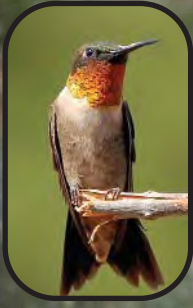


Outdoors in Orange County



Photos: Gary Zahm, hummingbird: CanStockPhoto.com



Deer

Living with Wild Neighbors

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 wild areas that allows for safety in each.



Melanie Schlotterbeck

Coyote

Coyotes, for example, are generally not welcome guests in our yards and we should do what we can to discourage them and to keep them wary of humans. Don't accidentally or intentionally invite them over. Not leaving pet food or water outside over night 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 often seize our pets, these predators are just doing what comes naturally. So keep your pets inside.

Believe it or not, another result 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.



Dreamstime.com

House cat

One animal that does great harm to birds in our natural lands are house cats. It is estimated that across the country these pets are responsible for killing up to a billion birds and small lizards a year. If you really enjoy birds, thank the coyotes, neuter your cats, and keep them indoors.

You can also be a good neighbor to wildlands areas by heeding what they need. Don't leave pet food or water outside. Storing tempting jars and cans outdoors can be death traps when curious mammals like skunks and opossums get their heads stuck inside. Wildlife need privacy and darkness so aim your outdoor lights downward. They also don't like loud noises. In springtime, nesting birds can be frightened away from a nest if you blare music outside.

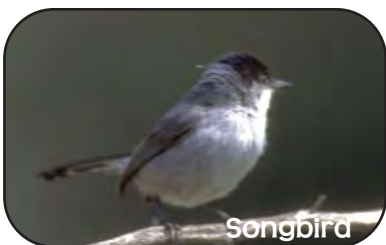


Dreamstime.com

Rattlesnake

Certainly some of the more unwelcome visitors to yards are rattlesnakes. If you spot one, back away slowly. They don't like you any more than you like them. And don't head for the shovel; head for the water hose. Spray them with a jet spray to move them away. And beware that if it is a young rattlesnake, it is more dangerous than an adult snake. Not only do the babies have a lot of venom, but they have not yet learned how to regulate it when they bite. In addition, snakes often come in litters of 12. Snakes like to sun themselves to regulate their temperature so they may be out in the open or curled up in a lava rock.

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



Alissa Ing

Songbird



Dreamstime.com

Skunk



Dreamstime.com

Raccoon

Status of Development Projects

Various conservation and community groups throughout the County are working to protect important natural lands. Below is a table summary of the status of some of those major

projects. These sites are shown as “pink” on the Green Vision Map for their active status. (Note: EIR = Environmental Impact Report, NOP = Notice of Preparation of an EIR)

Project Name	Acres	Jurisdiction	Proposal	Status	Learn More at:
Aliso Mainstem	70	Laguna Beach	26 drop structures	Awaiting Plan	www.LagunaCoalition.org
Banning Ranch	402	Newport Beach	1,375 housing units	Drafting EIR	www.BanningRanchConservancy.org
Canyon Crest	367	Brea	167 executive houses	Redrafting EIR	www.StopCanyonCrest.org
Coyote Hills	510	Fullerton	760 housing units	Council Denied	www.CoyoteHills.org
Ferber Ranch	444	County of Orange	96 luxury units	Awaiting NOP	www.SaddlebackCanyon.org
Goodell	6	Huntington Beach	Annexation	Council Deciding	www.BolsaChicaLandTrust.org
Holtz Ranch	319	County of Orange	12 ranchettes	In Litigation	www.CanyonLand.org
Shell-Aera	3,000	Brea/Diamond Bar	3,600 housing units	Awaiting EIR	www.SaveTheMissingMiddle.org
Sully Miller	109	Orange	460 high density units	Awaiting EIR	www.OPACommunityAction.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 endangered?

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

State Parks Repair Backlog Tops \$1 Billion

Roofs and sewage systems in state parks leak, restrooms aren’t cleaned regularly, trails are washed out, 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 reprieves kept them open. But nearly 150 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 of 2010. 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 river parkways, wildlife, natural lands, and ocean conservation programs.

