

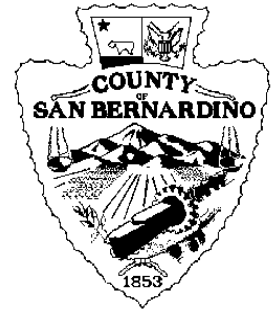
NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

www.sbcounty.gov/Biane

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board Approves Foothill Nature Preserve

SAN BERNARDINO – The Board of Supervisors acted on Tuesday to make an expansive foothill nature preserve more accessible to visitors who want to enjoy its scenic vistas, unique wildlife and habitat.

The 1,176-acre North Etiwanda Preserve sits in the foothills north of Rancho Cucamonga. The preserve is made up of mitigation land set aside for development, the bulk of which – 736 acres – came from the construction of the 210 Freeway. A number of residents already enjoy hiking in the preserve, but the remote area is also used for illegal dumping and by people driving off-road illegally.

“A handful of residents have already discovered the spectacular views and hike trails in the North Etiwanda Preserve, and this project will introduce even more residents to this unique environment by making it more accessible and more inviting to visitors,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Paul Biane, who serves as the County’s Second District Supervisor. “Attracting more legitimate visitors to the preserve will help curtail illegal dumping and off-roading because it will mean more eyes watching for these illegal and damaging activities.”

The \$1.6 million North Etiwanda Preserve enhancement project entails improvements such as a parking lot, restrooms, shaded picnic areas, and interpretive signs. Boulders and gates will be used to keep unauthorized vehicles out of the preserve. Ten monument signs will also be constructed to note points of interest in the preserve, including the Sierra Madre Cucamonga Fault, a wetlands area, and remnants of water resources infrastructure from the early 1900s.

The preserve is home to a variety of threatened and endangered plants and animals including the San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat, San Diego Horned Lizard, Coastal California Gnatcatcher, Sage Sparrow, and Riversidian Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub.

The North Etiwanda Preserve enhancement project is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2009. The San Bernardino County Department of Special Districts will continue to oversee maintenance of the preserve and the new amenities.

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