



OSA Outlook

A Precious Resource

The importance of protecting our natural water sources

By Matt Freeman, Assistant General Manager

Although the recent rainfall was welcome, it hardly put a dent in this season's harsh drought. To date, Santa Clara County has received less than 50% of seasonal average rainfall and its reservoirs are at just 36% of capacity (*Santa Clara Valley Water District*).



Land conservation plays a major role in protecting water supplies, especially as weather patterns become more unpredictable. The Authority's *Greenprint** report offers a detailed

analysis of the County's water resources, and long-term strategies to sustain our water supplies. Strategies include

“Water is the most critical resource issue of our lifetime and our children’s lifetime. The health of our waters is the principal measure of how we live on the land.”

LUNA LEOPOLD

protection and restoration of upper watershed lands, which enhance the land's ability to absorb water and recharge groundwater aquifers that provide about one-half of the County's

water supply. The Authority will continue to protect the agricultural area of the Coyote Valley, a critical groundwater recharge and floodplain area for the County.

The Open Space Authority is committed to protecting our landscape's natural water sources. By doing so, we reduce the need for costly built infrastructure, help sustain local water supplies, improve water quality, and reduce flood risk.

*The Santa Clara Valley Greenprint is the Open Space Authority's newly released conservation vision. The Greenprint is available for review at openspaceauthority.org.



I am an area of land that drains rainwater or snowmelt into one location such as a stream, lake or wetland.

Investing in Our Watershed Lands

The Open Space Authority protects, manages and restores open space lands to ensure that they function as healthy, intact watersheds. In fact, the Authority has strategically preserved nearly 10,000 acres of watershed lands that protect the Valley's water supply and maintain clean water by naturally filtering toxins and pollutants.

The Authority's most recent acquisition features 160+ acres off Casa Loma Road just west of Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve. The property is lush with mixed evergreen, Coast Live Oak, and riparian forests with two seasonal tributaries to Llagas Creek, an important steelhead stream. Preservation of this property helps maintain important habitats and contributes to the protection of the Llagas Creek Watershed.



Answer: I am a watershed. Watersheds are swaths of land that absorb rainfall and snowmelt. We can cross county, state, and even international borders. Some of us are millions of square miles; others are just a few acres. We supply drinking water plus water for agriculture and manufacturing, and provide habitat to numerous plants and animals. Healthy watersheds are an important component of healthy, livable communities.



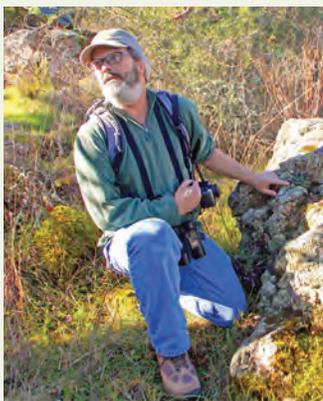
OPEN SPACE ROUND-UP

Jan Hintermeister

District 3 Representative, Open Space Authority Citizens' Advisory Committee

As a member of the Citizens' Advisory Committee and an active docent, Jan Hintermeister is deeply committed to open space preservation and the environment.

Jan frequently leads bird watching, butterfly and dragonfly hikes. An avid birder and bug



watcher, Jan infuses his hikes with stories from nature.

"When you get involved in nature," he says, "you find out that every plant, animal, lichen, rock—everything you see has its

own story to tell. The fun of being a docent is bringing those stories to people in a way that's interesting and maybe helps trigger their own interest in nature."



Partnering with SAGE to Support Sustainable Farming in Coyote Valley

Five years ago, the Coyote Valley seemed destined to be plowed under and paved over for housing. Today, the Open Space Authority and Sustainable Agricultural Education (SAGE), through grant funding from the CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture, are helping forge a future with open space land, public trails, and expanded farming for vegetables, fruits and specialty produce. "The Open Space Authority is excited to work with SAGE to help revitalize the rich agricultural heritage of the Coyote Valley," says Authority General Manager Andrea Mackenzie. "The Coyote Valley helps maintain the region's clean air and fresh drinking water and, through this partnership, will support local production of healthy crops for local communities."



