

COMPLETING THE VISION:  
*The Campaign to Save Essential Open Space*

LANDSCAPES  FALL 1999  
PENINSULA OPEN SPACE TRUST









September 1999

Dear Friends of POST,

This special double issue of **Landscapes** is a giant “thank you!”

Thanks to 7,886 of you our **Completing the Vision: The Campaign to Save Essential Open Space** has just concluded, six months ahead of schedule and \$4.5 million dollars over our goal! Through your generous support, in less than three years, POST has raised a phenomenal \$32,964,300 dollars and protected over 12,569 acres of Peninsula open space — the equivalent of three Golden Gate Park’s worth of land now saved from development. This achievement is all the more remarkable when you consider that, in what can only be described as “overnight,” the Peninsula has become one of the top economic hotspots of the world — with real estate prices to match!

Why did POST take on a challenge like the Campaign? One of the hallmarks of this organization has always been the foresight to act quickly when opportunities present themselves. So in 1996, seeing the unprecedented opportunity to purchase several properties on the top of our “wish list,” we launched this campaign, the largest land-saving effort in Peninsula history.

From the beginning we knew there were few sources of public funds for land acquisition. We knew there was only one way to raise the funds needed to protect our local, natural lands: it would be up to the people who love open space and the Peninsula to help. It is with tremendous satisfaction that I can report that 7,886 of you did help, and helped mightily.

As you look through these pages of **Landscapes**, and see the pictures of the beautiful land that has been permanently protected through the Campaign, know that it was because of you these special places are now saved for generations to come.

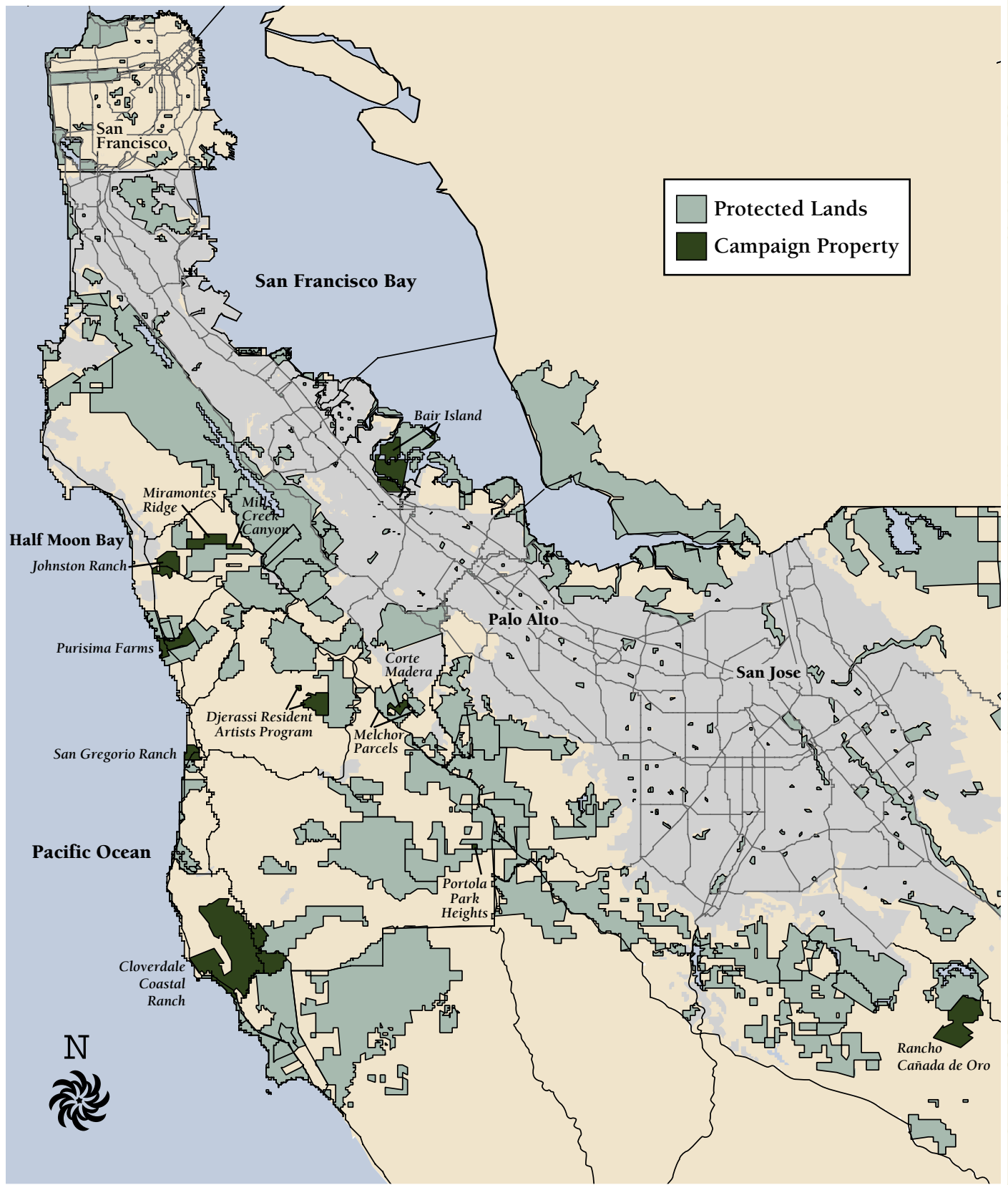
It is to you that I say a sincere thank you. In a world of sound bites and quick fixes, it is the growing and committed family of POST supporters that has kept its sights on the long view, forever changing the course of land use on the Peninsula. It is truly your support that is the essential ingredient in POST’s continued success.

