



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OSA Plans Prescribed Burn at Rancho Cañada del Oro

San Jose, CA November 17, 2008 – The Open Space Authority plans to take advantage of the recent rains with three days of prescribed burning on Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve. If conditions permit, the burn days will be Wednesday, November 19, through Friday, November 21. Nearby residents or visitors to the preserve, which is located west of McKean Road and south of Calero County Park, may see some smoke on those days.

Prescribed fire is a way to reduce the amount of dried plant matter on the ground, especially nonnative grasses. This creates an opening for greater regeneration of native grasses and other plants during the wet weather growing season. The areas targeted for the prescribed burn are serpentine grasslands, a unique plant community that supports a number of rare native plants.

OSA staff will begin the firing process on Wednesday, November 19, by burning a 10- to 20-foot perimeter around the target burn area. This technique, called blacklining, sets up an important containment barrier for the fires that will follow on Thursday and Friday. The blazes, set with a propane-fueled igniter, will be managed and extinguished by OSA personnel.

Consistent winds over 10 miles per hour or rain will cancel the prescribed burn.

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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 11,000 acres of land through purchasing title or an easement and contributed to conservation easements covering an additional 2,500 acres.

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