



Santa Clara County

Open Space Authority

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PRESS RELEASE

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Open Space Authority Acquires Property in the East Foothills

San Jose, CA November 17, 2006 – Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (OSA) added a key link to its chain of protected lands in the foothills east of downtown San Jose with the purchase of 233 acres on November 17, 2006. The cost was \$2,050,000.

The acquisition, along upper Penitencia Creek east of Alum Rock Park, features steep, oak-covered hillsides and is home to many plants and animals common to the east foothills. Sparing the land from development will help OSA achieve its open space goals of protecting hillsides and watersheds, preserving important habitat for protected species, and providing outdoor recreation.

“Acquiring this property will ensure that the scenic views enjoyed for years by visitors to Alum Rock Park remain intact. It will also expand on City of San Jose’s efforts to protect critical waterways for steelhead trout in the east foothills,” said OSA general manager Patrick Congdon.

OSA currently owns 1,389 acres in the east foothills. Since the opening in 2002 of OSA's Boccardo Trail adjoining the northern edge of Alum Rock Park, the Authority has been working to expand public access to its holdings in the region. Studies are currently underway, with the help of a \$50,000 grant from the California Coastal Conservancy to site a staging area on Sierra Road. This would enable visitors to reach OSA trails as well as a proposed alignment for the Bay Area Ridge Trail, a 500-mile-long regional trail envisioned to circle the entire Bay Area when completed.

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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, Santa Clara, San Jose, Morgan Hill, and southern Santa Clara County. The OSA has protected over 10,000 acres of land through purchase or easement and contributed to conservation easements covering an additional 2,180 acres.

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