

Preserve Calavera Accomplishments 2000-2015

May 4, 2016

Natural Lands Conserved

Led the community fundraising effort that resulted in the acquisition of the 134 acre Sherman property in the Buena Vista Creek Valley.

Supported the 99 acre Sipple acquisition in Calavera core area.

Secured 35 acres additional mitigation credit from Calavera Hills and 8 fewer homes at Calavera Hills Phase II to mitigate for illegal clearing.

Prepared detailed information packets on over a dozen potential acquisitions for funding agency consideration.

Established a restricted land acquisition fund at the San Diego Foundation in order to leverage further funding for acquisition.

Secured commitment from city of Carlsbad to set aside over \$5m for land acquisition and supported Citizen's Open Space Committee report recommending acquisition priorities for key parcels throughout Carlsbad.

Secured commitment for acquisition of Village H.

Supported BVAS with acquisition of a key parcel on Buena Vista Lagoon.

Secured numerous project footprint reductions through advocacy and follow-up.

Wetlands Protection

Stopped proposed draining of Lake Calavera to repair valves in the dam and got police shooting range relocated to eliminate wetlands impacts.

Testified at public hearings and submitted comment letters that supported \$395k award from the Regional Water Quality Control Board to restore the BV Valley.

Did preliminary research that led to a major grant award and successfully completed the Agua Hedionda Watershed Management Plan.

Secured permanent protection of the sacred El Salto waterfall and increased the protected creek corridor to 350' plus an additional 100' biological buffer on each side.

Participated in stream water quality and bioassessment through Coastkeeper and Army Corps of Engineers for CA Rapid Assessment Model (CRAM) evaluations of stream condition monitoring. Established local volunteer teams to conduct these evaluations.

Secured improved wetlands protection criteria in regional conservation plan. Supported improved watershed based planning and storm water monitoring and enforcement by Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Supported creating a new friends group to be stewards of Canyon de las Encinas watershed.

Removed creek debris, restoring normal creek hydrology at sites along La Mirada creek.

Secured mitigation for illegal wetlands impacts we discovered at four different locations (La Mirada Creek, Calavera Creek).

Protection of Wildlife/Corridors

Funded additional field data collection as part of the first major study of wildlife movement corridors in coastal north county.

Built one of four new local wildlife tracking teams in San Diego County and have conducted quarterly surveys of four key wildlife movement areas for over 15 years.

Worked for improved guidelines for wildlife undercrossings, and secured signage and fencing at key locations to improve function.

Identified roadkill problem areas and worked with local agencies to implement corrective actions.

Held special community education events in response to neighborhood concerns about coyotes and pets.

Got equestrian guidelines built in to local trail plans.

Funded cowbird trapping program to reduce loss of native bird populations.

Public Education

Initiated first San Diego County California Naturalist certificate program through U.C. Continuing Education.

Held first "Wildlife Appreciation Day" in north county -introducing residents to local wildlife and things they can do to help protect them.

Partnered with Buena Vista Audubon to establish the only Endangered Species Day event in San Diego County.

Conducted a number of community meetings about parks and open space in Carlsbad; identified 23 additional parcels for conservation and supported grass roots effort to create a new park at Buena Vista Reservoir.

Funded and participated in design and installation of interpretive signs at the Calavera Preserve.

Developed a new program with Native Talk using Native American story telling to learn about how to better coexist with coyotes.

Supported the development of new watershed education brochure "Little Things Count".

In partnership with the National Wildlife Federation conducted "Frogwatch" training class for citizen monitors of local frog populations.

Produced a video highlighting key open space parcels at risk of development in Carlsbad.

Developed creative media events to call attention to issues of concern including a memorial service for an oak tree, "Eat the Invasives" picnic and "Have a Heart" press conferences.

Secured signatures from over 12,300 local residents on petitions expressing concern about saving Calavera area and the Buena Vista Creek valley.

Raised public awareness by providing re-cycling at local clean-up events.

Conducted numerous hikes, over four different routes for all ages and physical abilities- including special hikes for boy scouts and school children.

Distributed over 15,000 fliers to inform residents of issues of concern.

Built a subscriber list of over **3,600** families **and provide regular updates through email newsletters, website and Facebook.**

Land Restoration/Clean-up

Completed 2 years of 5 year restoration of core habitat in Village H to coastal sage scrub.

Supported improved management and monitoring through MHCP, HMP and regional habitat conservation programs.

Removed an estimated 9 tons of debris at 12 clean-ups at Calavera, along Buena Vista Creek, and at the deadend of S. Melrose in Vista.

Planted and cared for 139 coast live oak trees in riparian corridors along Buena Vista Creek in Carlsbad, Agua Hedionda Creek in Vista, and Calavera Creek in Oceanside plus 60 willows at the Buena Vista Creek Ecological Reserve.

Successfully restored the first 1.8 acres of the BV Valley with a grant from the So CA Wetlands Recovery Project.

Led or participated in invasive plant removal projects targeting artichoke thistle, black mustard, and fennel.

Got non-native plants removed and replaced with natives near El Salto waterfall, and at Oak Riparian Park.

Management of Protected Lands

Lobbied for improvements in habitat management provisions and funding at regional and local government hearings.

Got MHCP edge effect mitigation added as standard project conditions in the cities of Carlsbad, Oceanside, and Vista.

Worked with County of San Diego Vector Control to establish formal protocols to reduce damage to sensitive lands.

Mapped off road vehicle access points and worked with local police to improve off-road vehicle enforcement.

Secured improvements in Monitoring and Management Plans for several projects including Calavera Hills, Home Depot, Quarry Creek, and Raceway.

Got wildlife agencies to link permits to take sensitive species to provisions for permanently managing habitat.

Got inclusion of Cal-IPC list of invasive plants included as part of routine project review process for Carlsbad, Vista, and Oceanside.

Climate Stabilization

Supported local efforts to adopt/improve Climate Action Plans in Vista, San Marcos, Carlsbad, and Oceanside.

Established a community stakeholder group to support implementation of the city of Vista's Climate Action Plan.

Provided comments on CEQA documents to improve targets and mitigation measures to reduce Green House Gasses (GHG).

Worked with partner organizations to raise community awareness and with elected officials to improve response to climate change.

AWARDS/RECOGNITION

2007 Received the "Weed Warrior" award from the Carlsbad Watershed Network for community education and outreach activities including the "Eat the Invasives" picnic

2008 ELI National– Community Leader Wetlands Award – Board President

2009 Santa Margarita Chapter DAR Conservation Award

2009 Cox Conserves Heroes Environmental Award – Board President

2010 Sierra Club F.E.A.T. Award

2011 Coastal Crusader Award – Board Member

2013 Nominated for Cox Conserves Heroes for Wildlife Appreciation – Board Member

Highlighted items added in most recent year