



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

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87.83 Acres of Open Space Protected in Oceanside: San Diego Habitat Conservancy becomes long-term manager of Wanis View Preserve

Oceanside, California — After nearly 17 years of planning and negotiation, including five years of restoration, Wanis View Preserve has been established. The preserve includes an on-site portion at Hubbert Lake and an off-site portion at Foss Lake. The Hubbert Lake portion consists of 76.30 acres northwest of the intersection of Huula Drive and Wala Drive along the border of the City of Oceanside and Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base. The Foss Lake portion consists of 11.53 acres approximately 3.5 miles to the northeast of the Hubbert Lake site, adjacent to the Oceanside Golf Course. The preserve was set aside as mitigation for construction of the Wanis View Estates residential development. SDHC will manage both open space habitats in order to protect the sensitive species that call this part of Oceanside “home.”

The preserve supports Diegan coastal sage scrub, native grassland, non-native grassland, southern willow scrub, alkali meadow, alkali marsh, alkali flat, freshwater marsh, tamarisk scrub, and disturbed wetland. These protected areas provide a safe haven for a number of sensitive bird species, including: least Bell’s vireo (federally and state endangered), coastal California gnatcatcher (federally threatened), Cooper’s hawk, yellow warbler, yellow-breasted chat, and white-tailed kite. These sites also have the potential to support such sensitive plant species as San Diego thornmint (federally threatened and state endangered), ashy spike-moss, Blochman’s dudleya, Cleveland’s goldenstar, Palmer grappling hook, San Diego marsh elder, San Diego sagewort, southwestern spiny rush, thread-leaved brodiaea, and western dichondra.

The Foss Lake portion is part of a wildlife corridor that includes Pilgrim Creek Ecological Reserve to the north, Whelan Ranch Preserve to the west, and Wilmont & Morro Hills Preserve to the east. The Hubbert Lake portion is bound to the west and north by open space. Both preserve areas are part of a larger regional vision to link open space land throughout the area. SDHC will coordinate with the City of Oceanside, neighboring landowners, educational institutions, and wildlife agencies to ensure a coordinated effort to preserve the natural resources of this region.

SDHC was established in 2000 and manages a number of open space easements throughout the San Diego region, preserving and managing sensitive habitat and species that are unique to our southern California environment. SDHC strives to share our knowledge and appreciation of our natural environment with the San Diego community, encouraging participation in the stewardship of our region’s precious open space. The mission of SDHC is *to conserve and manage sensitive habitats and species while inspiring land stewardship through education and outreach.*

For more information please contact Don Scoles at (619) 365-4839 or via email at dons@sdhabitat.org.