



greenfootnotes

Room to Move: Why Habitat Linkages Matter

BY ALICE KAUFMAN LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DIRECTOR



Habitat connectivity is about understanding the lives and needs of all the species in our region and giving them what they require to survive. One of those things is the ability to move from one habitat range to another. That’s why we focus some of our strongest advocacy efforts on the habitat linkages that are the key to protecting the plants and animals that make the Bay Area a biodiversity hotspot. There are only a few of these critical habitat linkages left — and they’re increasingly at risk from development.

The Santa Cruz Mountains form the green spine of the Peninsula, an oasis of natural habitat running through San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. These hills are home to redwood and oak forests, grasslands and chaparral, creeks, and streams. But the Santa Cruz Mountains are also a fragmented landscape – meaning that even though there are large blocks of protected habitat, these blocks are often separated by roads, patches of development, and other barriers to wildlife movement. Furthermore, this area is at risk of becoming cut off from other large habitat areas in California. If that happens, inbreeding and inability to disperse to find food and mates could spell disaster for many wildlife populations, with

cascading effects on the entire local ecosystem. Climate change, bringing changes in habitat, increased fire risk, and water scarcity, makes it even more imperative to allow species to move out of their usual ranges.

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We are a grassroots 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to protect open spaces, farmlands, and natural resources in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties for the benefit of all through advocacy, education, and grassroots action.

We envision a resilient region where wildlife thrive, everyone has natural beauty to enjoy, and communities live in balance with nature.

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What Have You Learned from These Extraordinary Times?

BY MEGAN FLUKE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Have you gained something since March of 2020? When this pandemic is over, will you try to go back to life as you once knew it? Or has this experience changed your perspective on what life should look like?

It can't be sugar-coated, the pandemic has been catastrophic and traumatic. You likely know someone who struggled having kids at home 24/7 or lost their job, or even worse, lost their life. Some folks were in a position to adapt easily, while others barely held on day-to-day. Yet, almost everyone has experienced one thing during the pandemic: more time at home.

Pre-pandemic, we were all way too busy moving from place to place. Too busy to take care of our bodies, our families, and for the multiple social and environmental crises of our time.

And then came circumstances that forced us to look inward, bringing about the opportunity for radically positive change. In an instant, systemic racism and the environment around us were at the forefront of discussions. Our slower lives - now forced into a new and yet familiar space - revealed what can and should be. People experienced more family time and sleep, started gardening and cooking, and enjoyed cleaner air, birds singing, and parks close to home.

Years before the pandemic, experts told us that one of the best ways to change behaviors to benefit our well-being and the environment was to have more time. It's safe to say that they were right.

As we move closer towards a post-pandemic life, you might be asking yourself: "What brings me the most joy and what is most important to me?" For me, I'm going to keep up with family time, gardening, singing, fighting for racial justice, and continuing my education. I refuse to go back to the frazzled life I knew pre-pandemic. I will never take a hug for granted again.

May we protect our time as if our lives depend on it, because they do. A weekly eight-hour commute should not be normal for anyone. Let's be patient and kind to one another and hard on the systems not serving us. May we be true to ourselves and lead the lives we always dreamed for the benefit of our bodies, our neighbors, and the environment. The planet and all living things that depend on it will thank us.

In service and love,

Megan Fluke

P.S.: On behalf of all of us with Green Foothills, thank you for your generous support during the pandemic and always. It is making a big difference.

Welcome New Donors!

January 1, 2021-July 15, 2021

Philippa Barr

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Jean Binay

Carlin Black

Sheila Brogna

Barbara Correia

Michael Cox

Kristina Cunningham

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Protect the people and land you love

Green Foothills has teamed up with FreeWill to help you complete one simple act of care, both for your loved ones and for the open spaces, farmlands, and natural resources of the foothills: **creating your legal will or trust, for free.**

Your will doesn't only steward your assets forward — it's also a powerful way to support a future where wildlife can thrive, everyone has natural beauty to enjoy, and our communities live in balance with nature. And now, with FreeWill, you can cross an essential legal task off your list and be a part of protecting San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties forever, all at no cost today.

Visit FreeWill.com/GreenFoothills to get started, for free!



