

Big Plans for the Year Ahead

BY MEGAN FLUKE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's almost spring! Much of the country is still hunkered down for a long season of snow and ice, but here in the Bay Area we're looking forward to sunny winter days ahead after the recent historic January rainfall.

We have big plans for 2023. This year we will be protecting wildlife habitat and linkages, increasing parkland and equitable access to green space, supporting the Muwekma and Amah Mutsun tribes in gaining access to and ownership of their traditional lands, training a cohort of 30 in environmental justice advocacy including interpretation for six Spanish-speakers, and offering healing outdoor experiences for the community. For the latest news, make sure you're signed up to receive our email newsletter (greenfoothills.org/subscribe).

Spring, specifically March, also brings Green Foothills' fiscal year-end. We are grateful to everyone who has contributed recently, as each donor and contribution lifts up our work and impact. If you haven't, please make your gift before March 31, when our fiscal year ends. If you have, please encourage a friend or family member to contribute.

A Change in How We Do Our Annual Reports

As always, we are committed to making the best use of every dollar contributed and are continuing to implement cost savings this year so we spend even more on our programs and less on administration and fundraising. One example is switching to an online-only annual report to reduce printing and mailing costs. Never fear though, you can still find a summary of the report in this newsletter! Please see our full 2022 annual report online (greenfoothills.org/2022report) along with a celebration of our 978 wonderful donors from 2022 (greenfoothills.org/OurDonorCommunity).

Changes on Our Board and Advisory Board

Thank you to Ricardo Samaniego, who is terming off our Board of Directors after eight years of service and will now join our Advisory Board. And gratitude to Margaret MacNiven, who is leaving our Advisory Board after 20 years of service at Green Foothills as she joins the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District as its newest director. I would also like to welcome folks who recently joined our advisory board: Jennifer Chang Hetterly, Tate Cohn, Julie Dominguez, Smita Garg, and Amari Thomas.

I am feeling so optimistic about 2023, especially in community with you. Thank you for all you do for our local natural environment.

We are a grassroots 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to protect open space, farmland, 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 thrives, everyone has natural beauty to enjoy, and communities live in balance with nature

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Leadership Program Grads Are Making a Difference

With more than 240 graduates since 2013, our Leadership Program is growing a larger and more inclusive conservation movement. Through the training series, local changemakers clarify their leadership goals and sharpen their advocacy skills. Alumni are supported in their advancement into leadership roles at nonprofits, agencies, and community-based groups. Learn more at greenfoothills.org/leadership-program.

Here are a few alumni who are making a difference.



OFELIA BELLO was hired at age 26 as Executive Director of East Palo Alto-based nonprofit Youth United for Community Action (YUCA). At YUCA she has leveraged the skills she learned in the Leadership Program, including engaging with elected officials, community organizing, civic engagement, and designing campaigns for tangible impact.



BRYAN BECK has been involved with Green Foothills for many years, including as a board member from 2013-21. The Leadership Program gave him more insight into what advocacy entails. He found the training in how to present comments effectively in public meetings especially valuable. Since graduating he has joined the Leadership Program Advisory Committee, supporting curriculum review, cohort recruitment, leadership placement of graduates, mentorship for the current cohort, and seminars that Green Foothills offers for alumni.



RAVI PATHAK created Maa Durga Pariwar as part of his Leadership Program project. This initiative provides a place for members of the Indian community in San Jose's Evergreen neighborhood to gather regularly around family and cultural celebrations, and includes the wellbeing of nature and open space as part of the wellbeing of people. Networking with fellow Leadership Program participants, and learning about the wide range of issues they worked on, had a deep impact on him and helped him to find new ways to give back to his community.

ANNOUNCEMENT: BUILDING SPANISH-SPEAKING CAPACITY

This year we are welcoming six Spanish-speaking community leaders into the Leadership Program, in partnership with a language justice interpreter. Meanwhile we are exploring piloting a fully Spanish-speaking training series in 2024. This community-centric need was identified by previous applicants and alumni whose primary language is Spanish. Green Foothills sees this as a unique opportunity to elevate and act on participant feedback in order to uplift leaders who champion conservation and environmental justice in our region.

Leadership Program scholarships are made possible thanks to Adobe, Applied Materials Foundation Community Fund, the County of Santa Clara, Knight Foundation, San Mateo County Health, Sand Hill Foundation, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Guadalupe Coyote Resource Conservation District, and Green Foothills donors. Want to help make this amazing program available and affordable to all? Go to greenfoothills.org/leader-donation.

