



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

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Restoration of Wetlands Complete; SDHC Becomes Steward of the Laurel Tree Lane Open Space Preserve

Carlsbad, California – After a 10-year restoration and approval process, San Diego Habitat Conservancy (SDHC) is now actively managing the 8.0-acre Laurel Tree Lane Open Space Preserve in Carlsbad which is located along Encinas Creek, just south of Palomar Airport Road and east of Aviara Parkway. The preserve is an identified hardline preserve area within the City of Carlsbad's Habitat Management Plan and links other open space areas within the City including Emerald Pointe Open Space Preserve, an adjacent property managed by SDHC.

The restoration efforts provide mitigation for wetland areas impacted by nearby construction. The restoration successfully enhanced the riparian habitat along Encinas Creek, developed a native habitat buffer along the riparian corridor, and expanded wetland areas. The preserve currently consists of southern cottonwood-willow riparian forest, Diegan coastal sage scrub, and southern mixed chaparral, among other habitat types. Species of special interest include the least Bell's vireo, a riparian-dwelling bird listed as endangered on both a federal and state level. Just outside of the preserve boundary is a public pedestrian trail which is part of the City of Carlsbad's trail network.

SDHC's long-term management duties include quarterly monitoring visits to document changes in habitat composition and assess the need for remedial measures. SDHC will identify and remove invasive species (weeds), remove trash, and limit human intrusion into the site as well as perform outreach with the neighboring community to garner their support in protecting these sensitive resources.

SDHC, a nationally accredited land trust, was established in 2000 and manages a number of open space preserves 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 the 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 dons@sdhabitat.org.