



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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District Land Transfer Provides Boost to Cloverdale Parks

Board approves transfer of former ranch to City of Cloverdale

SANTA ROSA, Calif. – Today, the District Board of Directors approved a transfer of the 250-acre Clover Springs property to the City of Cloverdale. Highly visible from Highway 101, the property was purchased by the District for \$7.5 million for eventual use as a park and open space preserve.

The acquisition, made possible through a \$98-million bond issue in 2007, protected the property's scenic and natural resources by preventing the potential development of a 22-lot subdivision. The transfer nearly doubles the City's existing 147 acres of parkland. The District will retain a conservation easement over the property.

"This property is very important to Cloverdale and we are proud to partner with the City to protect this land forever," said Mike McGuire, Fourth District Supervisor. "By adding 250 acres of parkland, we are creating a stronger community and enhancing the quality of life for generations of Cloverdale residents. Now, there are even more opportunities to enjoy our wide open spaces in northern Sonoma County."

Located off of Skyview Drive at the western edge of Cloverdale, the property ranges in elevation from 380 to more than 700 feet, and features oak woodland, evergreen forest, and a southern stretch of Porterfield Creek—a known habitat for steelhead. It currently provides access to the surrounding Del Webb neighborhood and may eventually connect to a trail system along Porterfield Creek.

As part of the transfer, the City will receive a draft trails plan funded by the District as well as a \$275,000 endowment to fund planning, maintenance and public access improvements. The City envisions trails, interpretive signage, riparian fencing to protect the creek and native plants, an educational center, and parking for the future park and preserve.

"Our beautiful surrounding hillsides are an important reason why residents and businesses are attracted to, and remain in, our community," said Cloverdale Mayor Gus Wolter. "We are thankful to the District for purchasing these 250 acres so they can be conserved and enjoyed by residents and visitors alike."

Nearby is the Lake Sonoma Recreation Area, adjacent to the 20,000-acre Cooley Ranch conservation easement acquired by the District in 2001. Additionally, the District transferred approximately 40 acres to the County's Regional Parks Department to create the 73-acre Cloverdale River Park.

"The District proudly partners with our Sonoma County cities to connect communities to the land," said Bill Keene, General Manager of the District. "Through our land conservation efforts we have been able to protect critical watersheds, wildlife habitat, and scenic backdrops, while providing much-needed open space for public recreation."

About the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District

The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District permanently protects the diverse **agricultural, natural resource** and **scenic open space** lands of Sonoma County for future generations. Since 1990, the District has protected more than 85,000 acres. Agricultural and open space lands have been protected through a 1/4-cent sales tax approved by voters in 1990 and reauthorized in 2006. For more information, please visit www.sonomaopenspace.org

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