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PROTECTING JURISTAC'S WILDLIFE AND SACRED LANDSCAPE

BY ALICE KAUFMAN POLICY AND ADVOCACY DIRECTOR

The landscape of Juristac has been sacred to the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band for thousands of years, and provides critical habitat and movement corridors for multiple threatened and endangered wildlife species. Now, an open-pit sand mine is threatening this sacred Indigenous site and wildlife habitat. But an incredible groundswell of public support for protecting this landscape, led by the tribe with Green Foothills' support, is shining a spotlight on the damage that could result from the proposed quarry. With this massive public response, we know we can defeat the destructive mining proposal.

JURISTAC: A SACRED INDIGENOUS LANDSCAPE AND CRITICAL WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

Juristac is the heart of the ancestral lands of the Amah Mutsun, who lived and held sacred ceremonies there for centuries. For Mutsun people, Juristac is the home

of a powerful spiritual being known as Kuksui. The name Juristac translates to "Place of the Big Head," and Big Head dances and other healing and renewal ceremonies took place at Juristac, often attended by neighboring tribal groups. These ceremonies came to an end when many of the Mutsun people were forcibly taken against their will from Juristac to California's missions, one of the darkest chapters in our state's history. Today, a padlocked gate stands between the Amah Mutsun and their ancestral lands.

Juristac is also an ecologically significant area for multiple at-risk species. The grassy, oak-dotted hillsides are foraging grounds for golden eagles and northern harriers; the streams, ponds and wetlands in the valleys are habitat for steelhead trout, California red-legged frog, and California tiger salamander. Perhaps most important, because of its location at the very toe of the Santa Cruz Mountains south of Gilroy, Juristac is the

gateway for animals like mountain lions and badgers to migrate from the Santa Cruz Mountains to the Diablo Range in the east and the Gabilan Range in the south.

THE THREAT: AN OPEN-PIT SAND AND GRAVEL MINE

The current owner of 5,000 acres of the Juristac landscape, a Southern California-based debt acquisition company, has applied for a permit from Santa Clara County to operate an open-pit sand and gravel mine called the Sargent Ranch Quarry. This mine would destroy over 400 acres of habitat, excavating the hillsides and scooping out three giant quarry pits hundreds of feet deep. It would pump an estimated

86,000 gallons of groundwater per day. Noise from the heavy equipment at a huge industrial processing plant to sort and crush

elsewhere in the Bay Area.

"JURISTAC IS SACRED TO THE AMAH MUTSUN TRIBAL BAND... AND IS ALSO AN ECOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT AREA."

right next to the most important of the Highway 101 underpasses, the DEIR found that the quarry would block movement of mountain lions and other animals.

THE RESPONSE: MASSIVE PUBLIC OPPOSITION

As soon as the DEIR was released last July, a groundswell of opposition to this open-pit mine began growing. According to the County, thousands of comment letters have been received in response to the DEIR. The Statement of Opposition to Sargent Ranch Quarry has been signed by over 100 elected officials and organizations. Five city councils have passed resolutions opposing the mine. Over 400 community members

attended a rally held by the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to show their support for the tribe.

The massive response to the mining proposal has been greatly effective in calling attention to the issue. However, since the County received thousands of comments in response to the DEIR, it will take months – perhaps even years – before the Board of Supervisors will vote on the proposal. Therefore, we need to keep up the pressure and make sure this issue isn't forgotten.

Green Foothills is committed to keeping this issue in the public eye. With a broad coalition of similarly dedicated people and organizations, we will advocate for more local cities to pass resolutions opposing the project, garner more petition signatures and letters of support for the tribe, and do everything we can to keep up our momentum.

In July 2022, Santa Clara County published its Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Sargent Ranch Quarry. The DEIR found 14 separate significant and unavoidable impacts from the mine, including impacts to tribal cultural resources, wildlife movement, air quality, transportation, and aesthetics.

the quarried rock would echo far across the previously

undisturbed hillsides. Hundreds of truck trips per day

would take the sand and gravel to destinations

The DEIR recognized that the entirety of the Juristac landscape, not only specific archeological sites, is culturally important and would be damaged. The DEIR noted that the importance of the tribal cultural landscape is defined by its natural elements such as the hills, the creeks and rivers, the natural springs, and the views of the landscape. All of this would suffer "permanent and irreversible alterations" that no mitigation could avoid, and no post-mining reclamation could erase.

The DEIR also found that the quarry would interfere substantially with wildlife movement. Highway 101, which runs right at the foot of Juristac's hills, is a barrier to wildlife movement, and only a few underpasses allow animals to travel safely beneath the freeway. These underpasses are critically important to the survival of the Santa Cruz Mountains population of mountain lions, a candidate for listing under the California Endangered Species Act. Because the quarry would lie directly across this movement pathway, with its huge, noisy and disruptive rock processing plant

LET'S KEEP UP THE PRESSURE!

