

San Marcos Foothills West Mesa Purchase and Preservation

SAN MARCOS FoothILLS

We are working on purchase of the San Marcos Foothills West Mesa which is a privately-owned 101-acre property next to the County-owned San Marcos Foothills Preserve. The San Marcos Foothills Preserve is a 200-acre nature preserve managed by the County Parks Department. Habitat restoration on the Preserve is directed by Channel Islands Restoration, Inc. ("CIR") (<https://cirweb.org/grassland-restoration>).

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT

The West Mesa property is in Santa Barbara, accessed by "the bridge to nowhere" over the Chumash Highway (Hwy 154), at the north end of Via Gaitero Road. The owners are currently in the process of securing final County approval to build 8 new homes, guest houses, and associated development and landscaping.

AGREEMENT TO BUY THE PROPERTY

We have an agreement with the owners to purchase the property for \$18 million and protect it forever. This is less than its market value. We need to raise \$20 million to cover the cost of acquisition plus the costs of the campaign and an endowment for maintenance and management of the property.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to permanently protect and preserve the 101-acre property and add it to the 200-acre San Marcos Foothills Preserve. Channel Islands Restoration, Inc. ("CIR") and conservation partners in Santa Barbara intend to purchase the property and protect it as a nature preserve forever. We envision managing the property in concert with the existing Preserve, inviting people to walk and

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hike on the trails, sit on a boulder or under a tree, and enjoy the breathtaking ocean, island, and mountain views, and engage in reflection. We will include members of the Chumash community in the planning, stewardship, and uses of the land. We intend to restore the native grassland using sheep grazing for a few months each year, and to remove invasive non-native weeds as needed.

WHAT'S NEXT

Foothills Forever Fund, a fiscal sponsorship fund at the Santa Barbara Foundation is collecting tax-deductible donations from the community. The vision is to purchase the property, place a permanent restriction on the deed that prohibits development, establish an interest-bearing endowment that will fund long-term habitat restoration and management, and then convey title of the property to Santa Barbara County or another appropriate entity. The property will be managed as part of the San Marcos Foothills Preserve.

WHY BUY THE 101-ACRE SAN MARCOS FOOTHILLS WEST MESA PROPERTY?

1. **Help Create 300 Acres of Contiguous Wildlife Habitat.** The San Marcos Foothills are home to wild animals including hawks, kites, owls, kestrels, songbirds, coyotes, bobcats, deer, and many others. Many native birds and other wildlife utilize this grassland. The San Marcos Foothills are recognized as being important grassland habitat in Santa Barbara



and Goleta. Buying the West Mesa will expand the existing San Marcos Foothills Preserve, preserve the native grasslands in perpetuity, and allow restoration to improve its wildlife habitat values.

2. **Honor Chumash Heritage.** Enable future Chumash stewardship, ritual and ceremony on this property.
3. **Maintain Open Space.** The foothills are an open space buffer that is visible from throughout Santa Barbara and Goleta. The West Mesa provides a beautiful visual backdrop for Santa Barbara at the base of the Santa Ynez Mountains.
4. **Provide Environmental Education Opportunities.** Public access to this land will allow children and adults to explore and learn in nature close to home.
5. **Protect the Trail Experience of walking in nature.**

A Legacy of Protection & Preservation

1960: Shoreline Park



1996: The Douglas Preserve



1998: Carpinteria Bluffs



2005: Sperling Preserve



2012: Hot Springs Canyon



2015: Veronica Meadows



Continue the Legacy
2021: San Marcos Foothills West Mesa



CONTRIBUTE

To make a tax-deductible contribution to the *Foothills Forever Fund, a fiscal sponsorship fund at the Santa Barbara Foundation:*

Checks payable to: *Santa Barbara Foundation*, with *Foothills Forever Fund* in the memo line.
Mail to: Santa Barbara Foundation, 1111 Chapala St #200, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Donate on-line at FoothillsForever.org

To donate gifts of stock or other assets, please contact the Santa Barbara Foundation staff for further details:

Andrea Light, Interim Investment Manager, (805) 880-9355, alight@sbfoundation.org

Jessica Sanchez, Director of Donor Relations, (805) 880-9366, jsanchez@sbfoundation.org

For more information: info@foothillsforever.org • **Mary Rose (805) 448-0663**