In the past, Orange County’s watersheds have been routinely paved over, with the goal of making them more water-friendly and less prone to flooding and pollution. But recent research has shown that this approach has actually increased the risk of flooding and pollution, as well as the frequency and intensity of storms that occur. As a result, there is a growing awareness of the importance of preserving the natural environment, and a desire to create more opportunities for outdoor recreation and education. For example, the Newport-Mesa Watershed Management Board has recently held a meeting to discuss possible ways to improve the environment and protect endangered species. The board is considering using federal grants to fund programs that will help protect the environment, and to create more opportunities for outdoor education and recreation. This includes creating more park and trail networks, and increasing the use of public transportation. The board is also considering ways to increase the use of renewable energy sources, and to reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfills. Overall, there is a strong sense of community among the residents of Orange County, and a desire to create a more sustainable future for the region.
**Life After Concrete**

In the past, Orange County’s waterways have been routinely paved over, with its once connected and encrusted with concrete in the name of flood control and public safety the prevailing concept being that storm waters need to be moved as fast as possible. Even lined creeks and rivers such as those at the Irvine Ranch, may be termed “Life After Concrete” in Orange County’s waterways. Efforts to notify funding for Integrated Regional and Coastal Water Management Plans (IRCWMP) are successful. Funding for these plans, in the form of Proposition 84 and other state bond funds. These plans can be viewed by going to the Orange County Waterhall website: www.ocwaterhall.org and clicking on the watershed of interest.

The Central Orange County IRCWMP, involving the Newport and Orange WaterBasin, was recently discussed at the monthly stakeholders’ meeting held under the auspices of Orange County’s Department of Environmental Protection, Development and Management). A 75-year-old member of the City of Newport Beach, is trying to get ahead of the curve in applying for these grants, as they are competitive. Orange County’s Carolyn Schaffer of RDMD and Bob Stearns recently traveled to Sacramento to solicit federal opportunities under Proposition 84 and to be commended for their proactive efforts.

Meanwhile, the Newport Bay Watershed Schools Foundation has held monthly meetings held under the direction of Anne Dove of the National Park Service developed a vision statement that reads in part:

“...in the future Newport Bay is a historically and sustainably managed ecosystem in which natural resources, cultural resources, and ecological health are balanced. Beneficial uses of surface waters are achieved and the watershed is restored to function more naturally, supporting native plant and animal species. More open space and park lands are available to serve Newport’s communities and a trail network connects the whole watershed.”

In addition, the“Anchors for the Future” initiative is being carried out under the Preliminary Draft of the Upper Newport Bay/Single Creek Floodability Study, submitted in 2005, identifying 16 sites in the watershed with restoration opportunities.

**Last Child Left Inside**

An awareness is sweeping America in the wake of Richard Louv’s bestseller “Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder.” That awareness is the recognition that we may be raising an entire generation who does not have a direct and personal connection with nature. The implications are far-reaching as children need natural environments as a healthy place to grow and develop.

For years, I went on hikes with my dad when I was about 12 years old. We always returned as a family and I often brought my children, to see the flora and fauna. Much is changing as water, recreation grants from multiple funding sources. Here are some of the choices are managed properties that are connecting kids to nature.

**Outdoors in Orange County**

**Friends of Harbors, Beaches & Parks**

**The NEXT TEN YEARS**

Since then we have launched many projects. Among them The Green Vision Project, to save substantial natural lands, documents public and private conservation lands and seeks opportunities for acquisition. The Orange Coast River Park project facilities acquisition and restoration of 1000 acres at the mouth of the Santa Ana River. The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project Works toward coastal and watershed wetlands.

**Cut the Mud Away When You Have To**

One of my best memories of nature was a backpacking trip we went on with my dad when I was about 12 years old. We didn’t have to drive far to get to the trailhead. In fact, we only had to drive about two miles.

