By: Jean Watt

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was written to ensure that the public has the opportunity to consider the impacts of a proposed project be reviewed, analyzed, and where feasible reduced (mitigated) to a lesser impact. The goal was to keep decision-makers informed about the environmental impacts a project may have on the surrounding environment, the land, etc. However, one of the most important requirements of CEQA is allowing multiple opportunities for the public to provide constructive feedback and comments on the project during the environmental review process.

Unfortunately, CEQA is currently threatened by four bills in the California Legislature. Senator Lou Correa, of Santa Ana, has proposed two of these bills. If approved, these bills will eliminate 125 projects from the CEQA review process entirely. The Governor would allow the Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing Administration to select 25 projects for a five-year period to be exempt from this important California law.

Instead of allowing all local decision-makers to gain important knowledge about a project, allowing the public to comment on the project, or allowing a project to be challenged in court – the project will move ahead without public input, comments, or a day in CEQA. CEQA must be upheld to ensure the environment is protected. Call your local legislator and tell them CEQA must be upheld.

Jan Vandersloot Missed, But Recently Honored

By: Finisse Hogan, Bolsa Chica Land Trust

The Environmental Law Institute (ELI) has posthumously awarded Dr. Jan Vandersloot, the co-founder of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust, the prestigious National Wetlands Award for Wetland Conservation. Jan was chosen from a competitive nationwide field for passion and exceptional dedication to protecting Southern California’s wetlands. Since 1969, ELI has worked to strengthen environmental protection by improving law and governance worldwide.

This award recognizes the decades of commitment Jan demonstrated in protecting wetlands. He was a fixture at California Coastal Commission hearings throughout his years of volunteering and support for conservation, but perhaps his most significant 17-year campaign to protect the 1,700-acre Bolsa Chica wetland ecosystem in Orange County.

Jan died unexpectedly last November. His family received the award on his behalf during a ceremony in May in Washington D.C.

In 1996, Jan was an influential member of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust (BCLT) board when the Trust sued the California Coastal Commission over its plan to develop the Bolsa Chica. The Trust successfully argued the plan violated the Coastal Act. The decision in our favor now protects coastal wetlands statewide the entire nation.

In addition, to his effort to save wetlands big and smaller, Jan also worked to protect the ocean, successfully stopping the Orange County Sanitation District from applying for a waiver to the Clean Water Act, requiring it to fully treat the sewage it deposits in the ocean. Jan made presentations in 27 cities while he pressed his case.

The Orange County League of Conservation Voters (OCLCV) also honored Jan’s memory and dedication to the natural world at the League’s Annual Awards Dinner on May 15. They named their Special Lifetime Environmental Achievement Award in his honor.

We continue to miss Jan’s insights at our board meetings, but are delighted his work to protect the natural world is appreciated and recognized.

Call is at a thousand cuts – in this case, budget cuts. Our parks are falling apart because of persistent underfunding. Projects Exempt from Review

Various conservation and community groups throughout the County for doing everything possible and more to maintain the natural lands that make our County unique. Below is a table summary of the status of some of those major projects. This site uses the "pink" on the Green Vision for What We Live For list and identifies the possible status of the Impact Report, NOP = Notice of Preparation of an EIR

State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund Act of 2010

By: Yes for State Parks Campaign

Once considered to be the best in the nation, California’s 278 state parks now rank among the country’s most endangered. How did they go from the best to endangered? Call is at a thousand cuts – in this case, budget cuts. Our parks are falling apart because of persistent underfunding.

Projects Repair Backups Top $1 Billion

Roofs and sewage systems in state parks leak, restrooms are filthy, vehicle ramps and campgrounds and visitor centers are shuttered. The repair backlog in California state parks tops $1 billion, and it’s growing.

As if that weren’t enough, twice in the past two years, the state parks were on the verge of being shut down. Only last-minute budget deals kept them open. But the state parks were shut down part-time or suffered deep service reductions because of budget cuts, and more park closure proposals and budget cuts are expected this year.

Trust Fund to Provide Stable and Adequate Funding

That’s why a group of parks supporters proposed a statewide measure for the November 2010 ballot called the California State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund Act (Prop. 1). It will protect state parks and conserve wildlife by establishing a Trust Fund in the state treasury that could only be spent on state parks, urban riverwalks, wildlife, natural lands, and ocean conservation programs.

