



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 9, 2018

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Don Scoles (619) 365-4839

6.2 Acres of Open Space Protected at Sage Creek High School: San Diego Habitat Conservancy is the long-term manager of Sage Creek High School Open Space Preserve

Carlsbad, California - After years of planning, Sage Creek High School Open Space Preserve in the City of Carlsbad is now under easement and will permanently preserve 6.2 acres of habitat crucial to the survival of native species in San Diego County. San Diego Habitat Conservancy (SDHC) will be the long-term manager of the preserve responsible for stewardship of the site in perpetuity.

The preserve area was set aside as mitigation for development of Sage Creek High School. As part of a five-year restoration effort completed in 2017, a 2.2-acre portion of the site was restored from agricultural land back to coastal sage scrub, a native habitat type critical to the survival of many sensitive species. Many sensitive plant species can be found on-site, including small-flowered morning glory and California adolphia, while a number of sensitive animal species have a high potential to occur as well. In order to protect these species, public access to the preserve will not be allowed. The site is also adjacent to other important preserved habitat, including the California Department of Fish & Wildlife's Carlsbad Highlands Ecological Reserve, creating an expanded conserved area within the City of Carlsbad.

SDHC staff will visit the preserve on a regular basis to assess its status, monitor changes in habitat quality and composition, and perform weeding efforts in order to keep invasive plants in check. Every effort will be taken to ensure the valuable native resources on-site are allowed to thrive.

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.