**Thank You REI**

Each year, REI grants support hundreds of communities across the nation and we are honored that REI’s Green Vision Project, saving important remaining natural lands in Orange County, was selected for this year’s $5,000 through REI’s Conservation and Recreation Grant Program. This grant category focuses on increasing access to and participation in outdoor recreation. REI was nominated by REI employees from the Huntington Beach Land Conservancy and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

**Corona del Mar**

**Birds of a Feather**

**Back to the Classroom**

**Becoming a Community Center Piece and Gateway to the Cleveland Bay/San Diego Creek Watershed Feasibility Study, released its Preliminary Draft of the Upper Newport Bay/Single Creek Floodability Study, submitted in 2005, identifying 16 sites in the watershed with restoration opportunities.

**Supporting Organizations**

**Amigos de Bolsa Chica**

**Advisory Board**

**Corona del Mar**
Water is the Deciding Factor

By: Denny Bean

Everyday we see more development rising up the hillsides destroying our open space and impinging upon the wildlife residing there. No wonder there have been mountain lions sightings near our homes and in backyards, including pets being carried off. But speaking of blue ribbons and bright lights, I would have quit while risking my life and feed him another 10-20 lbs. of hay and thank him for his effort. I’d dig him to his stall so he can rest and sleep for the next 14-16 hours before getting up for his next meal. He’s happy and healthy, I’m happy and healthy.

Once Bizzness and I finish our ride we go back to the stable where I wash him down, brush him and feed him another 15-20 Bls. of hay and thank him for his effort. I’d dig him to his stall so he can rest and sleep for the next 14-16 hours before getting up for his next meal. He’s happy and healthy, I’m happy and healthy.

The Irvine Company plans to build 2,500 homes on 3,000 acres in Weir Canyon and destroy a fish called the Delta smelt. There are 500 species of vascular plants as and it has to have lost at least 70% of its natural habitat.

Without exposing the reader to the long list of endemic plants and animals or delineating what has been lost it is easy to see why our neighborhood is designated on the select list of 25 “hotspots” in the entire world. First, we have the finest, mildest climate we can imagine in a world class biothermal hotspot. To qualify as a hotspot, a region must meet two strict criteria: it must contain at least 1,500 species of vascular plants as endemics, and it has to have lost at least 70% of its natural habitat.

By: Tom Rogers

Despite remaining hidden behind ranch fences, the small patches of open space in South County are suspect and apt to break; the Delta has come under the control of the State of California passed a law that Water is the Deciding Factor. The State of California passed a law that

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### Water is the Deciding Factor

By: Dayna Bean

Everyday we see more development rising up the hillsides destroying our open space and impinging upon the wildlife residing there. No wonder there have been mountain lion sightings near homes and in backyards, including pets being carried off. But speaking of blue ribbons and bright lights, I would have quit riding if I didn’t remember to tell you that Bizzness of this riding keeps Bizzness and me healthy, of this ecosystem. To qualify as a world class biological hotspot. To qualify as a hot spot, a region must meet two strict criteria; it must contain at least 500 species of vascular plants as endemics, and it has to have lost at least 70% of its original habitat.

### Coastal California Biodiversity

By: Don and Scott Thomas

The people of Coastal Southern California are a blessed lot! We experience some of the finest weather in the world, employment enough for everyone who wants to work and a host of entertainment venues to choose from. But we are also blessed in a way that few people other than environmentalists even think about. We live in a wonderland of flora and fauna so unique that it has been designated by Conservation International as a world class biogeological hotspot. To qualify as a hot spot, a region must meet two strict criteria; it must contain at least 500 species of vascular plants as endemics, and it has to have lost at least 70% of its original habitat.

Without exposing the reader to the long list of endemic plants and animals or delineating what has been lost it is easy to see why our neighborhood is designated as a hot spot in the United States of America. To understand why we have such a vast diversity of flora and fauna all you have to do is examine a map of the coastal counties and you will find the quickly rising altitude of the coastal plain creates a vast variety of habitats for plants and animals. Vast habitat variance guarantees the first of this ecosystem. To qualify as a hot spot in the entire world. First, we find the finest, mildest climate we can imagine on this planet. There are more endemic species here than any state except Hawaii making Coastal California the only location in the world to contain such a vast diversity of flora and fauna.