The future holds many new, exciting opportunities to save even more endangered Peninsula open space. POST, stronger than ever, has already taken on some of these new challenges, and we look forward to updating you over the next few months.

On behalf of the Board and staff of POST, I thank you once again for all you do. We appreciate your dedication to saving the beauty, character, and diversity of our Peninsula lands.

Sincerely,

Christy Holloway  
Campaign Chair



# COMPLETING THE VISION: *The Campaign to Save Essential Open Space*

THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF 7,886 CONTRIBUTORS TO POST,  
THESE PROPERTIES ARE PROTECTED:

## BAIR ISLAND

*Largest remaining restorable wetland in San Francisco Bay: 1,626 ACRES*

## RANCHO CAÑADA DE ORO

*An extraordinary ranch located within the city limits of San José: 2,428 ACRES*

## DJERASSI RESIDENT ARTISTS PROGRAM

*Rolling hills and redwoods near Woodside: 580 ACRES*

## CORTE MADERA

*Oak woodland inholding in the middle of Windy Hill Open Space Preserve: 204 ACRES*

## MELCHOR PARCELS

*Inholdings on the edge of Windy Hill Open Space Preserve: 2 ACRES*

## PORTOLA PARK HEIGHTS

*Forested land off Highway 35, adjacent to Long Ridge Open Space Preserve: 40 ACRES*

## MILLS CREEK CANYON

*Critical wildlife corridor connecting with Burleigh Murray State Park: 120 ACRES*

## MIRAMONTES RIDGE

*With spectacular views of the San Mateo Coast, connects to Burleigh Murray State Park: 555 ACRES*

## CLOVERDALE COASTAL RANCH

*Over 8 square miles of undeveloped land along the scenic San Mateo Coast: 5,638 ACRES*

## PURISIMA FARMS

*Protects prime agricultural lands and scenic San Mateo Coast views: 534 ACRES*

## SAN GREGORIO RANCH

*Preserves scenic views of hills and cliffs from adjacent San Gregorio Beach: 195 ACRES*

