



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

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Rare Species Protected on Otay Mesa: SDHC becomes the steward of the Lonestar Open Space Preserve

Otay Mesa — The Lonestar Open Space Preserve in Otay Mesa is now established. The Preserve consists of 59.37 acres northeast of the corner of Lonestar Road and Harvest Road in the County of San Diego. San Diego Habitat Conservancy (SDHC) will manage the open space habitat preserve in perpetuity to protect the sensitive species that call this part of Otay Mesa their home.

The majority of the site supports non-native grassland, while a 3.35-acre section within a canyon in the northwest portion of the site supports Diegan coastal sage scrub. These protected habitats serve as a safe haven for the burrowing owl, Coronado skink, white-tailed kite, and Otay tarplant; all sensitive species that are found within the Preserve.

The Preserve forms a portion of the County's Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) area and part of a larger regional vision to link open space preserves throughout the area. The Lonestar Preserve is surrounded by other open space lands, including the planned Otay Valley Regional Park to the north, Otay County Open Space Preserve to the northeast, and land to the west which underwent restoration as mitigation for the South Bay Expressway (SR 125 South) project.

SDHC's long term management duties include habitat and sensitive species monitoring to ensure the quality of the habitat is maintained and improved, identifying and removing invasive species (weeds), removing trash, and limiting intrusion into the site. SDHC will coordinate with neighboring landowners, educational institutions, and wildlife agencies as necessary to ensure a coordinated effort to preserve the natural resources of this region, including strategies for burrowing owl management.

SDHC was established in 2000 and manages a number of open space easements throughout the San Diego region, preserving and managing sensitive habitat and species that are unique to our Southern California environment. SDHC strives to share our knowledge and appreciation of our natural environment with the San Diego community, encouraging participation in the stewardship of our region's precious open space. *The **MISSION** of SDHC is to acquire, manage and protect land in perpetuity that supports sensitive habitats and species, and to educate and inspire people and communities as stewards and advocates of their natural environment.*

For more information please contact Don Scales at (619) 668-7474 or via email at dons@sdhabitat.org.