Please join us. If you haven't yet signed the petition, you can do so at protectjuristac.org. If you haven't yet submitted an email to the County, you can do so at greenfoothills.org/juristac. When this issue does come up for a vote at the County, we will alert our supporters about how to take further action. Together we can protect Juristac.



Alice Kaufman, Policy and Advocacy Director, 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.

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2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Executive Summary



Sometimes it takes years or even decades of hard work and persistence, but Green Foothills' commitment to you is to never quit until our region is a place where wildlife thrives and communities live in balance with nature. Our full annual report with details of what we accomplished together in 2022 as well as recognition of our wonderfully supportive Green Foothills community is online at **greenfoothills.org/2022report**.





SAN MATEO COUNTY

Victory! Protected wildlife at Pillar Point Bluff by ensuring the requirement for on-leash dogs remains in place.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Victory! Protected hillside from further damage with Lehigh's decision to abandon efforts to expand its mining operation and close its cement plant.

SAN JOSE

Victory! Prevented construction of a 200-foot-tall light-polluting structure next to sensitive creek habitat.

SAN JOSE

Victory! Permanently protected a critical wildlife crossing in Coyote Valley from development.



Our Impact in 2022

Advocacy Program

land use issues

in total monitored and

acres of open space protected or benefited





- **13** key wildlife and plant species benefited
- 2 policies or plans adopted by governmental agencies



- **14** were in collaboration with a total of 110 tribes, organizations, and community leaders
- **39,363** comment letters sent in response to our 17 calls to action with 14 favorable outcomes
- **155** additional letters were in response to our call to thank *legislators for their votes*

Leadership Program

local changemakers graduated

for a total of 242 alumni since 2014



alumni in a new leadership role

for a total of 109 since 2014*



initiatives won by alumni

for a total of 37 initiatives since

*year the first cohort graduated

13 initiatives launched or joined by

alumni for a total of 40 since 2014*

The Leadership Program is supported by Green Foothills donors, Adobe, Applied Materials Foundation

Community Fund, the County of Santa Clara, Knight Foundation, San Mateo County Health, Sand Hill

Financials April 1, 2021 to March 30, 2022

Income: \$1,600,062

Total revenue increased 30%, driven primarily by additional grants and new funds raised for our long-term advocacy fund.

Grants	47%
Contributions	12%
Nature's Inspiration	22%
Investment Income	1%
Lennie Roberts Advocacy Fund	18%

Expenses: \$1,418,206

Overall expenses increased due to inflation and improved compensation and benefits practices. Shifted more of our internal resources towards program delivery while improving our fundraising efficiency.

Advocacy, Education, Grassroots Action (Program)	75.6%
Fundraising	10.8%
Administration	13.6%



Green Foothills is on it. And they stay on it. I consider Green Foothills an indispensable advocate and ally."

Joe Simitian

Donor since 2004, Santa Clara County Supervisor



ence in approaching my community outreach work with Acterra. And I made new connections with fellow community leaders who were passionate about equity and

Wendy Chou

Donor since 2022, Content and

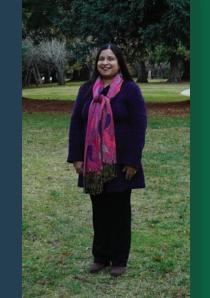
Green Foothills Leadership Program Graduate (2022)



"We are fortunate to have nature close to home. I joined the board to ensure everyone, especially the next generation, benefits from the mental, spiritual, and health benefits that immersion in nature provides."

Arpana Tiwari

Donor since 2022. Green Foothills **Board Member**



"I contribute and volunteer with Green Foothills because it makes a difference. Green Foothills advocates for nature, and nature nurtures us all. I hope you'll join us for a 2023 Healing in Nature outing."

Smita Garg

Donor since 2015, San Jose Arts Commissioner

Green Foothills Healing in Nature Facilitator, Green Foothills Advisory Board Member, Green Foothills Leadership Program Graduate (2016)

San Benito County: Onward and Upward

BY BRIAN SCHMIDT POLICY AND ADVOCACY DIRECTOR

Environmentalists often say, "Our victories are temporary, but defeats are permanent," but that isn't always true. Sometimes defeats can be temporary, too. In spite of the defeat of Measure Q in San Benito County in 2022, we still have hope and we plan to continue to partner with community leaders in the county this year.