## JOHNSTON RANCH

*Land surrounding historic Johnston House outside Half Moon Bay: 647 ACRES*

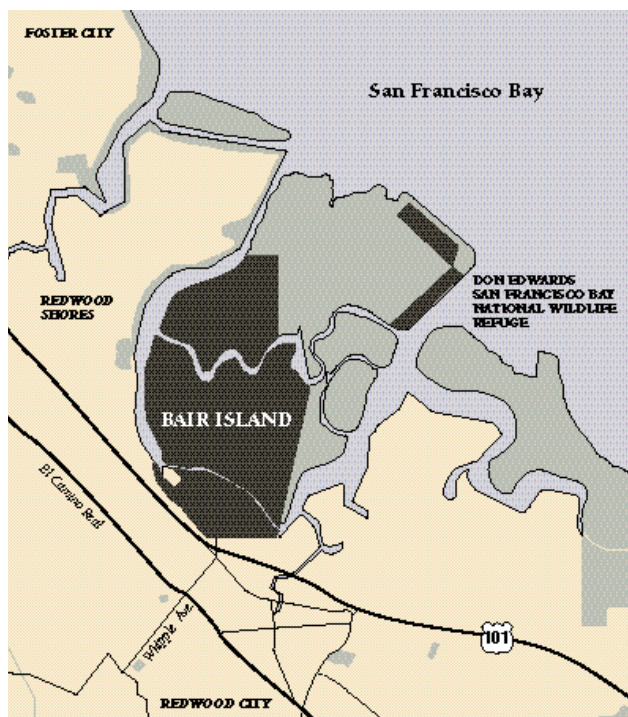
**TOTAL: 12,569 ACRES SAVED!**





# San Francisco Bay

**Bair Island** is a rare and special place. This 1,626-acre critical salt marsh habitat is the last, largest restorable wetland remaining in south San Francisco Bay. Located off Highway 101 in Redwood City and surrounded by intense urban development, the island is home to an amazing array of wildlife. The tidal marshes and sloughs provide critical habitat for more than 200 species of birds, fish and mammals, five of which are endangered or threatened. The California clapper rail, California least tern, American peregrine falcon, California brown pelican, and tiny salt marsh harvest mouse all reside there — and their numbers are growing. This property, originally planned to be filled and developed, was purchased by POST during the Campaign for \$15 million dollars. With campaign donations of \$5 million, and \$10 million in state and federal funds to repay the loan POST took out to secure the land, Bair Island is now being transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Wildlife Conservation Board and will be managed as part of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.



Nine miles of levees will be eliminated as part of the island's restoration, which will offer vital isolation to vulnerable, ground-nesting birds and will reestablish the Bay's natural water cleansing system in the marsh. "Dreams really do come true," Representative Anna Eshoo said of this purchase by POST, echoing the sentiments of many local conservation and naturalist organizations. "This is a great win for the people of the Bay Area."