Experts agree that the only remaining linkages between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the rest of the state are through Coyote Valley (just south of San Jose) and Juristac (southwest of Gilroy). In every other location, wildlife movement is effectively blocked by the urban development of Silicon Valley. This is one reason why these two landscapes are the focus of major advocacy campaigns at Green Foothills: they are lifelines for animals in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

COYOTE VALLEY — A DIFFICULT PATH

Coyote Valley is a critical wildlife linkage connecting the Santa Cruz Mountains to the Diablo Range. Wildlife tracking studies have repeatedly found numerous animals—mountain lions, coyotes, bobcats, deer, badgers, gray foxes, and others—in and around the valley floor. Animals have also been documented crossing the two major barriers of Highway 101 and Monterey Road via culverts and underpasses. However, animals traveling through Coyote Valley must run a gauntlet of dangers, including speeding vehicles and ingestion of rodenticide. Monterey Road in particular is a serious barrier, with only one somewhat functional undercrossing – a culvert that can be blocked by debris or high water. Nighttime lights, noise, and human activity also hamper wildlife passage and habitat in much of Coyote Valley. As a result, although Coyote Valley functions as a wildlife linkage, it is a highly impacted one and forms a very tenuous lifeline for the animals that utilize it.

At the core of this issue is the popular assumption that all that animals need for survival is a “wildlife corridor”—in other words, people often think that as long as it is technically possible for an animal to physically move from one area to another, wildlife connectivity has been achieved. This is a fundamental misconception about the nature of wildlife movement. Most animals instinctively avoid human activity and will travel for hours or even days to get through a developed area in order to avoid vehicles and other perceived dangers. Without intentional restoration, the journey across “wildlife corridors” like Coyote Valley with limited human interaction, is stressful for animals and can affect their health. What is needed for true connectivity are “habitat linkages”—broad swaths of fully-functional habitat that allow normal ecological processes to occur. Large mammals such as coyotes and bobcats need smaller prey animals to survive, and those smaller animals need the appropriate vegetation for foraging and breeding. A functioning linkage needs a functioning ecosystem. And it needs

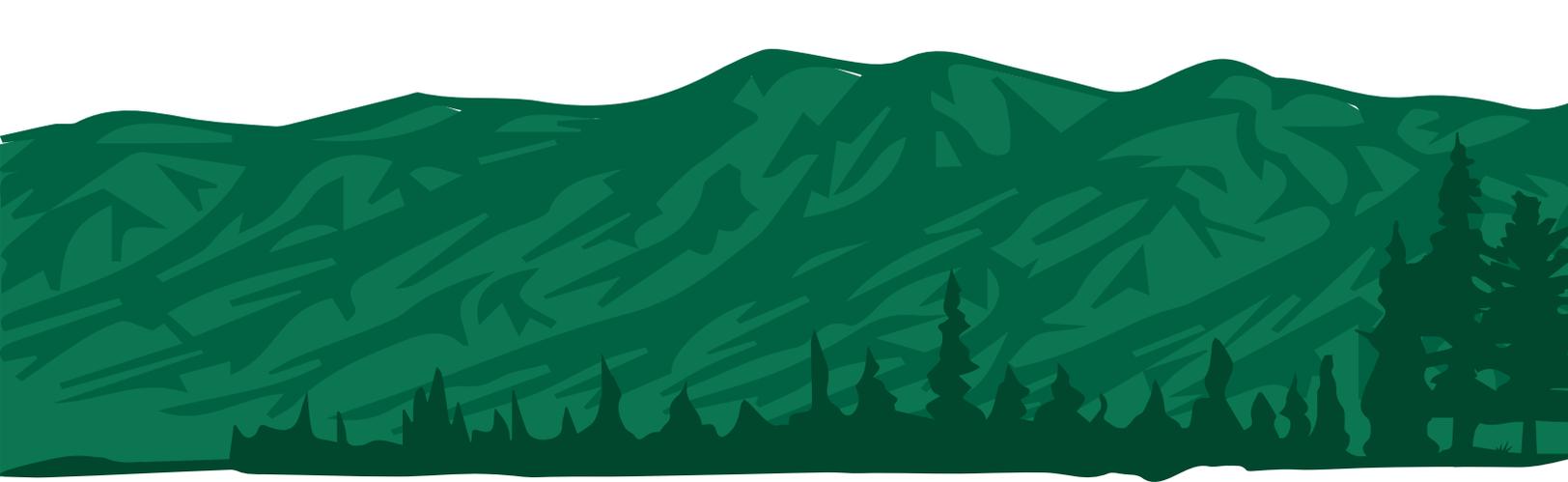
to be much wider than the popular image of a “wildlife corridor.” Studies have concluded that a linkage at least 1.2 miles wide is necessary for Coyote Valley to provide both “live-in” and “move-through” habitat.

