Friends of Harbors, Beaches & Parks (FHBP) contributions are tax-deductible. Donors receive newsletters and professionally designed entry ways.

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Before... After...
We need to celebrate each step and each acre along the Green Vision Path and applaud those whose concern for the future leads them to true leaders. There is no doubt that the quest to save natural resources is right. “Green Infrastructure” is a commonly used phrase as it is recognized that open land and space uses are vital to the local and global society. Everyday America loses more than 4,000 acres of open space to development and the rate of conversion is faster all the time. Many conservation activities are haphazard, reactive, site-specific, and narrowly focused. Funds for conservation efforts are often cut. No wonder that we believe strongly in our Orange County Green Vision, its mission, and its projects. No wonder that we applaud the private philanthropic leaders who help to create a nurturing society and sustaining future for Orange County.

The Harry and Grace Steele Foundation has stepped along the Green Vision Path with major contributions. Since 1953, the Steele Foundation has been facing the increasingly complex circumstances that define the “public good.” The trustees have felt a commitment to use their resources to bring about positive change in the lives of people in the fields of education, medicine, the arts, children, religion, social welfare, and the environment. Over the years, the Foundation has contributed more than $150 million primarily to Orange County programs and institutions. Recipients have been chosen within the guidelines, set forth by

Grace C. Steele, “the Foundation should help people themselves.” It all began when Harry Steele owned a small electrical manufacturing company in Los Angeles from which he sold U.S. Electrical Motors acquired in 1962 by Emerson Electric Company for $50 million in stock. In 1953, Grace and her husband donated the present Harry and Grace Steele Foundation. In the last decade, current family trustees, Audrey Steele Bumby and Betty R. Steele, became increasingly concerned about preserving precious natural resources and environmental education to ensure stewardship in the future. In keeping with FHBPs belief that the “public good” is entwined in good environmental stewardship, the Foundation’s last major gifts represent a huge step toward that end. In December 2006, with a grant of $15 million, the Steele Foundation made possible the perpetual preservation of the 29.4 buft-top acres at Dana Point Headlands by the Center for Natural Lands Management. In 1940, Richard Henry Dana, in his book, Two Years Before the Mast, called it “the only romantic spot in California.” Now the Steele Foundation has taken steps to ensure that "it never changes." "It has been a long cherished wish of our family to do something for future generations of Californians an unspoiled, beautiful venue with a beautiful coastline and of California's history," said Audrey Steele Bumby, daughter of the late Harry and Grace Steele. My thanks and congratulations to Dana Point Headlands and the Steele Foundation is available from Tom Wilck, info@ Fncc.net.

The gift to the Center will truly help you sustain this important environmental educational facility. Since being spun off by the school district, the ENC is a private facility owned and operated by a non-profit Board of Directors. With this gift the Board can kick off a "Raise the Roof" campaign to see necessary indoor facilities can be provided and, importantly, build an endowment fund to sustain its growth and success in the future.

It is with true gratitude that we applaud the Harry and Grace Steele Foundation and the legacy of true charity and giving in caring and giving in Orange County.
The Write In

Friendly Orange County candidates for the funds raised will go to support environmentally League’s biggest banquet to date and all their commitment when voting. This was the candidates in office that not only support re-affirming the importance of getting the Outdoors. Susan Smartt, Executive Friends of Shipley Nature Center and Inside banquet in early May. The evening honored Voters (OCLCV) held its annual awards its members for participating -- your dedication official and leaders. FHBP wishes to thank a time, busily writing letters to government members pack the central tables for hours at a time, freshly writing letters to government officials and leaders. FHBP wishes to thank its members for participating -- your dedication makes all the difference!

Visit www.WomenForOC.org

OC League of Conservation Voters

The Orange County League of Conservation Voters (OCLCV) held its annual awards banquet in early May. The evening honored Evan Henry, Councilmember Karl Warkomskii, Friends of Shiley Nature Center and Inside the Outdoors. Susan Smartt, Executive Director of the California LCV, presented a wonderful keynote address at the gathering re-affirming the importance of getting candidates in office that not only support environmental issues, but that also confirm their commitment when voting. This was the League’s biggest banquet to date and all funds raised will go to support environmentally friendly Orange County candidates for the upcoming city and county elections.