Californians to Get Free, State-Bound Park Admission

Funding will come from an $18 annual State Park Access Fee that will fund the $1 billion backlog. The measure, Renewed Measure M. The Measure included an innovative tool to comprehensively mitigate the impacts of a project. This bill was signed into law on September 17. Learn More at.

State Parks are priceless public assets and vital legacies that help our citizens understand the importance of natural lands and wildlife. They also entice visitors to exercise and lead healthier lifestyles, and help our communities to understand the importance of nature and the environment. By Claire Schlotterbeck

We are all familiar with the coyote’s evening calls from the hills and canyons just outside our neighborhoods. The proximity of our towns to our wildlands allows for interplay between the two. On the one hand, people enjoy wandering into the hills on foot or bike or horseback. On the other hand, this closeness also allows wildlife to visit our neighborhoods. Not all visitors are welcome or well behaved. Since we have the upper hand in controlling the situation, it is up to us as humans to create a relationship between urban areas and wildlands that allows for safety in each.

Coyotes, for example, are generally not welcome guests in our yards and we should do what we can to discourage them to keep them away from humans. Don’t accidentally or intentionally invite them over. Not leaving food or water outside or near lights is a first step. Using motion detectors and keeping tight lids on trash cans also dissuades coyotes. Though many of us who live near wildlands know that coyotes often seize our pets, these predators are just doing what comes naturally. So keep your pets inside.

Remember the responsibility for stewardship of the wildland urban interface, lies in your hands.

By: Jean Watt

State Natural Preserves and Restoration Begins Soon!

By: Jean Watt

In 2005, in more than thirty conservation and community groups supported the 1/2 cent transportation sales tax measure to fund Metro’s Measure R. The Measure included an innovative tool to comprehensively mitigate the impacts of 13 countywide freeway projects by paying the per project mitigation money and spending it on big picture acquisitions, restoration sites, and management requirements. The Environmental Coalition that Supported Measure R has been working diligently with its partner, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), to evaluate and prioritize where the funding should be spent.

An Environmental Oversight Committee that oversees the Mitigation Program has issued its third report, and is considering the list of projects for acquisition and restoration based on the land’s regional significance, connectivity to other protected open spaces, and alignment with the important wildlife areas and habitats that will be impacted by the freeway projects. The Committee will soon make recommendations to the OCTA Board for its first round of funding, totaling $27.5 million. Overall, the program will spend $5 million freeway program, estimated in 2005 dollars to be $243.5 million, to comprehensively mitigate.

The right list is the top two tiers of properties under consideration for this program in this funding cycle. Property/Projects supported by the Coalition are in italics.

Status of Development Projects

Various conservation and community groups throughout the County for doing everything possible and more to maintain the natural lands that make our County unique. Below is a table summary of the status of some of those major projects. This site uses the "pink" on the Green Vision for What We Live For list and identifies the possible status of the Impact Report, NOP = Notice of Preparation of an EIR

Learn More at.

Learn More at.

Learn More at.

Learn More at.

Learn More at.

Learn More at.
**Projects Exempt from Review**

By: Melanie Schlotbeck

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was written to ensure that government agencies consider the impacts of a proposed project be reviewed, analyzed, and where feasible reduced (mitigated) to a lesser impact. The goal was to keep decision-makers informed about the environmental impacts a project may have on the surrounding water, the land, etc. The primary requirement of CEQA is allowing multiple opportunities for the public to provide constructive feedback and comments on the project during the environmental review process.

Unfortunately, CEQA is currently threatened by four bills in the California Legislature. Senator Lou Correa, of Santa Ana, has proposed two of these bills. If approved, these bills will exempt 125 projects from CEQA review process entirely. The Governor would allow the Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing Administration to select 25 projects for five years or be exempt from this important California law.

Instead of allowing only local decision makers to gain important knowledge about a project, allowing the public to comment on the project, or allowing a project to be challenged in court — the project will move with no information, comments, or a day in court. CEQA must be updated to ensure the environment is protected. Call your local legislator and tell them CEQA must be updated.