OUR GOAL: A TRUE HABITAT LINKAGE IN COYOTE VALLEY

Green Foothills, together with our partners, has been working towards this goal for a long time. With Coyote Valley the target of development proposals for everything from massive tech campuses to warehouses, our first concern has been to stop these projects from destroying even the limited ability of animals to travel through Coyote Valley. At the same time, we knew that funding was needed to acquire and permanently conserve this land. We worked hard to pass 2018’s Measure T, which provided \$50 million for this purpose. In 2019, we celebrated the purchase of almost 1,000 acres of the most at-risk land in North Coyote Valley by a coalition of the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (the Authority), and the City of San Jose. Since then, POST and the Authority have acquired several smaller parcels along the Fisher Creek corridor in Mid Coyote Valley. Each permanently protected parcel brings us closer to the goal of a true habitat linkage in Coyote Valley.

We continue to advocate to prevent development and prioritize conservation in Coyote Valley. We are leading the effort to amend the San Jose General Plan to change North Coyote Valley’s land use designation from industrial to agriculture and open space; the San Jose City Council will vote on this in late fall. In Mid and South Coyote Valley, which are in the jurisdiction of Santa Clara County, we are championing a proposal for a Climate Action Overlay Zone that would prevent overly large and inappropriate development; the County Board of Supervisors is expected to vote in the fall. We are partnering with local tribes and supporting an inclusive community engagement process as part of the Coyote Valley Conservation Area Master Plan. Finally, we are working to ensure that the high-speed rail alignment through Coyote Valley includes adequate environmental considerations, including undercrossing structures that will help animals of all sizes cross beneath not only the high-speed rail embankment, but also underneath





Monterey Road—thus improving permeability across this roadkill hotspot.

JURISTAC — GATEWAY TO THE SOUTH

At the southern end of the Santa Cruz Mountain range lies a landscape with an incredible variety of habitats and geological features, from rolling hills to nearly pristine sycamore riparian woodlands to rare natural tar seeps. This is Juristac, the sacred heart of the ancestral territory of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band. For thousands of years, the Mutsun lived and held sacred ceremonies here, in the hills above the confluence of the San Benito and Pajaro Rivers.

Although Juristac provides habitat for many at-risk species, including mountain lion, American badger, California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, and golden eagle, the critical significance of Juristac for habitat connectivity lies in its location. The Santa Cruz Mountains come to an end at Juristac, and in order for species here to travel across the Pajaro River valley to the Diablo Range to the east, or across the Chittenden Gap to the Gabilan Range to the south, they must pass through Juristac. [See map]

But Juristac is threatened by a proposed sand and gravel mine that would severely impact these linkages. The Sargent Ranch Quarry would excavate four pits hundreds of feet deep in the hillsides of Juristac, literally scooping out these hills and leaving behind giant cavities. These pits, together with the new roads for heavy machinery, a conveyor belt more than a mile long to move the sand and gravel, and a waste processing plant the size of 10 football fields, would form a major barrier to wildlife movement. Aside from the physical destruction of the landscape, the noise and activity involved in an open-pit mining operation would deter many animals from venturing near the site. Further, the mining pits and roads connecting them would lie directly across a critical undercrossing for Highway 101.

OUR GOAL: PROTECTING JURISTAC

Green Foothills is partnering with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band in their effort to protect Juristac as a landscape linkage and sacred place. Santa Clara County has been working on a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Sargent Ranch mine for several years. The County has continually delayed its release, but the most recent information from the County is that the draft EIR is expected in late 2021. In the meantime, Green Foothills, the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, and our partners are working to keep this important issue in the public eye.