Californians to Get Free, Year-Round Parks Admission

Funding will come from an \$18 annual State Park Access Pass surcharge on all California vehicles, including motorcycles and recreational vehicles. Larger commercial vehicles, mobile homes and permanent trailers will be

exempt. Vehicles subject to the surcharge will receive free, year-round admission to all state parks. In comparison, park visitors currently pay up to \$125 for an annual pass or \$10-\$15 per day at most parks.

Tough Safeguards Protect Public Funds

Spending from the Trust Fund will be subject to oversight by a citizen’s board, full public disclosure and independent annual audits. Money from the general fund - currently spent on parks - will be available for other vital needs, like schools, health care, social services or public safety.

Parks Strengthen the Economy

Ensuring stable and adequate funding for state parks and wildlife will strengthen California’s economy, improve public health, and protect natural resources.

State parks, which include historic sites and state beaches, attract millions of tourists every year. Those visitors spend \$4.32 billion annually on park-related goods and services in California - or an average of \$57.63 in the surrounding community on each visit, according to a recent study.

Parks also entice visitors to exercise and lead healthier lifestyles, and they contribute to the public health by protecting forests and natural areas that are sources of clean air and water.

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.YesForStateParks.com. With your help, California’s endangered state parks can become the best once again. If you have any questions, please call Ann Newton at (818) 760-2121, or visit www.YesForStateParks.com.

Jan Vandersloot Missed, But Recently Honored

By: Flossie Horgan, 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 Community Leader. 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 ELI 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 signal accomplishment was a 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.

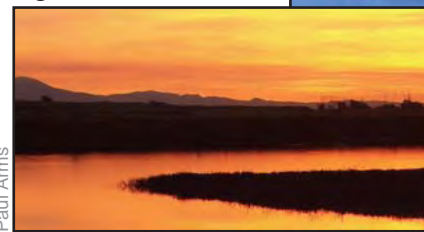
In 1996, Jan was an influential member of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust (BCLT) board when the Trust sued the California Coastal Commission over its plan to allow development of the Bolsa Chica. The Trust successfully argued the plan violated the California Coastal Act. The decision in our favor now protects 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, requiring it to fully treat the sewage it 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 13. The League granted Jan 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 recognized.



Paul Arms

Natural Lands Preservation and Restoration Begins Soon!

By: Jean Watt

In 2005, more than thirty conservation and community groups supported the 1/2 cent transportation sales tax measure, Renewed Measure M. The Measure included an innovative tool to comprehensively mitigate the impacts of 13 county-wide freeway projects by pooling the per project mitigation money and spending it on big picture acquisitions, restoration sites, and management requirements. The Environmental Coalition that Supported Measure M 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 properties 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 habitat types that will be impacted by the freeway projects. The Committee will soon make recommendations to the OCTA Board for its first round of funding, totalling \$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. *Properties/Projects supported by the Coalition are in italics.*

Acquisitions

Tier 1

- Ferber Ranch*
- Hayashi*
- Holtz Ranch*
- MacPherson*
- Mitchell West*
- O'Neill Oaks*
- Saddle Creek South*
- Saddleback Meadows*
- Saddleback Valley*
- Christian School*
- Sienna Summit*
- Sky Ranch*
- Takahashi*
- The Hafen Estates*
- Watson*

Tier 2

- Adams*
- Deer Canyon*
- Mitchell East*
- Saddleback Vineyards*
- Thier Property 1*
- Thier Property 2*

Restorations

Tier 1

- Chino Hills State Park*
- City Parcel (San Juan Cap)*
- Fairview Park*
- Irvine Ranch*
- O.C. Great Park*
- UCI Ecological Reserve*

Tier 2

- Big Bend*
- Harriet Wieder*
- Regional Park*
- Imperial/SR-91*
- Southern Open Space*
- Upper Buck Gully*



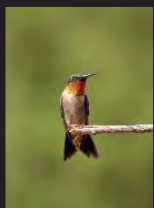
Melanie Schlotterbeck

Birds of a feather...

Be a part of Friends of Harbors, Beaches & Parks.

Help our practical, realistic projects make Orange County a better home for all of us.

Your help, large or small, is deeply appreciated.



