



RANCHO MISSION VIEJO

FACT SHEET: Rancho Mission Viejo Land Trust The Reserve at Rancho Mission Viejo

**WHAT/
WHEN/
WHERE:**

The Rancho Mission Viejo family's legacy of conservation and open space preservation has resulted in thousands upon thousands of acres of open space dedicated as regional parks, wilderness areas, habitat conservancies, and perpetually protected property.

In 1990, the Ranch family voluntarily entered into an agreement with key wildlife and resource agencies for the preparation of a comprehensive conservation plan for the remaining acres of Rancho Mission Viejo, the working ranch held in O'Neill/Avery/Moiso hands since 1882.

Following years of unprecedented public input and scientific study, the Southern Subregional Habitat Conservation Plan was approved in 2007. This plan results in the preservation of 32,818 acres of south Orange County lands as the Southern Subregion Habitat Reserve. Include in these preserved acres are 20,868 acres of Rancho Mission Viejo lands and 11,950 acres owned by the County of Orange. The conserved Rancho Mission lands are called The Reserve at Rancho Mission Viejo.

In November 2006, the Rancho Mission Viejo Land Trust was established as a charitable foundation which serves as the steward of The Reserve at Rancho Mission Viejo.

WHO:

Rancho Mission Viejo, LLC

Rancho Mission Viejo, LLC is responsible for the ranching, farming, planning, development, and financial management of the remaining 23,000 acres of Rancho Mission Viejo, situated in Southeast Orange County, CA.

Since 1882, members of the O'Neill/Avery/Moiso family have owned and managed the Ranch, which once exceeded 200,000 acres. Today, the land once held by the family encompasses the family-developed cities of Mission Viejo and Rancho Santa Margarita, the communities of Coto de Caza, Las Flores and Ladera Ranch as well as thousands of acres of undeveloped open space such as Camp Pendleton, Caspers Wilderness Park, Richard and Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy, O'Neill Regional Park, San Onofre State Park, Starr Ranch Audubon Sanctuary, and Upper Chiquita Conservation Area.

The new ranch community of Rancho Mission Viejo

The new ranch community of Rancho Mission Viejo is comprised of more than 17,000 acres of permanent open space and approximately 6,000 acres of future residential and mixed-use development. Encompassing nearly 23,000 acres owned by the O'Neill/Avery/Moiso family since 1882, Rancho Mission Viejo is Orange County's last working ranch.

Rancho Mission Viejo Habitat Reserve Lands

The Rancho Mission Viejo habitat reserve lands will be comprised of 20,868 acres of privately owned Ranch family land, preserved as permanent natural open space for habitat and species protection. Coastal sage scrub, oak woodlands and vernal pools are a few of the habitats which will be preserved on The Reserve at Rancho Mission Viejo. These and other habitats support seven endangered or threatened species which occur on The Reserve.

Enrollment of Rancho Mission Viejo habitat reserve lands into The Reserve at Rancho Mission Viejo will occur over time, via a series of phased dedications of conservation easements keyed to specific development increments of the Ranch community.

The Rancho Mission Viejo Land Trust

The Land Trust is a not-for-profit, 501 (C) 3 private foundation. The Land Trust was incorporated in 2006 and is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of Rancho Mission Viejo, LLC President and Chief Executive Officer Anthony R. Moiso, Chief Operating Officer Donald Vodra and Senior Vice President – Planning and Entitlement Richard Broming.

The Land Trust receives, manages and disburses funds for the benefit of The Reserve at Rancho Mission Viejo. The management of these funds is consistent with the terms of the implementation agreement for the federally approved Southern Subregion Habitat Conservation Plan.

Through its Executive Director, the Land Trust implements various habitat management and monitoring actions designed to promote biodiversity, the persistence of target species and the maintenance of habitat values on Rancho Mission Viejo habitat reserve lands. In addition, the Executive Director oversees a very active public education and access program designed to encourage Orange County residents to learn about and interact with The Reserve.

The Reserve at Rancho Mission Viejo

The Reserve is a not-for-profit, 501 (C) 3 public supporting charity. The Reserve was incorporated in 2007 and consists of a seven-member independent Board of Directors comprised of representatives from the County of Orange, Santa Margarita Water District, a local cultural/historical/conservation organization and Rancho Mission Viejo, LLC. As an easement holding entity, The Reserve ensures compliance with all the laws and regulations concerning the holding of conservation easements granted by Rancho Mission Viejo, LLC. In addition, The Reserve verifies that the Executive Director is fulfilling the provisions of these conservations easements, in accordance the Southern Subregion Habitat Conservation Plan Implementation Agreement.

