



PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Conservation Easement Protects San Clemente Habitat

September 19, 2018...San Clemente, California...The City of San Clemente and the Marblehead Community Association have entered an agreement to preserve about 287 acres of invaluable open-space for a conservation and habitat restoration, protecting the acreage from future development.

Commitment to Conservation

Under the agreement, the landowner Association conveys to the City a conservation easement under which a landowner and a government agency or land trust permanently limit a parcel's use to protect its conservation values. The City Council approved this agreement on August 21. This area referenced in the photo attached has long been designated open space by the City's General Plan and Zoning Ordinance due to its cultural, aesthetic, ecological and environmental importance. By putting the land under a conservation easement, City officials are acting consistently with California policy

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to protect and preserve native plant and animal species, as well as scenic open space. “Open space and sensitive habitats within our city limits are critical parts of the environment worth preserving for future generations,” said Mayor Tim Brown. “These planning principles date back to San Clemente’s origins. We are thankful to the Marblehead Community Association for offering this agreement, which ensures that this open space will be enhanced and preserved in perpetuity for the enjoyment of everyone who lives or visits here, augmenting the great strides the City has already made in the Marblehead Coastal Preserve. This habitat preserve will be nearly three times the size of that incredible asset.”

Pushing Ahead to Native Restoration

The conveyance of the conservation easement is an important first step to be followed by recruitment and work with a non-profit partner and federal and state resource agencies to create and enhance the area’s coastal sage scrub, riparian, wetland and native grassland habitat. The project will also facilitate passive recreation in the preserve.

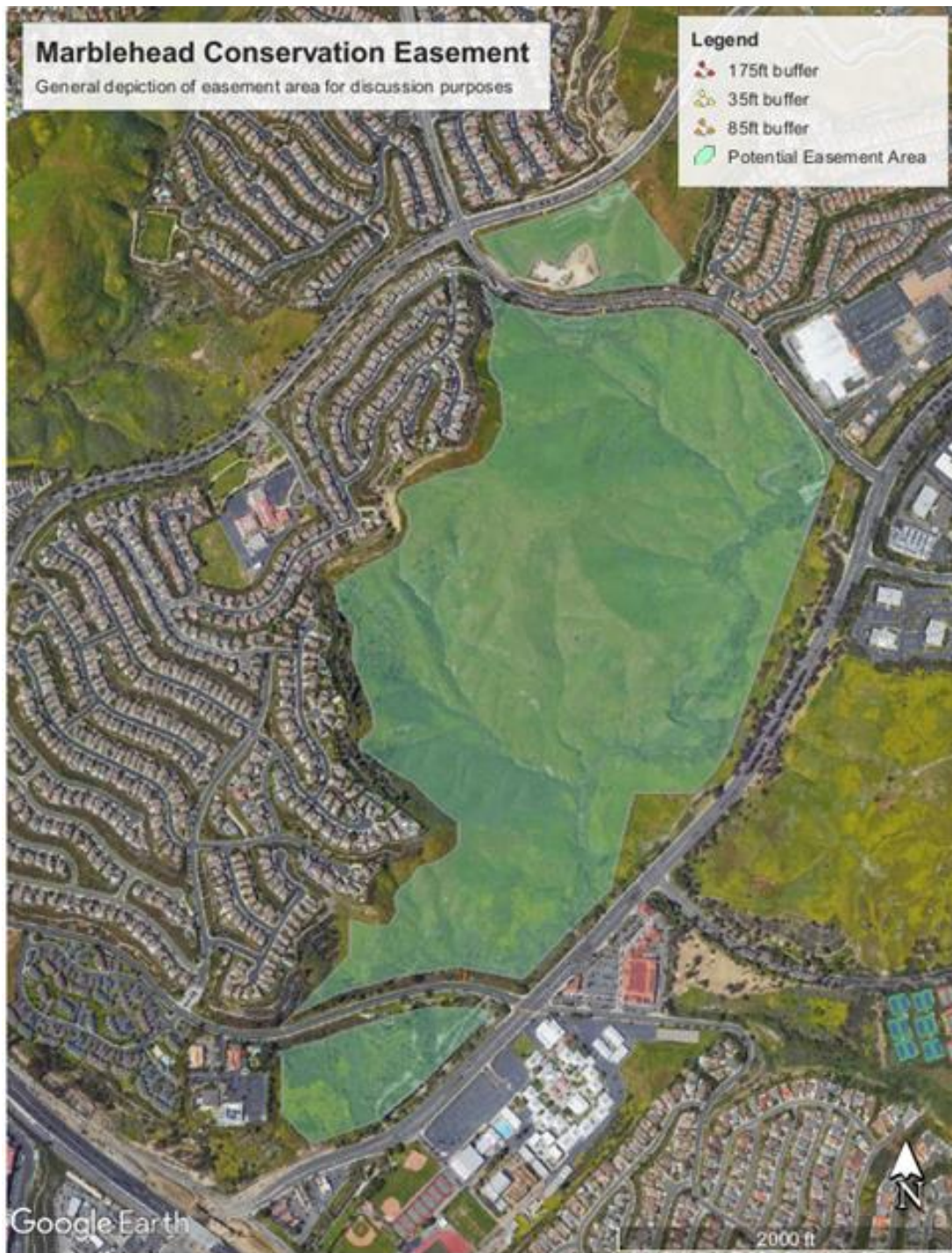
Protection Against Future Development

The Foothill Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency (TCA) is considering planning and developing a state highway (the SR241-tollroad extension) through the heart of this

open space. In approving this agreement, the City Council and the Marblehead Community Association expressed their hope that it would be an insurmountable legal, financial and practical barrier to that effort.

The City was represented in the conveyance by Best Best & Krieger LLP attorneys Scott Smith and Todd Leishman. The Marblehead Association was represented by San Clemente attorney Mark McGuire. Smith and McGuire live in San Clemente.

Attachment



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