DEFEAT OF MEASURE Q OPENS DOOR TO DESTRUCTIVE PROJECTS

Measure Q, a grassroots-born initiative that Green Foothills supported, was an open space measure that would have built on years of success fighting individual sprawl proposals in San Benito County. The measure would have broadly changed the County's General Plan to prevent such proposals generally.

Unfortunately, massive spending by developers disseminating inaccurate information doomed Measure Q. Illegal campaign spending by the County using public funds against Measure Q also had a role. We filed a complaint about this with the Fair Political Practices Commission.

The defeat of Measure Q means the door is still open for destructive projects like the "Strada Verde" proposal to develop warehouses on 1,100 acres in northern San Benito County, despite its rejection by voters just two years ago.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL VICTORIES IN 2023

Green Foothills will fight on. We will continue to oppose the destructive Strada Verde proposal. We are also

working to protect the Juristac area – which extends from Santa Clara County into San Benito County and is sacred to the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band – and also to stop an unnecessary, open-space-destroying expansion of the county landfill.

There is reason for hope. The County Supervisors who opposed Measure Q promised during the campaign to remove four large, sprawl-inducing "New Community Study Areas" from the County's General Plan. We will hold them to their promise.

There are important opportunities this year to increase other environmental protections in San Benito. The County is working on a Habitat Conservation Plan for endangered species. We were very involved with the successful Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan and are happy to contribute to the development of this one as well. We also have new opportunities to support the San Benito Resource Conservation District in its work on grant-funded, cooperative, environmental restoration projects.

So with hope, we look forward to working with the local community in the pursuit of protecting the natural landscape of this gem of a county.



Brian Schmidt, Policy and Advocacy Director, has been on staff in various capacities since 2003. He leads select campaigns in Santa Clara County and in San Benito County, along with other projects.





An Important Step Forward To Protect the Stanford Foothills

BY ALICE KAUFMAN POLICY AND ADVOCACY DIRECTOR

Protecting the Stanford foothills was the original reason for the founding of Green Foothills in 1962. These foothills encompass some of the last remaining grassland habitat for miles around approximately 2,300 acres of grassy hillsides and oak savannah that provide irreplaceable habitat for wildlife. Over the decades there have been victories and defeats, but by and large this area is still open space, thanks to advocacy by Green Foothills supporters.

A major victory came in the year 2000 when Santa Clara County approved an Academic Growth Boundary (AGB) as part of the Stanford Community Plan – the document that guides the direction of future growth on Stanford University lands in Santa Clara County. The AGB prohibits any development in the open space of the foothills west of Junipero Serra Boulevard, and a supermajority (4/5) vote of the County Board of Supervisors is required to modify or remove it. However, that requirement is currently set to expire in 2025.

Green Foothills began advocating for this supermajority requirement to be either extended or made permanent back in 2018, when Stanford applied for a General Use Permit (GUP). When the GUP application was withdrawn, we continued to urge the County to take action before the 2025 deadline. We pointed out that Stanford has plenty of space within its existing campus footprint for future growth – in fact, a recent study by the County found that Stanford could nearly triple its current density without going beyond the AGB and without becoming denser than other universities.

The County moved ahead with amendments to the Community Plan, and in December 2022, the Board of Supervisors unanimously agreed that the proposed amendments - including a 99-year extension of the AGB's supermajority vote requirement – should be the path forward.

This is an important step towards final approval of the 99-year AGB extension. However, it is not a final action. The County must still perform environmental review of the proposed amendments, which is likely to take some months. We are monitoring the process and will weigh in again when this issue comes back to the Board of Supervisors for a final vote. For updates, sign up for our email newsletter (greenfoothills.org/subscribe) or visit our blog at greenfoothills.org/blog.



Alice Kaufman, Policy and Advocacy Director, 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.

Welcome New Donors! July 1, 2022-November 30, 2022

Green Foothills depends on your donations to protect nature and wildlife, save farmland, and secure more equitable access to open space close to home. Thanks to our generous supporters for making our work possible. For a complete list of donors, please visit greenfoothills.org/OurDonorCommunity.