SPECIES NEED ROOM TO MOVE

Protecting open space is about more than just preventing development on parcels of land—it means meeting all the needs of the diverse species in our region, including the room to move. When we protect, enhance, and restore our local habitat linkages, we’re working to safeguard the biodiversity and richness of the Bay Area ecosystem and making this a place where wildlife truly thrives and communities live in balance and reciprocity with nature.



Alice Kaufman is our Legislative Advocacy Director and has been on staff since 2012. She leads Green Foothills campaigns in both San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, including the Cargill Salt Ponds, Coyote Valley, and Juristac.

nature's inspiration

Honoring Blanca Alvarado
& Rod Diridon, Sr.



Blaze Trails at Our 2021 Nature's Inspiration

Please join us virtually on October 3rd for our 18th annual celebration honoring Blanca Alvarado and Rod Diridon, Sr. For more than half a century, these two former Santa Clara County Supervisors have dared to blaze trails that have profoundly shaped the county's landscape leaving an enduring legacy of environmental protection and stewardship.

ABOUT THE EVENT

As part of this virtual celebration, we'll enjoy a pre-recorded message and musical performance from Grammy award-winning Indigo Girls. The event will include a silent online auction with chances to win exclusive getaways and instant wine cellars. Every sponsorship and \$150 ticket purchase includes a voucher to pick up a delicious locally-made pie (vegan and gluten free options available).

COMMUNITY GRANT

Green Foothills leverages our annual celebration to highlight and support tribes and community-based organizations. We have selected the following four entities to receive 5% of proceeds generated through Nature's Inspiration:



iSÍ SE PUEDE!
COLLECTIVE



WHY SUPPORT GREEN FOOTHILLS

Nature's Inspiration underwrites about 30% of Green Foothills' annual expenses. We depend on funds raised from this event to support our advocacy, education, and grassroots action. Our impact is clear. Since 1962, over 185,000 acres have been permanently protected supporting the vision of a resilient region where wildlife thrive, everyone has natural beauty to enjoy, and communities live in balance with nature.



Tickets Now On Sale

\$150 regular ticket - includes a delicious pie
\$50 discounted ticket - in appreciation of restricted budgets; made possible with the support of our sponsors (\$50 tax deduction)



Auction Donations Welcome

Our popular silent auction, Local Treasures, is in need of additional in-kind donations such as fine wine, great art or literature, vacation getaway ideas, or other special items.



Sponsorships Still Needed

We are so grateful to our current sponsors! Sponsorships are still needed and greatly appreciated.

visit greenfoothills.org/tickets

visit greenfoothills.org/auction/donate

visit greenfoothills.org/sponsor

Drought Makes Our Mission More Critical

BY BRIAN SCHMIDT LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DIRECTOR



Laguna Seca, located in North Coyote Valley, acts as a buffer against flooding and as a natural water filter that protects our drinking water supply.

The familiar golden hillsides of the summer dry season have now become a reminder that we find ourselves once again in the midst of an unusually severe drought, just five years after the previous record-breaking dry spell. During a drought, our work preserving open space and farmland is critical to resilience in our climate-changed region.

OPEN SPACE AS SPONGE AND WATER FILTER

Ecologist Aldo Leopold advised keeping every cog and wheel as the first precaution of intelligent tinkering. This particularly applies to nature as we work to adapt to a changing climate.

Protected and stewarded open space is critical to sustaining our water supply and acts as a sponge for natural, low-cost water storage. Unimpeded by pavement, roofs, and storm sewers, the rains that fall on permeable soils percolate down to the groundwater or run to reservoirs. Four out of ten gallons of water used in Santa Clara County come from local rain absorbed through open space soils to the aquifer below. San Mateo coastal residents and some by the Bay also use local groundwater; this use is likely to increase in future years according to local governments.

Open spaces mean cleaner water. Soils, plant roots, and the plethora of microorganisms in the soil filter the pollution—lawn fertilizers and car exhaust, for example—that is found in rain run-off, providing a natural form of remediation and purification.