Friends of Harbors, Beaches & Parks
P.O. Box 9256
Newport Beach, CA 92658

Yes! I want to help Friends of Harbors, Beaches & Parks.

FHBP contributions are tax-deductible. Donors receive newsletters and other information on our conservation activities. Please check the category you wish:

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Please clip and mail to: FHBP, P.O. Box 9256, Newport Beach, CA 92658

Projects Exempt from Review

By: Melanie Schlotterbeck

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was written 40 years ago and requires that the environmental 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 water, the land, etc. Another significant 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 those bills. If approved, these bills will exempt 125 projects from the environmental review process entirely. The Governor would allow the Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing Administration to select 25 projects a year for five 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 be challenged in court -- the project will move forward without 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.

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Cogged Stone Site on Historic Register

The 8,500 year-old village and cemetery site, CA-ORA-83, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on July 10, 2009. Situated on the upper bench of the Bolsa Chica Mesa, the site is known internationally as the production and redistribution site for the unique cog-like stone sculptures we call cogged stones. More than 700 cogged 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.

1



Cogged Stone

Visit: www.CCRPA.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 Natural Community 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 FBI 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.

2



The Naval Air Station

Visit: www.EHLeague.org

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 760 new houses. The march was underway by 5:00 PM, with the traffic congestion on Harbor strongly foretelling 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, bye-bye 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 (parkland), this decision is a good first step.

3



Supporters Rally

Visit: www.CoyoteHills.org

League Honors OC Heroes

On Thursday, May 13, 2010 the Orange County League of Conservation Voters (OCLCV) held its Annual Fundraising Awards Dinner. This year the League honored Melanie Schlotterbeck for her dedication and leadership with so many environmental issues in Orange County. Other awardees included: the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy, the Orange County Green Building Council, and a special Lifetime Environmental Achievement Award in memory of Jan Vandersloot. It was a lively, inspirational event and offered a great time to network, see old friends and make new acquaintances. The event was held at the University Club at the UCI Campus.

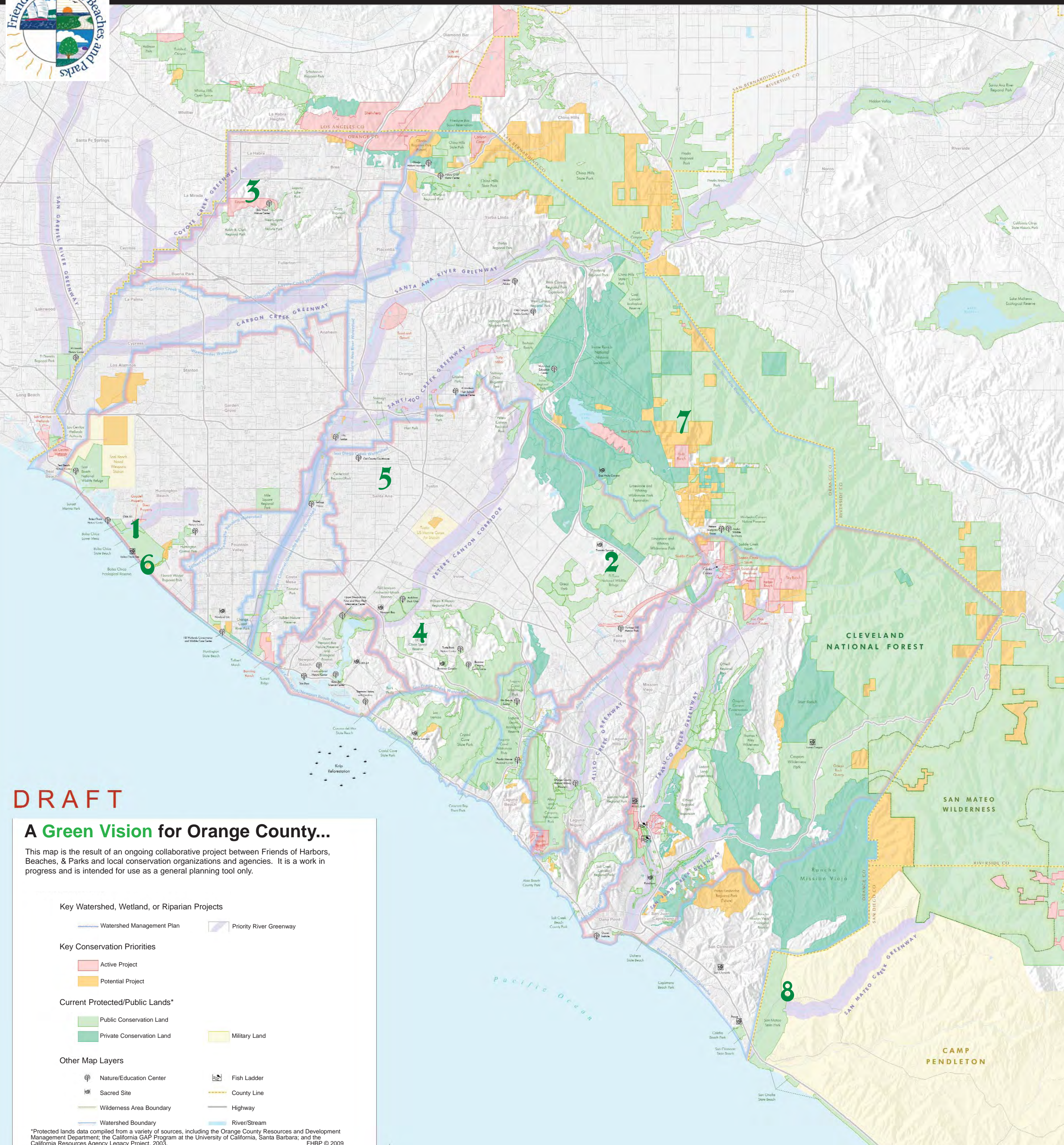
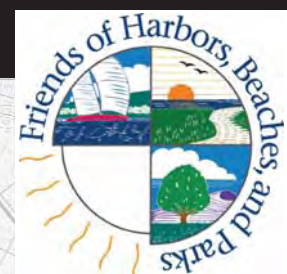
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The OCLCV Awards Dinner