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Applied Materials	Lisa Farquhar	Lisa Lethin
FiT	Boris Foelsch	Bob Levy
Peninsula Museum of Art	Megan Fogarty	Kimberly Lin
Sand Hill Foundation	Jean Forstner	Emily Linderman
The Nature Conservancy	Steve Frydrych	LinkedIn
Bear Gulch Foundation	Steve Frye	Marsha Lowry
Kelly Kilcoyne	Creighton Galloway	Charles Lynch
Elisabeth A. Lubliner	Anil Gangolli	Anand Madhavan
Jon Adams	Charity Garcia	Orrin Mahoney
Amer Online	Chris Gentle	Robert Malhotra
Zach Bain	Shawn Gilbert	Raven Marshall
David Barkan	Danielle Gimian	Margaret Martinez
Alison Barr	Craig Gleason	Anthony Miley
Angela Besch	Divya Gupta	Ilya Minkin
Steve Borkenhagen	Lisa Hackard	James Mintert
Ryan Broms	Richard Hanley	Hugh Mohler
Christina Chahal	Susan Hansch	Rob Moore
Karen Chapman	Lauren Hasenhuttl	Edith Moreno
Carrie Chatterjee	Danielle Hassid	Stella Musso
Ellyn Corey	Emma Hau	Mahesh Narayanasami
Catherine Crawford-Swent	Jim Haughey	Pravene Nath
Dana Cretu	Aaron Hebert	Pam Novak
Regina Croucher	Chuck Heimstadt	Daniel O'Connor
Gabriel de la Rosa	Jon Heiner	Yosuke Ogata
Katie DeAngelis	Katie Hilkemeyer	Rachana Patel
Rick DeGolia	Briana Horta	ME Patino
Tracy Desmond	Yusra Hussain	Michael Pierce
Nikita Doshi	Lee Ann Jarrell	Mike Potter
Thom Downing	Sylvia Jefferson	Patti Price
Anna Doyle	Jeffrey Jones	Renee Rachfal-Schmid
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Green Foothills Is Watching...

San Mateo County

CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO - which is conducting environmental review of the potential impacts development directly adjacent to Bay tidal marshlands. We are partnering with East Palo Alto residents and other environmental organizations to ensure that concerns regarding impacts to wetland habitat and species are addressed, that there is equitable access to the Bay Trail and other open space, and that residents' voices are heard during the planning process.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY - which will be undergoing environmental review of the Searsville Watershed Restoration Project in Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. We are participating in the Searsville Advisory Group and will monitor the process to ensure protection of the area's ecology.

Santa Clara County

CITY OF SAN JOSE — where North Coyote Valley landowners have proposed a 128-acre energy facility of locating up to 3.3 million square feet of office on land the City Council just voted in 2021 to protect as farmland. The landowners may attempt to bypass the City Council and get approval from the California Energy Commission (CEC). We are monitoring the situation to protect the wildlife habitat, floodplain, groundwater, and farmland of Coyote Valley.



Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve

Green Foothills Applauds...



Coyote Valley

San Mateo County

SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS -

for directing County Planning staff to develop a plan to phase out a hazardous 15,000-gallon propane tank distribution facility located next to the low-income Pillar Ridge Manufactured Home community in Moss Beach.

Santa Clara County

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- for their hard and consistent work in the last year documenting legal violations at Lehigh Quarry that led to a permanent shutdown of the cement plant and a commitment to halt mining operations. Much more needs to be done to completely shut down operations and begin reclamation, but this is a good start.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY HABITAT AGENCY AND **SANTA CLARA COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT** – for permanently protecting a critical wildlife crossing in North Coyote Valley.

GILROY CITY COUNCIL – for unanimously approving a resolution opposing the Sargent Ranch Quarry and calling for the permanent protection of Juristac as open space.

For the latest news, please visit greenfoothills.org/blog or subscribe to our email newsletter at greenfoothills.org/subscribe.

| GREEN FOOTNOTES

Mary Ryan



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Join Us for Our Upcoming Events



HEALING IN NATURE

Join us for meditative, healing experiences as we explore protected parks and open spaces with expert docents and community healers. First event is at Picchetti Ranch, Sunday, Feb. 26, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

To RSVP and for more events: greenfoothills.org/calendar.



NATURE'S INSPIRATION

Join us in-person for our annual celebration on Sunday, Sep. 24, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The power of our community and the lands we protect together are reasons to celebrate.

To sponsor this event or pledge to do so, visit greenfoothills.org/natures-inspiration.



COMPANY OUTINGS

We offer docent-led walks in local open space preserves to company groups of 10 or more. This would make a wonderful (and free!) activity for your next team offsite! Visit greenfoothills.org/outings to fill out our interest form.



GREEN FOOTHILLS OFFICE HOURS (VIRTUAL)

Want to learn more about our work, introduce yourself, or get more involved? Join Green Foothills staff who will hop into this Zoom for a full hour each month. Last Friday of every month, 12:00-1:00 p.m. For the link, email justyne@greenfoothills.org.



LEADERSHIP PROGRAM ALUMNI SOCIALS (VIRTUAL)

Graduates of the Green Foothills Leadership Program are invited to connect with fellow alumni at this year's Alumni Socials! Sign up at greenfoothills.org/socials.

For a complete list of upcoming events, visit greenfoothills.org/calendar.