---

**Natural Lands Preservation and Restoration Begins Soon!**

By: Jean Watt

In 2005, in more than thirty conservation and community groups supported the 1/2 cent transportation sales tax measure, Measure R. The Measure included an innovative tool to comprehensively mitigate the impacts of 13 proposed freeway projects by placing the per project mitigation money and spending it on big picture acquisitions, restoration sites, and management requirements. The Environmental Coalition that Supported Measure R has been working diligently with its partner, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), to evaluate and prioritize where the funding should be spent.

An Environmental Oversight Committee that oversees the mitigation program has narrowed down the list of projects for acquisition and restoration based on the land’s regional significance, connectivity to other protected open spaces, and alignment with the important wildlife species and habitats that will be impacted by the freeway projects.

The Committee will soon make recommendations to the OCTA Board for its first round of funding, totaling $27.5 million. Overall, the program will spend 5% of freeway program, estimated in 2005 dollars to be $243.5 million, on comprehensive mitigation.

To the right is a list of the top two tiers of properties under consideration for this program in this funding cycle.

**Projects Supported by the Coalition are in italics.**

**Projects Supported by the Coalition are in italics.**
Projects Exempt from Review

By: Melanie Schlotterbeck

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was written to ensure that the impacts of a proposed project be reviewed, analyzed and where feasible reduced (mitigated) to a lesser impact. The goal was to keep decision-makers informed about the environmental impacts a project may have on the community, the land, etc. The major requirement of CEQA is allowing multiple opportunities for the public to provide constructive feedback and comments on the project during the environmental review process.

Unfortunately, CEQA is currently threatened by four bills in the California Legislature. Senator Lou Correa, of Santa Ana, has proposed two of these bills. If approved, these bills will exempt 125 projects from the CEQA review process entirely. The Governor would allow the Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing Administration to select 25 projects for a year to be exempted from this important California law.

Instead of allowing all local decision-makers to gain important knowledge about a project, allowing the public to comment on the project, or allowing a project to be challenged in court – the project will move forward without public information, comments or a day in court. CEQA must be upheld to ensure the environment is protected. Call your local legislator and tell them CEQA must be upheld.

Jan Vandersloot Missed, But Recently Honored

By: Finisie Hogan, Bolsa Chica Land Trust

The Environmental Law Institute (ELI) has posthumously awarded Jan Vandersloot, the co-founder of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust, the prestigious National Wetlands Award for Wetland Conservation. Jan was chosen from a competitive nationwide field for passion and exceptional dedication to protecting Southern California’s wetlands. Since 1995, ELI has worked to strengthen environmental protection and improve law and governance worldwide.

This is the 10th award recognizing the decades of commitment Jan demonstrated in protecting wetlands. He was a fixture at California Coastal Commission hearings throughout his years of volunteering and support for conservation, but perhaps his high-water mark was his 17-year campaign to protect the 1,700-acre Bolsa Chica wetland properties in Orange County.

Jan died unexpectedly last November. His family received the award on his behalf during a ceremony in May in Washington D.C.

In 1996, Jan was an influential member of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust (BCLT) board when the Trust sued the California Coastal Commission over its plan to allow development of the Bolsa Chica. The Trust successfully argued the plan violated the Coastal Act. The decision in our favor now protects coastal wetlands throughout the state.

In addition, to his effort to save wetlands big and small, Jan also worked to protect the ocean, successfully stopping the Orange County Sanitation District from applying for a waiver to the Clean Water Act, enacting a strict policy to reduce the oil it was discharging into the ocean. Jan made presentations in 27 cities while he praised his cause.

The Orange County League of Conservation Voters (OCLCV) also honored Jan’s memory and dedication to the natural world at the League’s Annual Awards Dinner on May 19, granting Jan their Special Lifetime Environmental Achievement Award.

We continue to miss Jan’s insights into the conservation issues we are faced with but are delighted his work to protect the natural world is appreciated and encouraged.

Jan Vandersloot, Editor

Status of Development Projects

Various conservation and community groups throughout the County are fighting for natural lands preservation. This table is a summary of the status of some of these major projects. These sites are shown as “pink” on the Green Vision Map, and as “orange” on the EIR (Environmental Impact Report, NOP = Notice of Preparation of an EIR).