These characteristics also apply to well managed farmland soils, which is why we advocate for climate-smart farming practices. Healthy farming increases water percolation and filtration and helps keep food on our tables. Preserving local agriculture rather than transferring all farming to the Central Valley makes sense for another reason. The parched and overheated Central Valley has subsiding soils due to overdrawn groundwater. By comparison, the farms of Santa Clara County and coastal San Mateo turn water into food with more local rain, more forgiving temperatures,

and higher groundwater tables. This translates directly into better drought resilience.

OPEN SPACE PROMOTES BIODIVERSITY

Our decades of work to protect the habitat of many native plants and animals living in and near watercourses are also part of the drought and climate resilience picture. By safeguarding water tables and stream flows, these lands help us preserve the riparian areas, creeks, and rivers, and also the plants and animals that depend on them. Our success in preserving open space and farmland - coupled with appropriate instream flow levels - will determine the plants' and animals' ability to survive under severe drought conditions. Protecting their habitats is crucial to avoid a catastrophic loss of regional biodiversity.

THE LAND IS A GIFT

Some water experts no longer call current conditions a “drought”. With climate change, water scarcity and dry conditions are all the more normal for our golden state. This only emphasizes the importance of preserving open space land and farms as key strategies to reducing the impacts of our situation. Individually we can strengthen resilience by implementing simple water conservation practices in our homes and by landscaping with drought-resistant and native plants.

The land we work to protect is a gift and our advocacy helps to steward it. Green Foothills will continue our critical collective work to keep the gift of open space here and healthy, saving water for the people, plants, and animals of our region.



Brian Schmidt is our Legislative Advocacy Director and has worked with Green Foothills in various capacities since 2003. He leads selected campaigns in Santa Clara County, new work in San Benito County, and other projects.

Half Moon Bay Hits a Home Run with Local Coastal Plan Land Use Plan Update

BY LENNIE ROBERTS LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE

Half Moon Bay achieved a remarkable milestone in April when its Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan Update (LUP) was certified by the California Coastal Commission with no suggested modifications — a rare accomplishment for such a comprehensive document. The Commission’s unanimous vote was notable for other reasons, including its rebuff of developers’ last-minute attempts to amend the LUP to facilitate their proposed 212-unit luxury hotel/conference center and 171/space RV Park at Surf-Dunes Beach.

The new LUP reflects the city’s strong commitment to the Coastal Act and overwhelming public support for protecting Half Moon Bay’s iconic small-town character, scenic visual quality, and agricultural heritage.

The document includes strong protections for prime agricultural lands, environmentally sensitive habitats, and scenic views throughout the city; new coastal hazards policies will help ensure that beaches, dunes, and coastal bluffs are resilient in the face of sea level rise. The new plan concentrates new development, including affordable housing, within the town center, generally east of Highway 1 and south of Highway 92, while maintaining Half Moon Bay’s small-town character. Large open spaces seaward of Highway 1 and existing agricultural uses are generally slated for protection with minimal

development allowed. Future city decisions must also be consistent with the Coastal Commission’s comprehensive environmental justice policy.

“ANTIQUATED PAPER SUBDIVISIONS”—A LEGACY OF THORNY PLANNING CHALLENGES

Land Use Planning in Half Moon Bay has been challenging throughout its history. Founders in 1959 had envisioned a major urban center, with 100,000 residents by the year 1990; a network of freeways would facilitate Los Angeles-style urban sprawl stretching from Pacifica to the Santa Cruz County line. A major factor upsetting this vision was voter approval in 1972 of the California Coastal Initiative (Proposition 20) and the subsequent enactment of the California Coastal Act by the State Legislature in 1976. Under this visionary Act, every city and county with land within the Coastal Zone must adopt a Local Coastal Program that implements the land use planning and resource protection requirements of the Coastal Act. Half Moon Bay lies entirely within the Coastal Zone.

Although the entire city is therefore subject to the planning requirements of the Coastal Act, almost half of its 4,000 acres remain undeveloped. Hundreds of people still own undeveloped “paper lots” in “paper subdivisions” that were created back in the early 1900’s when land speculators laid a grid on a map

Coastal Trail in Half Moon Bay, where the new LUP will ensure strong policies preserving open space, farmland, scenic resources, and environmentally sensitive habitat areas.



without consideration of topography, geology, or other constraints.

