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## **Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority and Peninsula Open Space Trust Complete Purchase of 235 Acres in North Coyote Valley**

*\$16 Million Acquisition Finalizes Protection of 937 Acres with Support from  
California’s Wildlife Conservation Board and State Coastal Conservancy*

*Community Planning Process Launches Today with Online Questionnaire*

**SAN JOSÉ, Calif. (August 3, 2020)** – Today, [Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority](#) (the Authority) and [Peninsula Open Space Trust](#) (POST) announced the completed purchase of a 235-acre parcel in the North Coyote Valley Conservation Area. The \$16 million purchase is supported by \$15 million in new funding from two state agencies: \$5 million from the [California State Coastal Conservancy](#) and \$10 million from the [Wildlife Conservation Board](#). POST contributed the remaining \$1 million. The property was previously owned by longtime South Bay real estate developer, The Sobrato Organization, and was slated for industrial development.

In November 2019, a public-private partnership among POST, the Authority and the City of San Jose established the North Coyote Valley Conservation Area, which combines multiple properties previously targeted for industrial development into a protected environmental greenbelt. The 235-acre parcel is the last of three key properties that comprise the initial 937-acre portion of the new conservation area.

North Coyote Valley is a critical wildlife linkage between the Santa Cruz and Diablo mountain ranges. This “last chance landscape” features natural floodplains and wildlife habitats. Permanently protecting it helps mitigate potential flooding impact from extreme weather events and builds climate change resiliency for the citizens of the tenth-largest city in the nation.

“The conservation and restoration of Coyote Valley is a long-term effort with long-term positive impacts for all who live here,” said **Walter T. Moore**, president of POST. “It would not have been possible without the collaboration and commitment to smart land use by two of our longtime close partners, the California State Coastal Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Board.”

California State Assembly member **Ash Kalra**, who represents the 27<sup>th</sup> Assembly District that includes Coyote Valley, authored AB 948, which in late 2019 was signed into law and designated Coyote Valley as a landscape of statewide significance and created the Coyote Valley Conservation Program that the Authority now administers.

"I commend everyone for collaborating to bring resources to the table to complete this important transaction. Coyote Valley is vital to our local defense against climate change," said **Assemblymember Kalra**, "This is a game-changing model for the state to move toward, ending the decades-long urban sprawl mentality. It speaks to the broad public support for preserving and restoring precious resources throughout California."

"The conservation of Coyote Valley hits a real sweet spot for the Coastal Conservancy," stated **Sam Schuchat**, executive officer of the California State Coastal Conservancy. "Investing in regionally important habitat linkages is critically important to California's future under climate change."

"The conservation of Coyote Valley advances every goal the Wildlife Conservation Board was established to support," said **John P. Donnelly**, executive director of WCB. "We are pleased to be able to support this critical project that significantly expands protected habitat in our state. We commend all the partners for their long-term vision and commitment to fulfilling it."



### **Coyote Valley Conservation History and Background**

Previously slated for up to 6.6 million square feet of industrial development, the North Coyote Valley is a critical landscape and wildlife linkage between the Santa Cruz and Diablo mountain ranges. It contains the South Bay's largest remaining freshwater wetland, Laguna Seca, and natural floodplains upstream of San Jose. These will help reduce flood risk when fully restored. Additionally, strategic conservation in Coyote Valley provides significant new opportunities for outdoor recreation and supports local agriculture.

### **Next steps: Community-based Planning Process Launches August 3**

Alongside key partners, POST and the City of San Jose, the Open Space Authority is leading a science- and community-based planning process to establish an open space preserve of statewide and national significance. This regional destination will protect the environment and provide lasting climate resilience, while creating a public asset that aligns nature with human connection and inclusion. The Authority will be gathering public input from all communities to design a space that belongs to the community. To kick off this process, the Authority invites members of the community to share their stories and connections to Coyote Valley. An online questionnaire is available at [news.openspaceauthority.org/coyotevalleystories](https://news.openspaceauthority.org/coyotevalleystories).

"With this strategic purchase in North Coyote Valley, we can move forward with restoring this last-chance landscape and focus our efforts on creating a world class open space for all," said **Andrea Mackenzie**, general manager for the Authority. "We want to get everyone involved in our community-based planning process and encourage you to tell us your stories about Coyote Valley and what you love about this special place."

POST is continuing to raise funds in support of the work in Coyote Valley. Details are available at [openspacetrust.org/coyote-valley-program](https://openspacetrust.org/coyote-valley-program).

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### About the Peninsula Open Space Trust

POST protects open space on the Peninsula and in the South Bay for the benefit of all. As a private nonprofit land trust, POST has been responsible for saving more than 79,000 acres since 1977. POST works with private landowners and public agencies to connect people and nature. Visit [openspacetrust.org](http://openspacetrust.org) for more information.

### About the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

The Open Space Authority was created by the CA state legislature in 1993 to conserve the natural environment, support agriculture, and connect people to nature, by protecting open spaces, natural areas, and working farms and ranches for future generations. The Authority has protected over 30,000 acres of open space, preserving the region's scenic beauty, protecting open space, wildlife habitat, water resources and agricultural land, and providing outdoor recreation opportunities for Santa Clara Valley residents. Visit [openspaceauthority.org](http://openspaceauthority.org) for more information.

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**High-resolution photos, video footage, maps of Coyote Valley and other media resources available at <http://bit.ly/coyote-valley-media-resources>. Or, contact [post@landispr.com](mailto:post@landispr.com) or (415) 713-0713.**

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## MAP OF NORTH COYOTE VALLEY CONSERVATION AREA