**Project Name** | **Arrang.** | **Jurisdiction** | **Proposed** | **Status** | **Learn More at:**
---|---|---|---|---|---
Aliso Mntn | 70 | Laguna Beach | 26 drop structures | Awaiting Permit | [www.LagunaCoalition.org](http://www.LagunaCoalition.org)
Burnside Ranch | 402 | Newport Beach | 1,375 units housing | Developing | [www.BurningBuildingOnCoast.com](http://www.BurningBuildingOnCoast.com)
Canyon Crest | 307 | Huntington Beach | 267 executive houses | Redefining | [www.SaddlebackCanyon.org](http://www.SaddlebackCanyon.org)
Ferber Ranch | 444 | County of Orange | 96 luxury units | Awaiting NOP | [www.EverythingOrange.org](http://www.EverythingOrange.org)
Shell Apya | 300 | Beach/Daimler Star | 3,000 housing units | Awaiting EIR | [www.SaveTheMoundBlye.org](http://www.SaveTheMoundBlye.org)
Sylmar Miller | 109 | Orange County | 40 high density units | Awaiting EIR | [www.OPCACommunityAction.org](http://www.OPCACommunityAction.org)

State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund Act of 2010

By: Yes for State Parks Campaign

Once considered to be the best in the nation, California’s 278 state parks now rank among the country’s most endangered sites. How did they go from the best to the endangered?

Call it a thousand cuts - in this case, budget cuts. Our parks are falling apart because of persistent underfunding.

Projects to Repair Backups Tops $1 Billion

Roofs and sewage systems in state parks leak, restrooms and trails need repairs, and wildlife habitats and campgrounds and visitor centers are shuttered. The repair backlog in California state parks tops $1 billion, and it’s growing.

As if that weren’t enough, twice in the past two years, the state parks were on the verge of being shut down. Only last-minute funding prevented the closure.

To make matters worse, state parks were shut down part-time or suffered deep service reductions because of budget cuts, and more park closures planned.

Before budget cuts, state parks were open 365 days a year. Now they are open for 260 to 300 days a year.

Trust Fund to Provide Stable and Adequate Funding

That’s why a group of parks supporters proposed an amendment to state law. A statewide measure for the November 2010 ballot called the California State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund Act of 2010 will protect state parks and conserve wildlife by establishing a Trust Fund in the state treasury that could only be spent on state parks, urban riverparks, wildlife, natural lands, and ocean conservation programs.

Californians to Get Free, State-Rated Public Access Funding will come from an $8 million State Park Access Pass wager on all California state parks, including camping and recreational vehicles. Larger parks will get more money.

Support State Parks, Join the Coalition

State parks are priceless public assets and vital legacies for our children and grandchildren. Please help protect them by joining the coalition at [www.SaveOurStateParks.com](http://www.SaveOurStateParks.com). With your help, California’s endangered state parks can become healthy, safe places to visit. If you have any questions, please call Jim Wellborn at (949) 500-2743, or visit [www.FriendsOfHarborsBeachesParks.com](http://www.FriendsOfHarborsBeachesParks.com).
Coyotes, for example, are generally not welcome guests in our yards and we should do what we need to discourage them and to keep them away from homes. Don’t accidentally or intentionally invite them over. Not leaving food or water outside or near your house is a first step. Using motion detectors and keeping tight lids on trash cans also discourages coyotes. Though many of us who live near wildlands know that coyotes are frequently seen in our yards, these predators are just doing what comes naturally. So keep your pets inside.

You may be interested in another aspect of their hunting prowess is that coyotes strengthen songbird populations. By preying on small mammals that readily eat bird eggs, coyotes can help songbirds thrive.

One animal that does great harm to birds in our natural lands are house cats. They are known to kill up to 2 billion to 3 billion birds and small mammals a year. If you really enjoy birds, then the best way to center your yard is to keep them indoors.

You can also be a good neighbor to wildland areas by being aware of what they need. Don’t leave pet food or water outside. Shoveling snow and ice, windows and doors of structures in winter is okay, but don’t leave your automobiles out on public streets. Public health officials do not like snow and ice piled on streets.

We all have the right to live in a clean and beautiful environment. Please help us keep our public lands clean and beautiful.

