



Santa Clara County

## Open Space Authority

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### PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **New Staging Area Makes Access Easier at Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve**

San Jose, CA November 21, 2005 – The opening Saturday, December 3, of a staging area off Casa Loma Road will greatly expand access for hikers and equestrians to Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve. The property, owned and managed by Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (OSA), offers spectacular views of the Diablo Range and Mt. Hamilton and trails that wind through native grasslands, live and valley oak woodlands, and sage-chaparral scrub.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. will open the day's events, which include a 4-mile hike on OSA trails. The staging area features paved parking, a vault toilet, and extra room for horse trailers. A map with directions to the staging area is available on the OSA website at [www.openspaceauthority.org](http://www.openspaceauthority.org) or by calling 408-224-7476. In the event of rain the opening will be postponed until the new year.

“We are pleased to welcome the public to this new facility,” said OSA General Manager Patrick Congdon. “The staging area is a real milestone in the ongoing process of making improvements at Rancho Cañada del Oro that will allow people to see and enjoy this beautiful preserve.”

Until the opening of the staging area, the OSA's trails could be accessed only by trekking through Calero County Park, which lies directly north of Rancho Cañada del Oro. The new facility will enable visitors to park their vehicles and make a short connection that takes them directly to Longwall Canyon Trail and Bald Peaks Trail.

Preserving the land that became Rancho Cañada del Oro involved the collaborative effort of both private and public partners. The property was initially acquired in 1999 for \$6.2 million by Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST).

"I can't wait to walk the trails on this section of the Rancho Cañada del Oro property," said POST president Audrey Rust. "When POST acquired the property it was with the goal of bringing permanent protection to this slice of historic California landscape and to do it so that all of us could experience the beauty and serenity of our natural heritage. This is the California of our hearts."

Funding for the purchase was contributed by the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, Santa Clara County Parks, the City of San Jose and the Open Space Authority, which provided \$1.25 million directly and an additional \$800,000 dedicated to the City of San Jose through its 20% Funding Program.

The northern portion of the approximately 2,400-acre acquisition was ultimately deeded to Santa Clara County to expand Calero County Park and the southern segment became the core of OSA's Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve.

Today this extraordinary environment offers visitors the chance to discover the quietness of the foothills, enjoy panoramic vistas, and observe a diverse array of plant and animal species.

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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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