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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Open Space Authority Protects Open Space On Santa Teresa Ridge with Strategic Acquisition**

**San Jose, CA, September 14, 2015:** The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority Board of Directors has approved the acquisition of two pivotal land parcels totaling 8.79 acres located on Santa Teresa Ridge in San Jose's Santa Teresa neighborhood. The property had been slated for a single family residence of up to 7,800 square feet. The parcels are a gateway to some 1,500 acres of open space land that provide a scenic backdrop to south San Jose with sweeping views across the Almaden Valley to downtown San Jose and the Mt. Hamilton Range.

The City of San Jose's General Plan originally designated these parcels as Open Space, Parklands and Habitat; Lower Hillside. In 2007, the City of San Jose approved a Planned Development Rezoning from Agricultural Zoning District to Planned Development to allow a single family residence. The property's Fair Market Value was determined to be \$825,000 and the Authority will purchase the property from the Sanfilippo Family Living Trust for that amount.

Open Space Authority General Manager Andrea Mackenzie said, "Acquiring these parcels is a first step toward implementing the community's vision of Santa Teresa Ridge as a public open space corridor and establishing an interconnected network of parks, open space and trails. This network will link Calero, Santa Teresa and Almaden Quicksilver County Parks with the Authority's Rancho Cañada del Oro and Coyote Valley Open Space Preserves and greatly expand opportunities for urban residents to connect with nature and enjoy its many health and recreational benefits."

For nearly three decades, the Santa Teresa Ridge has been a regional priority for open space protection. The Authority's 30-year conservation vision, the *Santa Clara Valley Greenprint*, identifies the Santa Teresa Foothills as part of the Southern Santa Cruz Mountain high priority Conservation Focus Area.

Assistant General Manager Matt Freeman said, "The acquisition of these small but strategically located parcels aligns with the *Valley Greenprint* goals and also meets the criteria for the Authority's Urban Open Space Program, which strives to partner with the County, cities and nonprofit organizations to strengthen and expand investment in open space close to where people live. We look forward to a



continued partnership between the City of San Jose, Santa Clara County and the Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association as we pursue further conservation efforts.”

“The Santa Teresa Ridge is very important to the District 10 community, and working to preserve the rest of the ridge will continue to be one of my priorities,” said San Jose City Councilmember Johnny Khamis. “I am delighted that the Open Space Authority Board approved the purchase of these two parcels and look forward to continuing to work with them, and the community, to ensure the preservation of these beautiful foothills for our wildlife and residents to enjoy.”

Jon Reinke, president of the Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association, said, “We congratulate and applaud the Open Space Authority for this acquisition, which will help protect and preserve the Santa Teresa hills for the enjoyment of everyone who works and lives in the south San Jose area and for future generations to come.”

***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. Since 1993, the Open Space Authority has protected more than 18,000 acres of open space, preserving the region’s scenic beauty, protecting water resources and other natural capital, and providing outdoor recreation opportunities for Santa Clara County residents.*