Visit www.OCLCV.org

Coyote Hills Targeted for Houses

The comment period for the revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (ESHR) for the West Coyote Hills ended in June. Friends of Coyote Hills (FCH) engaged the local legal and ecological consultants in the state to analyze and comment on the DERR. Chevron has proposed 760 houses and a commercial strip on its 510 acres. The hills contain critical coastal sage scrub habitat that support the federally listed California gnatcatcher, the sharply declining cactus wren and white-tailed kite. The land is the last natural open space in northwest Orange County. FCH is actively seeking support from local government officials and the community to save the land as a park and preserve.

Visit www.CoyoteHills.org

Morrell Canyon Threatened by Dam

Santa Ana Mountains Task Force has been working to generate public opposition to the Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage project. The project would drown the Cleveland National Forest's Morrell Canyon, with a hydroelectric dam. The project proposes new power lines, significant environmental damage and loss of a natural canyon among other things. Roughly 600 people attended hearings to comment on the project in early April. Attendees offered many great reasons for decision-makers to oppose the dam such as: loss of habitat, lower property values, fewer recreational areas, and increased water pollution. To learn more email Robin Evenart at _robin_evenart@me.com_

Visit www.SierraClub.org ca.socalforests

Great American Write In a Hit!

A team of local environmental leaders appointed by FHBP’s Green Vision Working Group successfully negotiated environmental mitigation into the upcoming 40 cent sales tax renewal called Measure M. The Measure had $402 million for water quality improvements and it now includes $243.5 million for large scale mitigation, including acquisition, for transportation-related habitat destruction. Over two dozen environmental groups collectively supported the addition of the mitigation component in the Measure. The $31 billion transportation measure is expected to be on November’s ballot. Many consider this funding mechanism a step towards completing the Green Vision.

Visit www.FHBP.org

New Coalition for Great Park

The Environmental Coalition for the Great Park and Great Park Communities is an independent coalition of regional Orange County environmental groups, as well as local groups and individuals with a specific interest in environmental issues at the OC Great Park. The Coalition supports sustainable, regenerative, and ecological design practices at the Great Park by assisting with ideas, information, contacts, and support. Sixteen environmental groups, plus individual members, are working constructively as community partners in the Great Park planning process. Contact Stephanie Parachio at stephanie@orangecounty.ca to learn more about this new group.

Visit www.FHBP.org

New South County Conservancy

The Capistrano Valley Conservancy, dedicated to “protecting and preserving the cultural, historical, and natural resources of the Capistrano Valley and surrounding area,” has been formed by Joan Irvine Smith. The inaugural event will be held Friday, July 14 at the Oaks in San Juan Capistrano. Joan Irvine Smith Fine Arts is putting up $10,000 in prize money for 30 signature artists. The paintings will be sold and half of the proceeds will benefit the new Conservancy and support the preservation of the Mission San Juan Capistrano, the Capistrano Valley Conservancy, the San Juan Capistrano Historical Society, and the Donna O’Neill Land Conservation.

Visit www.FHBP.org

Bolsa Chica Gets 118 Acres Agreed!

On December 21, 2005, another portion of the Bolsa Chica was purchased by the State of California. The acquisition and funds from Proposition 50, which was passed by voters in 2002. This 103-acre parcel, together with an additional fifteen acres acquired in January 2006, preserves the entire lower bench of the Bolsa Chica mesa as open space and habitat. “This is the culmination of thirteen years and thousands of hours of work by members of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust and other organizations,” said Flissie Morgan, co-founder of the Trust. “We’re ecstatic to see it preserved for future generations.”

Visit www.BolsaChicaLandTrust.org

Green Vision Map

This map is the result of an ongoing collaborative project between Friends of Harbors, Beaches & Parks and local management department; the California GAP Program at the University of California, Santa Barbara; and the Orange County Resources and Development Department; the California GAP Program at the University of California, Santa Barbara; and the Orange County Resource and Development Department. The project was supported by a grant from the California Coastal Commission. Data sources for this map include: the Orange County Resource and Development Department; the California GAP Program at the University of California, Santa Barbara; and the Orange County Resource and Development Department.

Map: GreenInfo Network 201-558-3660

Key Conservation Priorities

Santa Ana Mountains Task Force has been working to generate public opposition to the Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage project. The project would drown the Cleveland National Forest’s Morrell Canyon, with a hydroelectric dam. The project proposes new power lines, significant environmental damage and loss of a natural canyon among other things. Roughly 600 people attended hearings to comment on the project in early April. Attendees offered many great reasons for decision-makers to oppose the dam such as: loss of habitat, lower property values, fewer recreational areas, and increased water pollution. To learn more, email Robin Evenart at _robin_evenart@me.com_.

Visit www.sierraclub.org ca.socalforests

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Volunteer Map

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