



HAFEN PRESERVE

M2: ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM

OCTA's Measure M2 Freeway Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) provides comprehensive mitigation to offset the environmental impacts of the 13 Measure M2-funded freeway projects.

The EMP presents a comprehensive mitigation approach that provides not only replacement habitat, but also the opportunity to improve the overall functions and value of sensitive biological resources throughout Orange County.

Based on the evaluation of mitigation opportunities in the County, priority conservation areas were identified, including candidate parcels and properties that could be considered for wilderness preservation purposes. Properties were then selected for acquisition and restoration. These properties are protected to enhance wildlife connectivity, safeguard sensitive species and preserve substantial parcels of valuable habitat.



Intermediate Mariposa Lily

ABOUT THE PRESERVE

The Hafen Estates Preserve is a 48-acre parcel located northwest of the City of Rancho Santa Margarita in Trabuco Canyon. Access is from Live Oak Canyon Road and Shelter Canyon Road. The Preserve features rolling terrain with elevations ranging from 1,200 to 1,300 feet above mean sea level. Residential development is located to the south and west, with scattered residences to the north. Cleveland National Forest is located to the north and east.

The Preserve has a variety of habitats including:

- Coastal Sage Scrub
- Oak Woodland
- Chaparral
- Riparian

Hafen provides habitat for several important species such as:

- Coastal California Gnatcatcher
- Southwestern Willow Flycatcher
- Intermediate Mariposa Lily
- Chaparral Nolina
- Orange-Throated Whiptail
- Bobcat
- Cactus Wren
- Least Bell's Vireo
- Many-Stemmed Dudleya
- Coast Horned Lizard
- Mountain Lion

In addition, the Preserve is within the designated critical habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher, a federally threatened species and state species of special concern.

The Preserve contains oak woodlands within an identified wildlife corridor. This wildlife movement corridor extends adjacent to Live Oak Canyon Road and provides connectivity to the Cleveland National Forest. Mammals expected to use the corridors include mule deer, mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes and gray foxes.

The acquisition of this preserve contributes to the EMP's goal to join together adjacent open space areas at the foothills, while at the same time limiting urban encroachment. The Foothill/Trabuco Specific Plan would have allowed the construction of nine dwelling units; however, OCTA's acquisition of this property allows the area to be preserved as open space. This will help maintain the natural open space value and ensure the preservation of wildlife mobility in the area.

