

SEPTEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER



Calavera 1959- Credit: Allan O Kelly

Rancho Carlsbad is still a hay field and there are just the two houses visible and El Camino is just a 2 lane country road.



Here is what it looks like **today**.... Credit: Susan Kelly

Most of us have not lived here long enough to see the transformation of this land from the early ranches to today. The question for us is how much more will be lost to development? How much can/should we preserve? Most of our north county cities haven't really established a clear goal for preserving open space- but Carlsbad did. Since a citizen's initiative in 1986 they committed to save 40% of the land to open space. That is a noble goal that has been repeated over the last thirty years. But the new General Plan drops that long-standing promise and has no specific goal for open space. We are committed to preserving the goal for 40% open space in Carlsbad- and doing the best we can to save the remaining natural open space in our other north county cities- whether they have a goal or not. Our children are depending on us.

Buena Vista Audubon Acquires McCutcheon Property

After years of effort, the Buena Vista Audubon Society received the last critical piece of funding to acquire the McCutcheon property- the parcel right on the lagoon across the street from the nature center. This key parcel will greatly help to restore natural function to the Buena Vista Lagoon. Conservation acquisitions require willing sellers, and tenacious years of work by non-profit

groups to make it happen. The Buena Vista Audubon Society was tireless in their efforts to secure this important piece of coastal wetlands. We are proud to have been a small part of this acquisition



Fires in Buena Vista Valley



One of three fires burning in the Buena Vista Valley on September 1-2. Arson is suspected as work was underway to remove homeless encampments.

Mountain Lion Killed Crossing Freeway

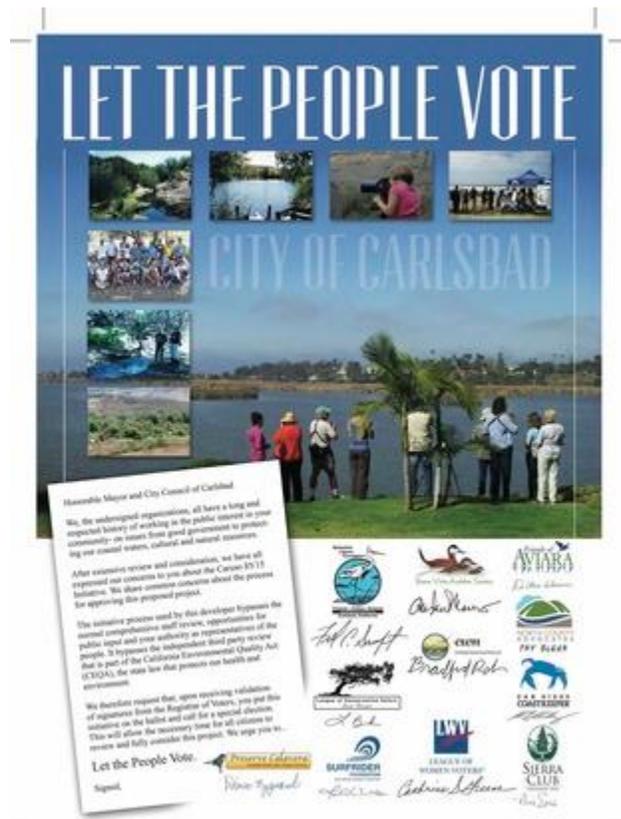
We don't often hear local reports of mountain lions killed crossing freeways, but many of our smaller critters are killed everyday on our local roads. Next time you drive on Faraday - look for the warning signs Wildlife Crossing Area. It took us several years to get these signed installed- but they are one step in the right direction.

<http://patch.com/california/highlandpark-ca/mountain-lion-p-32-killed-crossing-freeway>

Final Hearing on Carlsbad General Plan Tuesday, September 22

After several days and hours of deliberation the Carlsbad Planning Commission made a few minor changes to the draft General Plan and forwarded their recommendations to the city Council. There was a slight increase in open space, but still no action to retain the long standing goal for 40% at build out, no goal for neighborhood parks- instead you will be thrilled to learn that some of the locked, gated school yards will be unlocked a few hours a day, and while there was some reduction in the number of residential units in the NE quadrant- they are still over what is allowed in the 1986 Growth Management Plan. There are also a number of issues related to complete streets that need to be worked through- how to balance increasing traffic with the need to provide for pedestrians and bicycles and not just cars. Also of concern is that the city's first Climate Action Plan has a goal for 100% clean energy. Other cities have done this- why not Carlsbad? Last month's workshop sponsored by Oceanside CAPers made it real clear that Community Choice Energy could help us all achieve that goal - and move our planet toward climate stabilization.

