



Santa Clara County

Open Space Authority

6980 Santa Teresa Blvd., Ste 100 • San Jose, CA 95119 • Tel: 408- 224-7476 • Fax: 408- 224-7548 • www.openspaceauthority.org

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Patrick Congdon, General Manager
Lark Burkhart, Public Information Specialist

Office: 408-224-7476

Open Space Authority Adds Another Link to the Chain

San Jose, CA July 10, 2009 – The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority recently closed escrow on two properties totaling 192 acres of rugged chaparral and oak woodland south of Almaden Reservoir and adjacent to Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve. Purchase of the two parcels is another step in the quest to create connection among several preserves and parks in the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Together, Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and the Authority protect more than 31,000 acres of open space in the region. These lands provide habitat for a variety of wildlife from wide-ranging large mammals like mountain lions to endangered species like the California red-legged frog.

“Maintaining habitat continuity from Almaden Reservoir and its associated creeks up into the Santa Cruz Mountains and over into the Rancho and Calero area is of high importance,” said Patrick Congdon, general manager of the Open Space Authority.

“The purchase also brings us closer to making the trail connection from Almaden Quicksilver County Park and Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve to Rancho Canada del Oro,” Congdon said. An interconnected network would join more than 87 miles of existing trails and offer outstanding recreation options.

The lands, which also protect the watershed and viewshed of Almaden Reservoir, were acquired from Peninsula Open Space Trust for \$650,000. The trust bought the properties in February and March of this year.

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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. OSA has protected over 11,000 acres of land through purchase or easement and contributed to conservation easements covering an additional 2,500 acres.

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