The Coyote House cat

Rattlesnake

Mike Wellborn

Dreamstime.com

Volunteers

FHBP Board of Directors

Jan Vandenbroucke, President

Vince Pichette, Vice President

Don Thomas, Treasurer

Cecilyn Wood, Secretary

Stephanie Barger

Mary Karr

Denny Bean

Jen Carr

Heidi Higgen

Bob Joseph

Lot Kassner

Amy Lutton

Theresa Wong

Tom Thompson

Mike Wallmark

Supporting Organizations

NHDEC

Audubon, SAA & Sierra Chapter

Volunteers

Earth Resource Foundation

Equation Coalition of OC

Environmental Nature Center

Great Park Environmental Coalition

Huntington Beach Villages

Land Trusts and Wildlife

Care Center

Laguna Canyon Conservancy

Laguna Canyon Foundation

Laguna Greenbelt, Inc.

Sierra Club, Orange County

Sunrise Foundation,

Newport Beach Chapter

Stop Plugging Our Newport

Upper Newport Bay Natursite

& Friends

St. Mark Presbyterian Church

Estates

Takahashi

Sky Ranch

Regional Park

Christian School

UCI Ecological Reserves

Projects Exempt from Review

Status of Development Projects

Various conservation and community groups throughout the County for doing thing natural lands work. Here is a table summary of the status of some of these major projects. These sites are shown in pink on the Green Vision Map in the May 2010 Newsletter.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was written in 1970 to provide a check against the impacts of a proposed project be reviewed, analyzed, and where feasible reduced (mitigated) to a lesser impact. The goal was to keep decision-makers informed about the environmental impacts a project may have on the surrounding area, the land, etc. One of the key requirements of CEQA is allowing multiple opportunities for the public to participate in the design and review of a project on the environment during the review process.

Unfortunately, CEQA is currently threatened by four bills in the California Legislature. Sen. Lou Correa, of Santa Ana, has proposed two of these bills. If approved, these bills will exempt 125 projects from CEQA review process entirely. The Governor would allow the Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing Administration to select 25 projects for year 5 years to be exempt from this important California law.

Instead of allowing local decision makers to gain important knowledge about a project, allowing the public to comment on the project, or allowing a project to be challenged in court — the project will move forward with less public information, comments or a day in court. CEQA must be upheld to ensure the environment is protected. Call your local legislator and tell them CEQA must be upheld.

Jan Vandersloot Missed, But Recently Honored

By: Finnie Hogan, Bolsa Chica Land Trust

The Environmental Law Institute (ELI) has posthumously awarded Jan Vandersloot, the co-founder of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust, the prestigious National Wetlands Award for his 40-year commitment to improving land use and preserving California’s wetlands.

Jan was chosen from a competitive nationwide field for passion and exceptional dedication to protecting Southern California’s wetlands. Since 1969, ELI has worked to strengthen environmental protection by improving law and governance worldwide.

The award recognizes the decades of commitment Jan demonstrated in protecting wetlands. He was a fixture at California Coastal Commission hearings throughout his years of volunteering and support for conservation, but perhaps his biggest achievement was a 17-year campaign to protect the 1,700-acre Bolsa Chica wetlands in Orange County.

Jan died unexpectedly last November. His family received the award on his behalf during a ceremony in May in Washington D.C.

In 1966, Jan was an influential member of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust (BCLT) board when the Trust sued the California Coastal Commission over its plan to allow development of the Bolsa Chica. The decision in our favor now protects coastal wetlands throughout the state.

In addition, to his effort to save wetlands big and small, Jan also worked to protect the ocean, successfully stopping the Orange County Sanitation District from applying for a waiver to the Clean Water Act, enacting a strong marine reserve that allowed it to be deposited in the ocean. Jan made presentations in 27 cities while he pressed his case.

The Orange County League of Conservation Voters (OCLCV) also honored Jan’s memory and dedication to the natural world at the League’s Annual Awards Dinner on May 19. Jan received their Special Lifetime Environmental Achievement Award.

We continue to miss Jan’s insights at our board meetings, but are delighted his work to protect the natural world is appreciated and preserved.