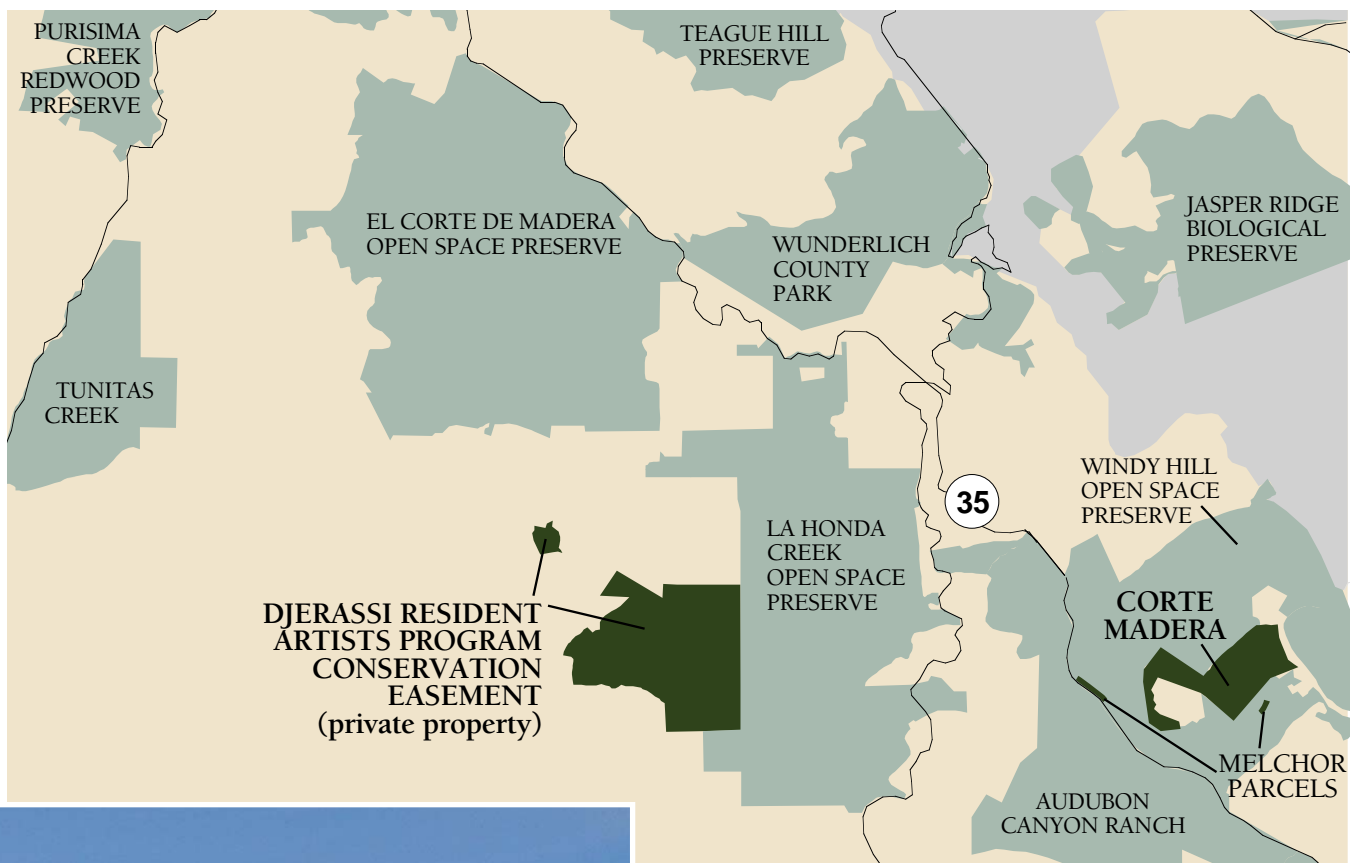


Great Egret

## MONEY GROWS MONEY:

*The \$5 million donated by individuals, foundations, and corporations to save Bair Island created the momentum for obtaining more than \$10 million in state and federal funding, completing repayment of POST's \$15 million loan and associated costs to purchase the island. Very special thanks are due to Representative Anna Eshoo who led the appropriation lobbying effort in Washington, D.C. that truly brought our effort to a "happy ending."*





*Tori*, 1983-1984. Bruce Johnson

## Mid-Skyline Area

### Djerassi Resident Artists Program

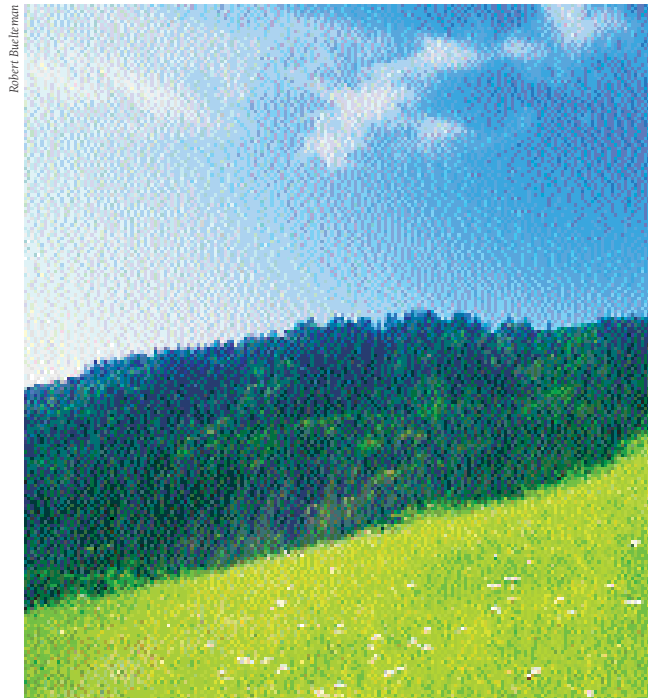
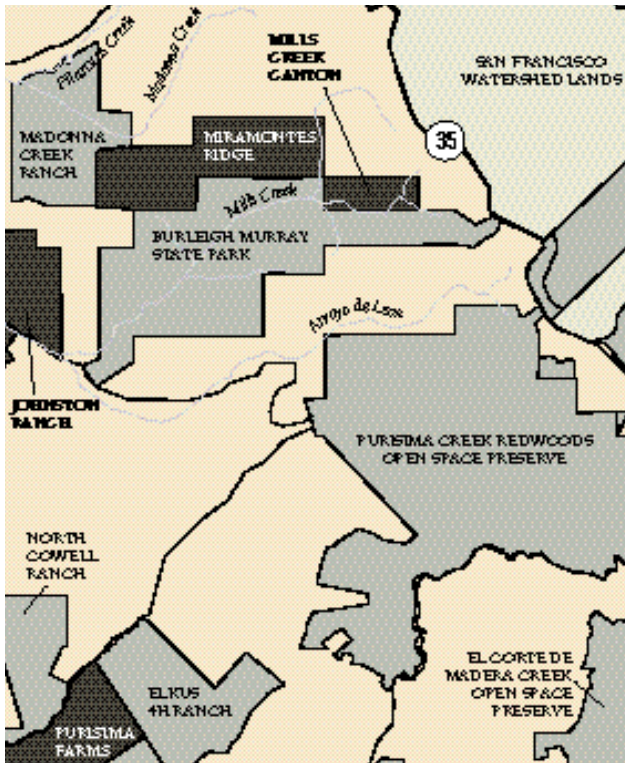
(DRAP) is a prime 580-acre property in Woodside. By purchasing a conservation easement, POST will gain protection for the property's dense second-growth redwood forest, winding creeks, and open rolling hills which, in the spring, are covered with an abundant display of wildflowers. The conservation easement will also give a strong boost to DRAP's endowment fund, which supports Djerassi's artist-in-residence program. Not only is this property full of natural wonders, it is also home to a collection of compelling artwork installed on the land. "It is the setting of our Program that makes it so appealing to many of our applicants," says Dennis O'Leary, DRAP's Executive Director. "For this reason, among many, we are thrilled that the property will be protected in perpetuity."