Today these subdivisions still exist only on paper – with no physical streets, water, sewer, power or other utilities actually constructed. The new LUP includes updated policies for these undeveloped antiquated subdivisions that are designated as “Planned Development” (PD). Potential future development of many PDs is significantly constrained in any case by the presence of important natural habitats, prime agricultural soils, lack of infrastructure, and potential hazards, including bluff and watercourse erosion, flooding, landslide, and fire.

To address these constraints, a key requirement of the new LUP is that each PD area must be planned as a whole, through a Master Plan adopted by the city and certified by the Coastal Commission. Prior to any Master Plan certification, the LUP allows only a limited range of uses: agriculture, habitat restoration, trails and coastal access. Given multiple owners with divergent visions for their individual properties, the PDs will continue to be a major planning challenge.

SURF-DUNES BEACH GAINS STRONGER PROTECTIONS

At Dunes Beach, an open space area beloved by coastsiders and visitors alike, the new LUP allows only agriculture, agricultural compatible, and limited residential uses. The developers’ failure to gain amendments to the LUP for their proposed luxury hotel and RV park means their project will require major amendments later. While it is always possible

that they may continue to pursue their project, we are confident that the city council has been listening over the past three years to the concerns of thousands of residents and visitors opposing this unwise and unnecessary development. The council has no obligation to approve this unwanted development.

CHAMPIONING PERMANENT PROTECTION FOR DUNES BEACH

Half Moon Bay will now begin the second phase of the Local Coastal Program Update, which includes revisions to the zoning regulations, subdivision regulations, and other implementing ordinances. If there are any conflicts between the newly certified LUP and older ordinances, the updated LUP policies will prevail. We will continue to engage with the LUP update process, to ensure that the city fully implements it.

At every opportunity we will continue to champion protection of Dunes Beach. We are working with the Coastside Land Trust and other organizations and agencies as well as coastal citizens to protect this iconic site for farming and equestrian uses. We are also advocating protection for other important open space in Half Moon Bay.

“We are confident that the city council has been listening over the past three years to the concerns of thousands of residents and visitors opposing unwise and unnecessary development.”



Lennie Roberts has been with Green Foothills for over 50 years. In that time, she has championed the protection of the San Mateo coast and other key landscapes leading a number of critically successful and historic open space campaigns and ballot initiatives.



2021 Leadership Academy Update: Training Advocates, Uplifting Environmental Leaders

BY ANDREA FRAUME VALENCIA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY DIRECTOR

Since its inception in 2013, Green Foothills' Leadership Academy has trained local changemakers on how to practice more effective advocacy and take the next steps to build their leadership. We're in the second year of our reimagined Leadership Academy training program, characterized by a smaller cohort size, a deeper dive into environmental campaign planning, a racial equity foundation, project based-learning, and alumni partnership.

A TRAINING PROGRAM TO CULTIVATE EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY

At the heart of each cohort cycle is a core principle of Green Foothills advocacy: relationships come first. In order to both win campaigns and reach balance between nature and human activities, we need to develop an intentional awareness of the ways in which we affect others and, in turn, how they affect us.

In the Leadership Academy, we strive to create a space for our participants to build these relationships with each other while inspiring them to lead their advocacy with inclusion and liberation in mind.

Upon receiving lessons such as power mapping and equitable community engagement, participants apply their takeaways to their capstone projects, putting into practice what they learned.

THE CAPSTONE PROJECT: PRACTICING CAMPAIGN PLANNING

Central to the Leadership Academy is the capstone project: the creation of a campaign plan with optional implementation. Designing and leading their own campaigns which advance conservation and anti-racism, this year's cohort has rallied around five very different local concerns to apply their class learnings.

In North Fair Oaks, a small team is taking strategic steps to build up this unincorporated area's environmental infrastructure by organizing Climate Resilience Block Action Teams. This initiative equips the community with an organized response to environmental emergencies and consciously grounds North Fair Oaks residents' health to their ecological and civic landscape.

Another team has been coordinating their contributions to Protect Juristac's efforts to recruit more support for the protection of sacred land in South Santa Clara County through resolutions of

opposition to the sand and gravel mine by cities. A third group is taking educated steps to introduce regulations that protect vital water sources from mining activity throughout the county.