2012-2013 OPEN SPACE AUTHORITY FINANCIAL REPORT



Coyote Ridge Acquisition: A Local Paradise

Exquisite, pristine open space land on Coyote Ridge was protected this year with the Authority's acquisition of 28.45 acres on Malech Road in the Upper Coyote Valley Area. The property is visually stunning with its rare serpentine grassland, rock outcrops and Blue Oak Savanna. The site also contains a perennial spring and a tributary to Coyote Creek, a steelhead stream. A three-acre portion of the site offers potential for public access, environmental education and staging opportunities for a future Open Space Preserve.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Keith A. Monk
Donna Bell
New Leaf Community Markets, Evergreen Store

And a special thank you to New Leaf Community Markets, Evergreen Store, and their customers for selecting the Open Space Authority for the Envirotokens program!



COYOTE VALLEY FAMILY FARM FEAST

We'd like to extend a big thank you to our sponsors who helped make our Coyote Valley Family Farm Feast such a huge success!

Bay Area Parent
Community Alliance with Family Farmers
Grass Farm Garden Accents
Green Waste
The Museums of Los Gatos

SAVE THE DATE!

COYOTE VALLEY
FAMILY HARVEST FESTIVAL
Saturday, September 27, 2014



Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority 2012-2013 Financials

REVENUES

Unrestricted Reserve Fund	\$ 3,041,459
Assessment District 1	\$ 4,155,331
Interest Income	\$ 192,233
Donations	\$ 2,497
Land Management Income	\$ 44,817
Grant Income	\$ 396,782
Misc. Income	\$ 1,445
Total	\$7,834,564

EXPENDITURES

Land Acquisition	\$ 3,425,594
Vehicle and Capital Improvements	\$ 24,347
Administrative	\$ 1,719,345
Land Management	\$ 958,727
Professional Services	\$ 1,059,577
Planning	\$ 12,247
Board of Directors	\$ 19,152
Public Relations	\$ 33,645
Volunteers and Outreach	\$ 37,355
Total	\$7,289,989

Open Space Authority's Urban Open Space Program

Each year, the Authority sets aside a portion of its revenue to fund urban open space projects originated by its participating cities or the county. Since 1998, the Authority has granted nearly \$8 million to provide people living in dense, urban environments with access to open space and trails.

Urban Open Space Accounts as of June 30, 2013

CITY	ALLOCATIONS	FUNDS DRAWN DOWN	ACCOUNT BALANCES
Campbell	\$ 381,701	\$ (363,650)	\$ 18,051
Milpitas	\$ 514,406	\$ (356,837)	\$ 157,569
Morgan Hill	\$ 209,057	\$ (184,000)	\$ 25,057
San Jose	\$ 7,637,408	\$ (6,186,946)	\$ 1,450,461
Santa Clara	\$ 924,110	\$ (512,953)	\$ 411,157
County	\$ 753,453	\$ (150,000)	\$ 603,453
Total	\$ 10,420,135	\$ (7,754,386)	\$ 2,665,748

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Outreach to the Outdoors
A Storytelling Experience

When was the first time you were enchanted by nature? This new library program invites your whole family to come listen to engaging and poignant stories all about our connection to nature. Listen, laugh, remember and feel inspired. These fun, engaging stories are suitable for people of all ages and will be followed by a free art and craft activity. Visit our website at openspaceauthority.org for dates, times and locations.



Starry Nights

Saturday, April 19 • 9:00 – 10:30 pm
Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve

Looking for something different to do with the family on Saturday night? Join our friendly docent astronomers, our friends from the San Jose Astronomical Association, and other stargazers for an evening under the stars. It is so dark here you can see the Milky Way! No telescope? No problem! Our docents are happy to share theirs. Families and children are welcome. Visit our website at openspaceauthority.org for a complete list of activities.