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Open Space Authority in Process of Accreditation
Public Comment Period Open Now

San Jose, CA – August 30, 2016: The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority is applying for accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. Accreditation is an extensive evaluation by the Commission to ensure the organization’s policies and programs meet rigorous national quality standards. The process culminates in the awarding of an accreditation seal as a mark of distinction in land conservation. Should the Authority successfully achieve accreditation, it will be the first special district in the U.S. to become accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Open Space Authority stakeholders may submit comments pertaining to the Authority’s implementation of Land Trust Standards and Practices by visiting www.landtrustaccreditation.org, or emailing to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 112 Spring Street, Suite 204, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. The public comment period is open now and continues until November 11, 2016.

“The Open Space Authority’s pursuit of accreditation demonstrates a commitment to the highest levels of professional excellence in land conservation,” said Dorsey Moore, Board Chair for the Open Space Authority. “In applying for accreditation, the Open Space Authority has strengthened its policies, procedures, and programs for land acquisitions and preserve management.”

Since 1993, the Open Space Authority has protected nearly 20,000 acres of open space, preserving the region’s scenic beauty, protecting water resources, farm and ranch lands, and other natural capital. The Authority leverages its funds with grants from federal and state agencies and private foundations and works with willing land owners to acquire and protect open space land in perpetuity. With the passage of Measure Q, a funding measure, the Authority is implementing its 30-year conservation vision, the *Santa Clara Valley Greenprint*, which identifies the highest priority areas for conservation in its jurisdiction.



The Land Trust Accreditation Commission recently announced that more than 350 land trusts throughout the United States have achieved accreditation. “Each accredited land trust completes a rigorous review process and joins a network of organizations united by strong ethical practices,” said Tammara Van Ryn, executive director of the Commission. “These land trusts have demonstrated fiscal accountability, strong organizational leadership and lasting stewardship of the lands they conserve.”

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission was incorporated in April 2006 as an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance to build and recognize strong land trusts, foster public confidence in land conservation and help ensure the long-term protection of land. The Commission’s evaluation focuses on 12 standards that promote excellence in all aspects of land conservation, including mission, governance, compliance with laws, financial transparency and accountability, financial management, and the legal, ethical and technical soundness of land and easement transactions. For more information about accreditation, please visit <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/>

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***The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority** conserves the natural environment, supports agriculture, and connects people to nature, by protecting open spaces, natural areas, and working farms and ranches for future generations. Visit openspaceauthority.org or call 408-224-7476.*