



Santa Clara County

Open Space Authority

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PRESS RELEASE

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Open Space Authority Contribution Helps Save Farmland

San Jose, CA May 11, 2006 – A \$500,000 contribution from Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (OSA) has helped secure an agricultural conservation easement on 510 acres of important farmland in South County. Additional funding came from California Department of Conservation and the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, which each provided \$820,000 for a total of \$2.1 million.

The easement will be held by Silicon Valley Land Conservancy and will enable the land to remain in agricultural production. The property, currently owned by Taylor Farms, will continue to be held privately.

“The conservation easement on the Taylor Ranch solidifies the Authority’s efforts to preserve agricultural lands in Santa Clara County,” said OSA general manager Patrick Congdon.

“The cooperative efforts of our four agencies demonstrate the importance of partnerships and what can be accomplished if you work collectively.”

Located along the Pajaro River, the farmland abuts another agricultural parcel between Carnadero Creek and Highway 101 known as the Wang Ranch. A conservation easement was secured on this 480-acre property in September 2004 with funding from Santa Clara County Open

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Space Authority , Santa Clara Valley Water District, The Nature Conservancy and Silicon Valley Land Conservancy.

The two properties, which together form the Carnadero Preserve, will help protect the Pajarro River watershed, preserve important riparian habitat, and aid in maintaining agriculture in the Santa Clara Valley.

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The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (OSA) is an independent special district created 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 OSA has preserved over 11,150 acres of land and manages over 375 acres of conservation easements.

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