The Orange County League of Conservation Voters

Youth Awareness Program

www.LagunaCoalition.org

Burning Ranch 402 Newport Beach, CA 92660 1,375 housing units Delaying Final Environmental Impact Report, NOP = Notice of Preparation of an EIR)

Canyon Crest 367 Brea 167 executive houses Redrafting EIR


Fairview Park 3,000 Brea/Diamond Bar 3,600 housing units Awaiting EIR

Goodell 6 Huntington Beach Annexation Council Denied

Sully Miller 109 Orange 460 high density units Awaiting EIR

Saddleback Canyon 3,000 Mission Viejo 2,000 housing units Awaiting EIR

Shell-Aera 3,000 Brea/Diamond Bar 3,600 housing units Awaiting EIR

Bolsa Chica Land Trust (BCLT) board when the Trust sued the California Coastal Commission over its plan to allow development of the Bolsa Chica. The decision in our favor now protects coastal wetlands throughout the state.

Projects Exempt from Review

For our children and grandchildren. Please help protect them for our children and grandchildren. Please help protect them.

Friends of Harbors, Beaches & Parks

Spring 2010

By Claire Schlotterbeck

We are all familiar with the coyote’s evening calls from the hills and canyons just outside our neighborhoods. The proximity of our towns to our wildlands allows for interplay between the two. On the one hand, people enjoy wandering into the hills on foot or bike or even horseback. On the other hand, this closeness also allows wildlife to visit our neighborhoods. Not all visitors are welcome or well behaved. Since we have the upper hand in controlling the situation, it is up to us as humans to create a relationship between urban areas and wild areas that allows for safety in each.

Jan Vandersloot Missed, But Recently Honored

By: Finnie Hogan, Bolsa Chica Land Trust

The Environmental Law Institute (ELI) has posthumously awarded Jan Vandersloot, the co-founder of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust, the prestigious National Wetlands Award for his 40-year commitment to improving land use and preserving California’s wetlands.

Jan was chosen from a competitive nationwide field for passion and exceptional dedication to protecting Southern California’s wetlands. Since 1969, ELI has worked to strengthen environmental protection by improving law and governance worldwide.

The award recognizes the decades of commitment Jan demonstrated in protecting wetlands. He was a fixture at California Coastal Commission hearings throughout his years of volunteering and support for conservation, but perhaps his biggest achievement was a 17-year campaign to protect the 1,700-acre Bolsa Chica wetlands in Orange County.

Jan died unexpectedly last November. His family received the award on his behalf during a ceremony in May in Washington D.C.

In 1966, Jan was an influential member of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust (BCLT) board when the Trust sued the California Coastal Commission over its plan to allow development of the Bolsa Chica. The decision in our favor now protects coastal wetlands throughout the state.

In addition, to his effort to save wetlands big and small, Jan also worked to protect the ocean, successfully stopping the Orange County Sanitation District from applying for a waiver to the Clean Water Act, enacting a strong marine reserve that allowed it to be deposited in the ocean. Jan made presentations in 27 cities while he pressed his case.

The Orange County League of Conservation Voters (OCLCV) also honored Jan’s memory and dedication to the natural world at the League’s Annual Awards Dinner on May 19. Jan received their Special Lifetime Environmental Achievement Award.

We continue to miss Jan’s insights at our board meetings, but are delighted his work to protect the natural world is appreciated and preserved.

The Orange County League of Conservation Voters

Youth Awareness Program

www.LagunaCoalition.org

Burning Ranch 402 Newport Beach, CA 92660 1,375 housing units Delaying Final Environmental Impact Report, NOP = Notice of Preparation of an EIR)

Canyon Crest 367 Brea 167 executive houses Redrafting EIR


Fairview Park 3,000 Brea/Diamond Bar 3,600 housing units Awaiting EIR

Goodell 6 Huntington Beach Annexation Council Denied

Sully Miller 109 Orange 460 high density units Awaiting EIR

Saddleback Canyon 3,000 Mission Viejo 2,000 housing units Awaiting EIR

Shell-Aera 3,000 Brea/Diamond Bar 3,600 housing units Awaiting EIR

Bolsa Chica Land Trust (BCLT) board when the Trust sued the California Coastal Commission over its plan to allow development of the Bolsa Chica. The decision in our favor now protects coastal wetlands throughout the state.

Projects Exempt from Review

For our children and grandchildren. Please help protect them for our children and grandchildren. Please help protect them.