Caruso



The more we studied the details of the Caruso shopping mall on Agua Hedionda Lagoon- the more concerned we have become. See our letter to the city Council expressing a number of specific issues. Twelve local organizations informed the Mayor and Council why they thought this should go to the ballot to Let the People Vote. Instead, the City Council decided to adopt the initiative outright. A few days later Citizens for North County announced they have initiated an all volunteer citizen's referendum- a petition that 10% of registered voters would need to sign by Sept 24 in order to guarantee that this goes to a vote. For more information

see citizensfornorthcounty.org or [#carlsbadcares](https://twitter.com/carlsbadcares). Caruso prefers to spend millions on marketing instead of addressing the substantive environmental damage his project could cause. Our coastal lagoons and adjacent natural lands deserve the highest level of care- not a slick marketing campaign. A recent opinion piece in one local paper lays out 5 reasons in support of having an election on this

important issue. http://www.seasidecourier.com/opinion/commentary-counterpoint-voters-deserved-a-special-election-for-caruso-plan/article_895720d6-4e25-11e5-9881-93ce99e8cbac.html.

Sept Activities

Sept 19 Sat ; 9:00 AM- 12:00 Noon

Coastal Cleanup Day sponsored by I Love a Clean San Diego

Join over 7,000 volunteers across San Diego County as we help remove trash and weeds in several of our inland creeks that are critical to maintain the health of our coastal waters. Wear comfortable closed-toed shoes and sun protection. If possible, help reduce waste by bringing your own reusable water bottle, gardening or work gloves, and a bucket to collect litter. Please register at <http://cleanupday.org>. The sites along the beach always have lots of volunteers- but our creeks really need your help. Please join us at one of these locations to make a difference in our own backyards:

1. Canyon de las Encinas Creek! Meet at 1265 Laurel Tree Lane, Carlsbad, CA 92011.

Directions: From I-5 North, take the Poinsettia Ln exit toward Aviara Pkwy and turn right onto Poinsettia Ln. Turn left onto Aviara Pkwy.

Turn right onto Laurel Tree Ln. Parking is available along Lauren Tree Ln.

2. Buena Vista Creek Sites

Volunteers are needed at these three Oceanside sites along Buena Vista Creek:

- Behind Kohl's shopping center on Marron Road
- Behind Dick's Sporting Goods on Plaza Drive
- Behind Fire Station #4 at Lake Boulevard and Thunder Drive

Sept 22 Tuesday; 6:00 PM

City Council Hearing- Carlsbad General Plan/EIR/CAP at Carlsbad City Hall, 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad

The long awaited update of the City of Carlsbad General Plan will finally be heard. It is expected that public testimony will be limited to items recommended by the Planning Commission- an unusual way to limit public input. (Remember back in July there was a joint Planning Commission/City Council hearing with lots of testimony.) How much of those 5 hours of public testimony will the Mayor and Council recall two months later? The staff report is not expected to be posted on the city website until the Friday before the meeting. In addition to the goal for 40% open space that we think is critical, we also support a goal for 100% clean energy to be added to the Climate Action Plan (CAP). Including these aspirational goals doesn't force them to do anything. Our hopes are that expressing this as a desired goal will create opportunities for partnering and result in a more proactive approach toward preserving open space and reducing green house gas emissions.

Sept 23 Wed; 6:30 PM Social, 7:00 PM Program

Special Presentation: The Raptors of San Diego County

The program will be a special presentation about local raptors, and will include the opportunity to view some live birds up close. The education team from the Raptor Institute will be bringing a few native raptor species to the program. We don't know for sure how many or which of the Institute's animal ambassadors will be able to attend our program. That will be a game-day decision based on how the birds are feeling, but we're hoping for a visit from Buster, the red-tailed hawk, Violet, the American kestrel, and Hart, the barn owl. We'll learn about the habitats, conservation, and natural history of the various species of hawks and owls that can be found in San Diego, and how we can help them in the wild. Presentation will be held at the Buena Vista Nature Center on S. Coast Highway on BV Lagoon in Oceanside.

Upcoming Events:

January 2016-

Expected Election on the Caruso shopping mall on Agua Hedionda Lagoon.

Spring 2016-

First UC Extension CA Naturalist class. Let us know if you are interested in learning more.

Our all-volunteer organization can not do what we do without your help. Your time, talent and donation can make a difference right in your own backyard. Call or email us to see how else you could get involved.

To donate online: <http://preservecalavera.org>