**Corte Madera** This 204-acre inholding made for a natural addition to the Windy Hill Open Space Preserve. POST's purchase of the Corte Madera property prevents potential development of twenty luxury housing lots in the middle of Windy Hill, and assures the continuation of beautiful, unblemished views from the Preserve. Corte Madera has significant groves of redwoods and considerable oak woodlands, and will add miles of hiking trails to Windy Hill's well-used and well-loved trail system.

**Melchor Parcels** This oak woodland was an inholding on the edge of Windy Hill Open Space Preserve. Through a gift to POST of these 2 acres, the property is now permanently protected through addition to Windy Hill.

**Portola Park Heights** Located off Highway 35, this 40-acre forest is approaching maturity with a diverse mix of oaks, Douglas fir, madrone, and second growth redwoods. Through a combination of gift and purchase, POST acquired the property and has already transferred it for inclusion in the adjacent Long Ridge Open Space Preserve.



*Corte Madera*

**Mills Creek Canyon** Strategically located next to Burleigh Murray State Park and POST Campaign-protected Miramontes Ridge, Mills Creek Canyon creates a critical wildlife corridor for mountain lions, coyote, deer, and bobcats. POST's purchase of this ruggedly beautiful haven for wildlife also protects a riparian corridor along Mills Creek, which supports steelhead trout, a federally listed threatened species. At three miles long, Mills Creek is key to the restoration of the Pilarcitos Creek watershed. Restoration includes eliminating man-made barriers so more steelhead can get to Mills Creek.

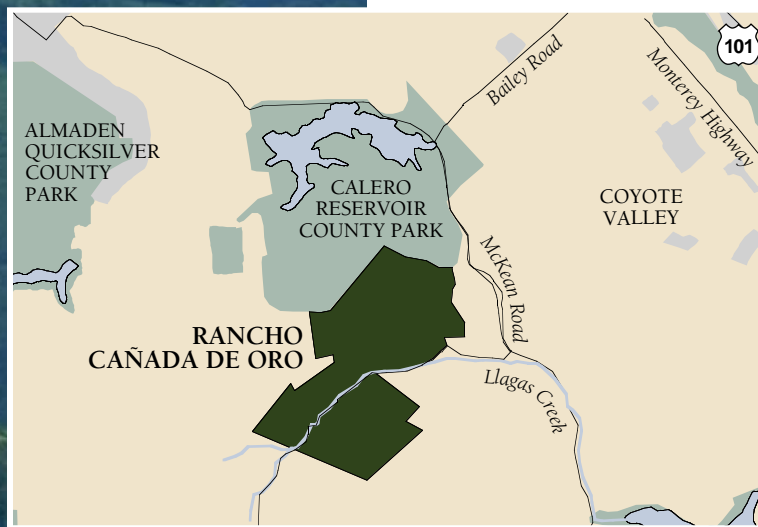
**Miramontes Ridge** With excellent views of Half Moon Bay, the San Mateo Coast, and surrounding lands, this 555-acre property was threatened by an offer that included plans for development. POST's Campaign purchase of Miramontes Ridge will now connect Madonna Creek Ranch to Mills Creek Canyon and Burleigh Murray State Park, and protect the highly visible ridge that is the northern boundary of Burleigh Murray. Miramontes Ridge also provides a key link in a potential trail corridor from Skyline to the coast at Half Moon Bay.