Friends of Harbors, Beaches & Parks

Spring 2010

By Claire Schlotterbeck

We are all familiar with the coyote’s evening calls from the hills and canyons just outside our neighborhoods. The proximity of our towns to our wildlands allows for interplay between the two. On the one hand, people enjoy wandering into the hills on foot or bike or even horseback. On the other hand, this closeness also allows wildlife to visit our neighborhoods. Not all visitors are welcome or well behaved. Since we have the upper hand in controlling the situation, it is up to us as humans to create a relationship between urban areas and wild areas that allows for safety in each.
A Green Vision for Orange County...

The League of Women Voters of Orange County supports state land use planning that recognizes land as a resource as well as a commodity. The state should establish guidelines and standards for land areas of more than local concern. With meaningful citizen participation, decisions for these areas should be made at the lowest level of government feasible, but should be subject to state review.

Local land use planning through General Plans should be utilized as a means to determine how local communities should change and develop. In addition, local government should plan for the preservation of open space and provide for adequate parks and recreation.

Local Land Use Supported by League

The League of Women Voters of Orange County supports state land use planning that recognizes land as a resource as well as a commodity. The state should establish guidelines and standards for land areas of more than local concern. With meaningful citizen participation, decisions for these areas should be made at the lowest level of government feasible, but should be subject to state review.

Local land use planning through General Plans should be utilized as a means to determine how local communities should change and develop. In addition, local government should plan for the preservation of open space and provide for adequate parks and recreation.

March to Save Coyote Hills

Some 145 residents of Fullerton and neighboring cities walked Harbor Blvd. toting the message to save Coyote Hills from a proposed development of 700 new homes. The event was underway by 5:00 PM, with the traffic congestion on Harbor strongly foreshadowing the effect of 9,000 more cars entering and leaving the development site. Traffic was not the only visual message. No water sources, loss of natural open space, by-pass Fullerton Loop, and other messages of loss to Fullerton were carried to the front of Fullerton City Hall. Thankfully, decision-makers voted at the end of May to deny the project. Though the land still needs to be protected as open space (parksland), this decision is a good first step.

Visit: www.CoyoteHills.org

El Toro Conservation Area Under Threat

This almost 1000-acre property was part of the former El Toro Naval Air Station. The federal government committed to bringing it into the National Conservation Planning (NCCP) reserve due to extraordinary concentrations of gnatcatchers and cactus wrens. Indeed, it was the single greatest new conservation benefit of the NCCP. However, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) failed to protect the land. With control transferred to the Federal Aviation Administration, the FBO is seeking portions for outdoor rifle ranges - an incompatible use according to the NCCP. While the FWS has finally initiated planning for a wildlife refuge, conservation groups must ensure that the rifle ranges are sited elsewhere.

Visit: www.EHLeague.org

Cogged Stone Site on Historic Register

The 8,500 year-old village and cemetery site, CA-OHA-63, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on July 10, 2009. Situated on the upper bench of the Bolsa Chica Basin, the site is known internationally as the production and redistribution site of the unique cog-like stone sculptures we call coggd stones. More than 700 coggd stones were recovered from the site, and archaeological investigations indicate that they were used in rituals practiced by the County’s earliest known inhabitants. A few have been found elsewhere in southern California, and even the northern coast of Chile, suggesting that the site and artifacts were of international importance thousands of years ago.

Visit: www.CCRFA.org

Cogged Stone

The Naval Air Station

Bolsa Chica Work Continues

The Amigos de Bolsa Chica continues its 34 year tradition of educating the public on the importance of protecting coastal wetlands by offering free guided tours of the Bolsa Chica wetland the first Saturday of every month. Amigos also hosts private tours and programs for schools and organizations. In January, the Board elected a new president, Jennifer Robins, and in February, nine docents graduated from its five week docent training class. To further its mission, Amigos sets up informational tables at various venues in the region. Earth Month was especially busy, with tables at the Los Angeles Arboretum, the Aquarium of the Pacific, Dana Point, and the Shippels Nature Center.