Learn More: KShanfield@aol.com

Orange County



DRAFT

A Green Vision for Orange County...

This map is the result of an ongoing collaborative project between Friends of Harbors, Beaches, & Parks and local conservation organizations and agencies. It is a work in progress and is intended for use as a general planning tool only.

- Key Watershed, Wetland, or Riparian Projects**
 - Watershed Management Plan
 - Priority River Greenway
- Key Conservation Priorities**
 - Active Project
 - Potential Project
- Current Protected/Public Lands***
 - Public Conservation Land
 - Private Conservation Land
 - Military Land
- Other Map Layers**
 - Nature/Education Center
 - Sacred Site
 - Wilderness Area Boundary
 - Watershed Boundary
 - Fish Ladder
 - County Line
 - Highway
 - River/Stream

*Protected lands data compiled from a variety of sources, including the Orange County Resources and Development Management Department; the California GAP Program at the University of California, Santa Barbara; and the California Resources Agency Legacy Project, 2003. FHPB © 2009

Green Vision Map

Local Land Use Supported by League

5

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.



Anaheim homes

Visit: <http://ocilo.ca.lwnet.org/>

Bolsa Chica Work Continues

6

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 Harbor, and the Shipley Nature Center.



Docents at Bolsa Chica

Visit: www.AmigosDeBolsaChica.org

Tree Hugger's Ball on June 12

7

The sixth annual Tree Hugger's Ball and Go Green Expo is slated for June 12, near the proposed Black Star Wilderness Park in Silverado Canyon. The event features live folk music (Lost Hills), celtic blue grass (Sligo Rags) and rock and roll performed by the Grateful Dead cover band, Cubensis. The Expo includes booths and demonstrations by environmentally friendly businesses and organizations and food vendors. Proceeds support the efforts of the Canyon Land Conservation Fund 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.



The Ball

Visit: www.TreeHuggersBall.org

Toll Road Path to Change?

8

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 trainings. A change in road alignment would negatively impact the Navy's training missions and field operations.



San Onofre

Visit: www.SaveSanOnofre.com