## Mid-Santa Clara County Western Hills

**Rancho Cañada de Oro** is an extraordinary 2,428-acre ranch located within the city limits of San José. The property features meadows, rolling foothills, and canyons surrounded by oak covered ridges. Rancho Cañada de Oro's hilltops offer sweeping views of the Diablo Range to the east, and Mt. Hamilton and Mt. Umhunhum to the south.

Year-round Llamas Creek, which feeds into Chesbro



Reservoir and Monterey Bay, runs through the property for more than three miles. Remnants of walnut orchards can be seen on the property, indicating its rich agricultural history. Rancho Cañada is home for a broad array of

species, from the Acorn woodpecker to the California newt to coyote, bobcat, and mountain lion. The property also provides habitat for the threatened Bay checkerspot butterfly, and California red-legged frog. The property was zoned for development and bids were on the table. Working in partnership with the City of San José, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, and Santa Clara County Parks, POST was able to purchase the property due to a good relationship with the conservation-minded sellers. Current plans are for half the property to become part of the adjacent Calero Reservoir Recreational Area and half to be held for the next several years as an outstanding nature preserve.





# San Mateo Coast

**Cloverdale Coastal Ranch** near Pescadero is a breathtaking 5,638-acre property on the San Mateo Coast. By far the biggest and most complex property purchase in POST's history, the Cloverdale Coastal Ranch contains many of the natural features that make northern California so unique. The 8.8-square mile ranch contains more than 1.7 miles of ocean frontage, 7 miles of county and state Scenic Road Corridors, over 2,500 acres

of grassland, 250 acres of prime agricultural land, 14 miles of creeks and riparian habitat, and 700 acres of redwoods and firs. POST's purchase of Cloverdale Coastal Ranch strategically links Butano State Park to Año Nuevo State Reserve. Not only will this extraordinary property protect habitat for hundreds of species of animals, it will preserve acres of unspoiled coastline and rich agricultural lands, and provide many recreational opportunities.

Robert Badtman





**Purisima Farms** At 534 acres, this property is a prominent segment of the Highway 1 scenic corridor, providing a nearly one mile long, 360-degree view of coast, ocean, and hills. Combined with POST's preservation of the Cowell Ranches to the north and south, Purisima Farms creates a band more than 4 miles long of permanently protected coastal bluffs. One hundred feet below the property's cliffs are two sandy beaches with 4,400 feet of

ocean frontage. The property includes 2 miles of Purisima Creek. It's lush, riparian habitat ends in a 15-foot waterfall that tumbles into the ocean — a rare phenomenon in California. This property is one of the best row crop vegetable farms in San Mateo County, with acres of artichokes and brussels sprouts in cultivation. The rich farmland stretches from Purisima Creek Road and Verde Road past Highway 1 to the dramatic coastal bluffs.