Visit: www.AmigosDeBolsaChica.org

Tree Huggers’ Ball on June 12

The sixth annual Tree Huggers’ Ball and Go Green Expo is slated for June 12, near the proposed Black Star Wilderness Park in Silverado Canyon. The event features folk music (Lost Hills, celtic blue grass (Sligo Rags) and rock and roll performed by the Grateful Dead cover band. Cubans. The Expo includes booths and demonstrations by environmentally friendly businesses and organizations and food vendors. Proceeds support the efforts of the Canyon Land Conservation Project to protect and preserve the wildlands of the Santa Ana Mountains. The Expo will be open from 2 PM to dusk, the Ball from 6 to 11 PM. Tickets are $25 and may be purchased in advance.

Visit: www.TreeHuggersBall.org

Toil Road Path to Change?

The Transportation Corridor Agency has devised a new path for its proposed extension of the 241 South. The proposal would require a change in the boundary of San Onofre State Beach and therefore the toll road extension would now traverse Camp Pendleton property instead of parkland. While State Parks has provided the Agency with an opportunity to hear the proposal, the discussion has turned to the Department of the Navy since it owns the land. Recently, the Navy rejected this proposal and boundary change since the area is used for military training. A new alignment would negatively impact the Navy’s training missions and field operations.

Visit: www.SaveSanOnofre.com

Learn More: Kshafneld@aol.com

El Toro Conservation Area Under Threat

This almost 1000-acre property was part of the former El Toro Naval Air Station. The federal government committed to bringing it into the National Conservation Planning (NCCP) reserve due to extraordinary concentrations of gnatcatchers and cactus wrens. Indeed, it was the single greatest new conservation benefit of the NCCP. However, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) failed to protect the land. With control transferred to the Federal Aviation Administration, the FBO is seeking portions for outdoor rifle ranges - an incompatible use according to the NCCP. While the FWS has finally initiated planning for a wildlife refuge, conservation groups must ensure that the rifle ranges are sited elsewhere.

Visit: www.EHLeague.org

Cogged Stone Site on Historic Register

The 8,500 year-old village and cemetery site, CA-OHA-63, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on July 10, 2009. Situated on the upper bench of the Bolsa Chica Basin, the site is known internationally as the production and redistribution site of the unique cog-like stone sculptures we call coggd stones. More than 700 coggd stones were recovered from the site, and archaeological investigations indicate that they were used in rituals practiced by the County’s earliest known inhabitants. A few have been found elsewhere in southern California, and even the northern coast of Chile, suggesting that the site and artifacts were of international importance thousands of years ago.

Visit: www.CCRFA.org

Cogged Stone

The Naval Air Station

Bolsa Chica Work Continues

The Amigos de Bolsa Chica continues its 34 year tradition of educating the public on the importance of protecting coastal wetlands by offering free guided tours of the Bolsa Chica wetland the first Saturday of every month. Amigos also hosts private tours and programs for schools and organizations. In January, the Board elected a new president, Jennifer Robins, and in February, nine docents graduated from its five week docent training class. To further its mission, Amigos sets up informational tables at various venues in the region. Earth Month was especially busy, with tables at the Los Angeles Arboretum, the Aquarium of the Pacific, Dana Point, and the Shippels Nature Center.

Visit: www.AmigosDeBolsaChica.org

Tree Huggers’ Ball on June 12

The sixth annual Tree Huggers’ Ball and Go Green Expo is slated for June 12, near the proposed Black Star Wilderness Park in Silverado Canyon. The event features folk music (Lost Hills, celtic blue grass (Sligo Rags) and rock and roll performed by the Grateful Dead cover band. Cubans. The Expo includes booths and demonstrations by environmentally friendly businesses and organizations and food vendors. Proceeds support the efforts of the Canyon Land Conservation Project to protect and preserve the wildlands of the Santa Ana Mountains. The Expo will be open from 2 PM to dusk, the Ball from 6 to 11 PM. Tickets are $25 and may be purchased in advance.

Visit: www.TreeHuggersBall.org

Toil Road Path to Change?

The Transportation Corridor Agency has devised a new path for its proposed extension of the 241 South. The proposal would require a change in the boundary of San Onofre State Beach and therefore the toll road extension would now traverse Camp Pendleton property instead of parkland. While State Parks has provided the Agency with an opportunity to hear the proposal, the discussion has turned to the Department of the Navy since it owns the land. Recently, the Navy rejected this proposal and boundary change since the area is used for military training. A new alignment would negatively impact the Navy’s training missions and field operations.

Visit: www.SaveSanOnofre.com

Learn More: Kshafneld@aol.com