

DECEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

One amazing example of the beauty and wonder of nature: <http://vimeo.com/31158841>

First the good news- then we need to deal with the nightmare.

Good News to End 2012

We end this year with good news on several projects we have been working on for some time :

- We are very excited that three of our Creek Crusaders were able to get some recent field training- with more to come. Thanks to Lindsey Teunis and Michelle Mattson for providing this training so this new project to monitor the health of our local creeks is off to a great start.
- We have a concept design for retrofit of the culvert under El Camino Real near Cannon- so it could actually work for wildlife and fix the terrible roadkill problem at that intersection. A big thank you to Keith Merkle and Amanda Gonzales with Merkle and Associates for coming up with the design.
- The Environmental Law Clinic of USD has assessed the history of public use of the trails at Village H and believes we have established prescriptive rights to their continued use. Further action to legally establish this will be taken early next year.
- Now we have another volunteer opportunity- anyone interested in helping document sensitive wildlife sightings and roadkill? Center for Natural Lands Management is testing some smart phone apps that could be used for that purpose. Need to have your own smart phone- but if interested let us know and we will coordinate orientation to the system and access to the app.

What will Happen in 2013?

We have worked for years to save the Buena Vista Creek Valley. In 2007 we led the effort to acquire the Sherman property and save half of this valley. In 2007 we saved the sacred El Salto waterfall from destruction when the Quarry Creek Shopping Center was being built. In 2010 we were able to get changes to the Reclamation Plan to give the creek a wide channel with good buffers so it can again meander like a natural creek.

But the nightmare we have been dreading could happen in 2013- we could lose half of the Buena Vista Creek Valley to the proposed Quarry Creek development.

The decision will be made in early 2013- but what will it be?

Will we be able to preserve the panhandle and the heart of the valley?

Or will McMillin get their way and build 656 homes and destroy the heritage of this area?

There are **only two ways to save this valley:**

Political - the Mayor and City council can vote and require a better project

Legal - the courts can make the developer fix the project

Until we are certain that this valley is protected we need to pursue both options – but we need your help!

Contact us to hear about the many ways you can get involved.

Decide what preserving this valley is worth to you, your children and future generations – and then make a donation so we can do everything possible to try to preserve this priceless area. You can donate on line through our secure site:

<http://www.preservecalavera.org/donate.html>, or by mailing a check to Preserve Calavera, 5020 Nighthawk Way, Oceanside, CA 92056. **All donations received by January 31, 2013 will be matched** up to \$ 5,000 – so your generosity will be doubled.

With your help we will be able to move development off the panhandle and reduce the number of units so that this area of priceless natural, cultural, and historic resources continues to enrich the lives of all who live here.