCE and energy efficiency.

**Events are generally listed in reverse chronological order with the most recent listed first. Highlighted items added in most recent year**