



sacramento valley
conservancy
Open Space. For all of us.

Total Acres Preserved: 5712

- 1994-11.5 acres blue oaks/flood basin, Kenwood Oaks Park, near Haggin Oaks Golf Course
- 1997-0.5 acres oaks, Sally Hudson Park, South Natomas, Orchard Ln. & River Plaza Dr.
- 1998-180 acres row crops (CE*), Valensin Ranch/Cosumnes River Preserve
- 1999-25 acres to be restored as giant garter snake habitat (CE*), Cosumnes River Preserve
 - 22 acres grazing/habitat land (CE*), Dry Creek Watershed, near Rio Linda
 - 344 acres grazing/vernal pools (184 CE*, 160 fee title), Sac Prairie Vernal Pool Area, S. Sac
 - 30 acres riparian wetlands (fee title), Humbug/Willow Creek Pkwy, Folsom/Lexington Hills
- 2001-334.5 acres riparian/grazing (84.5 fee title, 250 CE), Dry Creek Watershed, near Rio Linda
 - 4.5 acres American River bluffs (fee title), Fair Oaks
 - 445 acres vernal pools/riparian corridor (164 CE*, 281 fee title), Sac Prairie Vernal Pool Area, S. Sac
- 2002-1760 acres oak woodlands/grazing (fee title), Deer Creek Hills, East Sac County
- 2003-2302 acres oak woodland/grazing (fee title), Deer Creek Hills, East Sac County
 - 16 acres riparian/giant garter snake habitat (CE), Dry Creek Watershed, near Rio Linda
- 2005-70 acres grazing/habitat land (CE*), Dry Creek Watershed, near Rio Linda
- 2006-75 acres vernal pool/riparian corridor (44 fee title, 31 CE*), Sac Prairie Vernal Pool Area, S. Sac
 - 92 acres Swainson's Hawk foraging habitat, East Sacramento County

• **Call 916/731-8798 or visit www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org for tours of preserve areas!** •

Total Acquisition Funds Raised to Date: \$16,502,500

- Dry Creek Watershed-\$102,500
- Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool Preserve-\$4,000,000
- East County Oak Woodlands & Rangeland-\$11, 500,000
- Fair Oaks Bluffs-\$900,000

Operational Status (for staff and board bios, check www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org):

- Part-time Executive Director, Stewardship Director, Admin Director, Admin Assistant, Outreach Coordinator
- Dedicated Board of Trustees (13 members) and Advisory Council/Tech Advisors (24) and Docents (30 active)

Community and Grant Partners (for complete Donor Report, check www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org):

- The Nature Conservancy and the Dry Creek Conservancy
- Trust for Public Land
- Great Valley Center
- David & Lucille Packard Foundation
- Resources Law Group and Resources Legacy Foundation
- California Trails and Greenways Foundation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- North American Wetlands Conservation Act (US Fish & Wildlife)
- Central Valley Project Improvement Act Habitat Restoration Program (US Bureau of Reclamation)
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Teichert Foundation and A. Teichert & Son, Inc.
- Thomas P. Raley Foundation
- Sacramento Open Space, Sacramento Audubon Society and California Native Plant Society
- Cities of Sacramento and Folsom
- County of Sacramento and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
- California Department of Fish & Game (Wildlife Conservation Board)
- CALTRANS & CALFED
- California State Department of Parks & Recreation

Mission Statement:

The Conservancy was founded in 1990 on two basic principles—that open lands are necessary for quality of life and that we must care for the land today so future generations may enjoy its physical and spiritual benefits tomorrow. The Conservancy's mission is to preserve the beauty, character and diversity of the Sacramento Valley landscape by working with citizens, property owners, developers, public agencies and other nonprofit organizations. It works with willing sellers to create dedicated open space by gifts, private purchase, facilitation of public acquisition, conservation easements and by cooperative efforts. It preserves these lands for agricultural, natural resource protection, recreation, and wildlife habitat purposes.

*Conservation Easement

P.O. Box 163351 • Sacramento, California 95816 • Phone 916/492-0908 • Fax 916/448-4120

• www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org •

Don and Honorable LAFCO Commissioners-

I took a look at the open space/ag policies, and I will be at the meeting on Wed night, August 2 (at least until 7pm).

My comments:

- Grazing Land/Ag AND Natural Resources Values

I have some concerns about how you've characterized grazing land. I thought there was more to your open space/ag policy than just ag preservation, and some grazing lands have significant natural resource value beyond their agricultural value. I would hope there is some way to factor natural resource and habitat value into the "equation".