Finally, two other teams are learning about visioning and equitable community engagement through very different local land use concerns: the Ravenswood Business District Specific Plan near the bay in East Palo Alto and the closure of the Reid-Hillview Airport in East San Jose.

These groups are strategizing where to best direct energy in order to build allyship and stimulate representative community engagement.

Although the issues and solutions of all these budding campaign plans vary dramatically, they have some key things in common: they prioritize environmental protection and racial equity.

ALUMNI IMPACT: TRANSFORMATIVE WORK

The Leadership Academy's true impact is reflected in the actions and decisions that graduates take after completion. As of today, 82 alumni have entered a leadership role since completing the program in addition to joining or launching at least 14 progressive campaigns that benefit environmental justice, conservation, and racial equity. In 2020, 48 of our 200 alumni stepped into a new leadership role. At Green Foothills we are building our capacity to better support alumni in their pursuits for conservation and environmental justice.

Recently we launched our Leadership Academy Impact Page, featuring our alumni's transformative work. We encourage you to give it a look! We are honored to be in community with local leaders who are seeking and practicing solutions for the many systemic challenges that the South Bay faces. Stay tuned for the wrap-up of the 2021 cohort, open applications for the Leadership Academy class of 2022, and ongoing alumni events!



Andrea Fraume Valencia is our Leadership Academy Director since 2020. Using her experience in community-based education and ethnographic research, she leads the 8-month training program, the collaborative capstone project, and active alumni network.

Green Foothills is Watching...

San Mateo County

CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO — which is considering whether to allow over 5 million square feet of commercial office development directly adjacent to Bay tidal marshlands.

CITY OF REDWOOD CITY — where a development proposal that would put 350 residential units on restorable wetlands and tidal marsh is being reviewed by regulatory agencies. The development, called Laguna Sequoia, must obtain permits to fill wetlands from the state and federal government before they can apply to Redwood City for approval.

SAN MATEO COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION — which will be considering the long-awaited “Connect the Coastside,” a comprehensive traffic management plan that will identify priority projects to improve mobility and accommodate the Midcoast’s future transportation needs. We have been advocating for measures to reduce residential buildout and local vehicle trips in order to ensure that there is sufficient capacity on Highways 1 and 92 to accommodate visitors to the coast.

Santa Clara County

CITY OF SAN JOSE — which is poised to take the final steps in amending its General Plan to change the land use designation for North Coyote Valley from industrial to open space and agriculture. The Planning Commission is expected to vote in October on the proposed changes.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS — which will vote this fall on a proposed Climate Change Overlay Zone for Mid and South Coyote Valley. The Overlay Zone would prohibit monster homes and encourage climate-smart agriculture and preservation of open space in Coyote Valley.



Green Foothills Applauds...

San Mateo County

CITY OF HALF MOON BAY — for approving the purchase of six vacant lots in the oceanfront “West of Railroad” area in order to better manage bluff/cliff retreat, maintain public access along the Coastal Trail, and protect the area’s important wetlands, coastal terrace prairie, and other sensitive habitats. Approximately 25% of this area has already been protected, the city is planning more acquisitions.



Santa Clara County

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS —

- for rejecting a proposed 8-home subdivision on Open Space Reserve land near Santa Teresa County Park.
- for amending the County General Plan to stop, as much as state laws allows, RV parks from expanding and converting into permanent housing developments far outside of city limits where high density development belongs.
- for voting unanimously to direct staff to research potentially sharing enforcement with Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District of a long-neglected environmental easement protecting Lehigh Quarry.



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Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Hertha Harrington



Hertha Harrington, passionate friend of nature and Green Foothills board member for 13 years, passed away this May. Her legacy endures both in the forests that surround us and in the friends she made.

Hertha was a shining example of Jane Goodall's words,

“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what difference you want to make.”

To read more about Hertha and her enduring legacy, visit greenfoothills.org/hertha



Upcoming Events

For a full and updated calendar of events, please visit greenfoothills.org/calendar.



Nature's Inspiration
Sunday, October 3rd



**Leadership Academy Refresher:
Cultural Humility in Advocacy**
Thursday, November 4th