



Buena Vista Audubon
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Buena Vista Audubon Society awarded \$541,478 for restoring land adjacent to the BV Lagoon
Buena Vista Audubon Society (BVAS) has received funds for restoring land to critical wildlife
habitat, expanding wetlands for wildlife and carbon sequestration, and engaging Indigenous
peoples and the local community on the project design.***

The Buena Vista Audubon Society (BVAS) has received two grants totaling \$541,478 towards restoring a key piece of land adjacent to the Buena Vista Lagoon in South Oceanside. A grant from the Oceanside Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Fund (OGHGERF) at the San Diego Foundation on behalf of Preserve Calavera provided \$324,429 and the Dorrance Family Foundation gave \$217,049. These funds will be used for permitting, planning, and design for the restoration of the Wetlands Reserve, a 3.8-acre piece of land owned by BVAS.

The Dorrance Family Foundation grant was part of a larger grant award to Audubon California, San Diego Audubon Society, and Buena Vista Audubon Society towards restoring Mission Bay and rare habitat adjacent to the Buena Vista Lagoon. These efforts also enlist the help of members of Indigenous and surrounding communities to build support for and awareness of the restoration of these lagoons.

Preserve Calavera and San Diego Foundation's new OGHGERF is a unique endeavor to help fight climate change through supporting local projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Wetlands are one of the most effective means to reduce greenhouse gas emissions due to their carbon-storing abilities.

"These grants allow us to restore one of the last pieces of undeveloped habitat by the Buena Vista Lagoon," said Natalie Shapiro, Executive Director of BVAS. "By creating new wetlands and associated habitats, this project provides carbon sequestration, mitigation of runoff pollutants, and a buffer to local communities against sea-level rise and storm surges. Community involvement in this project, including members of the Payómkawichum Nation (also known as the Luiseños) and local Oceanside residents, will help craft a restoration project that enhances both wildlife habitat and the community's connection to nature in this very urbanized part of North County."

"San Diego County has lost an estimated 95% of its historic wetlands; this project is a rare opportunity to create and restore some of our coastal wetlands. It will help address climate

change by sequestering carbon and making our coast more resilient to the impacts of sea-level rise, while setting an important precedent for mitigating greenhouse gasses locally. We need many more projects like this to offset the potentially devastating impacts from climate change!” said Diane Nygaard, President of Preserve Calavera.

Buena Vista Lagoon is part of a network of wetlands along the coast of San Diego County that is vitally important to waterfowl and shorebirds migrating along the Pacific Flyway. With many of their historic stopping points lost, sea- and shorebird populations are declining—some by as much as 80 percent. At least 144 bird species and 56 plant species call San Diego Mission Bay and Buena Vista Lagoon home, including threatened and endangered species such as the Western Snowy Plover, Ridgway’s Rail, Belding’s Savannah Sparrow, and California Least Tern.

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About the Buena Vista Audubon Society

The Buena Vista Audubon Society (BVAS) is the coastal North San Diego County chapter of the National Audubon Society. We operate a nature center, adjacent to the Buena Vista Lagoon in Oceanside, that is available free of charge to the public and to schools for tours. The grounds include a native plant garden and a short trail. The primary focus for BVAS is our nature education program for children: Over 1,500 local school children participate in free class outings to our nature center each year. Other educational experiences for the community include regular birding field trips, native plant gardening, and monthly lectures. BVAS also owns two pieces of land in Oceanside that we are actively restoring to native habitat.

Learn more at <https://bvaudubon.org/> and <https://www.preservecalavera.org/>