- Land Conservation and Urban Planning Boundary Complementary

I think it's very appropriate and important that you currently note that without a program to invest in and preserve land, a "boundary" or "permanent edge" strategy likely will not work. And, vice versa, that a land preservation strategy alone also may not necessarily define an urban/suburban edge and/or a desirable urban shape or development density or pattern. Consistent with my experience over the last ten years, we need both an effective land conservation effort and a planning boundary to insure both appropriate land conservation and urban form. They can complement each other, and should never be viewed as mutually exclusive of one another.

- No Functional Regional Open Space Fund or Strategy; Local Agencies Must Play Coordinated Role

One important note. . . you refer to local agencies participating in a regional funding or land preservation strategy. Since there really are no currently functional regional funding or land preservation strategies in the Sac Region, I would suggest you recognize that fact. And, while acknowledging that a regional strategy if implemented would be desirable, stress that currently and in the foreseeable future, local agencies should be held accountable in a rational and coordinated way for requiring and providing open space and ag preservation up front (land, not fees) as they develop. LAFCO, and Counties could both be good agencies to provide uniform guidance and standards on this issue. If your standards can accomplish this, they likely would do some good on the ground. This would also be consistent with existing Swainson's Hawk mitigation policies in the City of Elk Grove and the County of Sacramento.

See you on Wednesday and on October 4. Call me at 425-5879 if you'd like. I appreciate your hard work on this project.

Aimee Rutledge, Executive Director
Sacramento Valley Conservancy
www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org

Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 26, 2006 at 7pm to past dark

Stargazing and Bat Night at Deer Creek Hills

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4WD vehicle, preferably a pick-up truck
Weed sprayers, backpack or truck mounted
Quad-runner vehicle • **Porta-potty service**

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New Acquisition

SVC and Reynen & Bardis Communities Preserve Vernal Pool Property

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The project adds to the over 2000 acres of vernal pool grasslands already preserved in SVC's Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool Area in southeast Sacramento County, just south of Highway 16, west of Sunrise Boulevard. The newly-protected 75-acre site serves as high-quality mitigation for vernal pools used for development in the Elk Grove, Laguna Ridge area.



Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool popcorn flowers in full bloom.

Preserving larger areas of habitat creates better opportunities for plants and animals to survive and helps make long-term management of these areas more viable for the vernal pool grasslands, which require winter cattle-grazing to help encourage native plants and animals to thrive.

"Preserving high-quality vernal pools represents a commitment on the part of Reynen & Bardis to do our part protect our natural heritage and to make Sacramento and Elk Grove a great place for our kids to live," said Gary Parker, President of Land Development at Reynen and Bardis Communities, Inc.

(See New Acquisition . . . page 2)

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feedback about these fun and educational hikes that focused on Geology, Wildflowers, Birds, History, Photography and Adventure. New this year and supported by a very dedicated docent group, eighty equestrians enjoyed the breathtaking views of the oak woodlands and savannahs of Deer Creek Hills on four docent-led rides. In addition, nearly 100 kids from Sierra Club Inner City Outings, Skylab Cottage Housing, 4H groups and scouting troops, and California Middle School experienced the outdoors in a series of field trips. These young nature troopers learned about oak woodlands, unique vernal pools, ranching, creeks, water quality and flood control. We are working to expand our field trips and overnight trips further next season.

(See Hike & Ride . . . page 2)

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Summer 2006

New Acquisition . . . *(continued from page 1)*

Located on ground that has traditionally been winter-grazed with cattle, and never plowed, these wetlands are especially significant for the many native and endangered plant and animal species that depend on these seasonal wetlands as their habitat.

Some vernal pool animals include fairy and tadpole shrimp, tiger salamanders, spadefoot toads, native bees. Raptors, including various falcons and hawks, soar over the grasslands to hunt rodents. The increasingly rare tri-colored blackbird also colonizes in blackberry

brambles and other bushy areas nearby, foraging in the surrounding grasslands for insects and seeds.

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Hike & Ride . . . *(continued from page 1)*

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We couldn't have had such a successful season without the wonderful and

committed volunteer docents who led hikes, tours, and rides. SVC docents logged almost 1000 volunteer hours this season, between hikes, rides, tours, and service days. What an accomplishment and what a great example of stewardship! We can't put into words how much it means to us, but more importantly how much it means to the successful management and stewardship of our properties. Thank you all for your commitment and dedication.

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Volunteer Spotlight

Equestrian Docents Saddle-Up To Lead New Ride Program

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YES!

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Here is my tax deductible donation of:

\$20 \$35 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other

Name _____

Company/Title _____

Street _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

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Email _____

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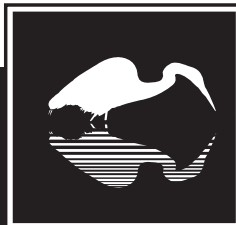
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