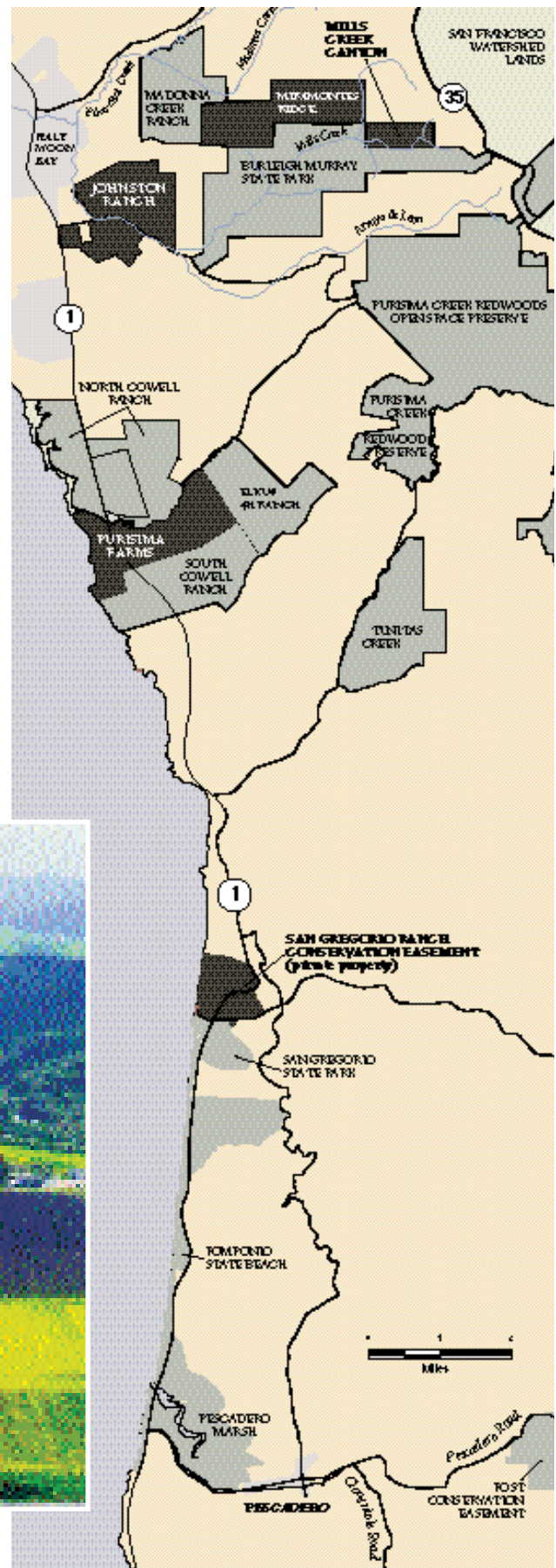
**San Gregorio Ranch** Immediately north of San Gregorio State Beach, 195-acre San Gregorio Ranch is a scenic stretch of rolling hills and cliffs. This gift to POST of a conservation easement now permanently protects not only an important stretch of signature coastal frontage, but also productive agricultural lands. The property is highly visible on the west side of Highway 1 and from nearby San Gregorio Beach.

**Johnston Ranch** This 647-acre property just outside of Half Moon Bay surrounds the area on which sits historic Johnston House, the distinctive white New England “salt box” you see as you drive by on Highway 1. POST’s purchase of Johnston Ranch maintains an urban-rural boundary on the eastward city limits of Half Moon Bay, an area that had prime potential for development. Protection of Johnston Ranch will permanently preserve a large and productive coastal farm, providing scenic enjoyment for all who pass by.

Robert Buckleman



Purisima Farms









## POST'S MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) is to give permanent protection to the beauty, character, and diversity of the San Francisco Peninsula landscape for people here now and for future generations. POST encourages the use of these lands for agriculture, low intensity public recreation, wildlife habitat and other natural resource protection.



## Gifts to POST

### Stock Gifts to POST

If you would like to make a gift of securities to POST please contact:

Banc of America Securities LLC  
Montgomery Private Client Services  
600 Montgomery Street  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
(415) 627-2191

Relevant information for a transfer of stock:

Account Name:  
Peninsula Open Space Trust,  
#1 Land Purchases  
Account #: 110-66982  
DTC #: 773  
Tax ID #: 94-2392007

Your gift is fully tax-deductible. Please notify POST directly of your gift to ensure that it is recorded accurately. Thank you for your support!

### Legacy Gifts

If you would like to learn more about how including POST in your will, or other estate plans, can help ensure the future of the lands that you are helping to protect today, please contact Kathryn Morelli at (650) 854-7696 ext. 23.



## Landscapes

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*"The land belongs to the future...  
that's the way it seems to me...  
We come and go, but the land  
is always here. And the people  
who love it and understand it  
are the people who own it —  
for a little while."*

**Willa Cather, *O Pioneers!***

## **Peninsula Open Space Trust**

3000 Sand Hill Road, 4-135, Menlo Park, CA 94025

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