



Santa Clara County

Open Space Authority

6830 Via del Oro, Suite 200 • San Jose, CA 95119 • Tel (408) 224-7476 • Fax (408) 224-7548 • info@OpenSpaceAuthority.org

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Patrick Congdon

Office: (408) 224-7476

New Board Member Appointed to Open Space Authority

July 15, 2005, San Jose, CA – The Board of Directors of the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority has appointed Ms. Virginia Holtz as Director representing District 5. Ms. Holtz fills the seat vacated by the resignation of former Director Richard Forst. District 5 encompasses part of west San Jose including the Blossom Hill, Bascom Avenue, and Almaden Expressway areas. The Board selected Ms. Holtz at their regular meeting on July 14th after reviewing applications from a number of candidates and conducting interviews with three finalists.

Ms. Holtz recently served on the Open Space Authority's Citizens Advisory Committee, and is an active member of the League of Women Voters. She served on the San Jose Parks Commission for over nine years and helped establish Guadalupe Park and Gardens. She served on the San Jose Hillside Greenbelt Study and was active in the process of bringing the Open Space Authority into creation.

Ms. Holtz, a former elementary school teacher, has been involved in the preservation, protection, and creation of open space with various agencies for the past 25 years. "Providing open space for people to enjoy nature has been a life long passion of mine," said Ms. Holtz. "Raising public awareness of the Open Space Authority and creating educational opportunities is a high priority." Ms. Holtz will complete the un-expired term in District 5 after which she may stand for election in 2006.

More information about the appointment may be obtained by contacting the Open Space Authority directly at (408) 224-7476.

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The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority is an independent special district formed by the State Legislature in 1993 to help preserve, protect and manage urban and non-urban open space in the areas of Campbell, Milpitas, Morgan Hill, San Jose, and Southern Santa Clara County. The Open Space Authority is governed by a seven-member elected Board of Directors. The Authority has preserved nearly 9,000 acres of land and manages over 1,000 acres of conservation easements and mitigation lands.

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