



POND DR06 FACT SHEET LA HONDA CREEK OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

Wetland habitat at pond DR06 in the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve was successfully restored in summer, 2010. The land is owned by the **Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District**, a public agency whose mission is to preserve land and agriculture, protect and restore the natural environment and provide opportunities for public enjoyment and education. This project was made possible thanks to \$40,000 from the **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation** and \$43,000 from **California State Parks**.

Restoration has resulted in a deeper, longer-lasting pond that:



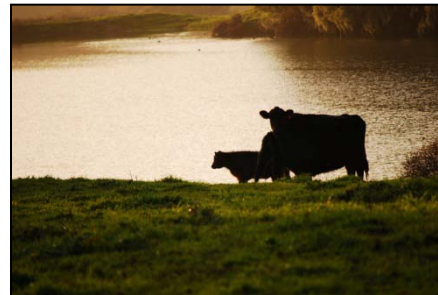
- Allows threatened California red-legged frogs to successfully breed. Young frogs have been observed using the pond.

- Allows San Francisco garter snakes, which eat red-legged frogs, to possibly colonize the area. They are currently found nearby.



- Keeps sediment out of downstream Harrington and San Gregorio Creeks, which provide habitat for endangered Coho salmon and threatened steelhead trout and water for farmers.

- Provides water for cattle during the hot, dry summer while excluding them from accessing sensitive species' habitat at critical times of year.



BACKGROUND

The pond is located within the 5,759-acre La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. Before it was purchased by the Open Space District in 2004, the pond was part of Driscoll Ranch, which holds a lease with the Open Space District to continue cattle grazing. The ponds in the preserve were created between 30 and 50 years ago to provide water for cattle. Since that time, sensitive wildlife species have come to depend on them as many of the area's natural waterways have been impacted by human use. A plan was developed to manage 11 of the most critical ponds in the preserve, identifying pond DR06 as the highest priority. The pond ultimately drains into San Gregorio Creek, which is considered impaired by the State Water Resources Control Board due to sedimentation.

TIMELINE

2008 Pond fails and is temporarily fixed. Ongoing biological monitoring begins.

2009 Management plan, permitting, design and bidding complete.

2010 Construction and re-vegetation with over 450 native wetland plants.

2011 California red-legged frogs are observed successfully breeding in the pond.

COSTS

\$33,000 Permits, design, geotechnical work and temporary repairs.

\$75,000 Construction, equipment, materials and monitoring.

\$10,000 Cattle fencing, thistle removal and native plant installation.

Total Project Costs \$118,000



NEXT STEPS

Restoration of ponds DR07 and DR08, the next highest priorities identified in the pond management plan, was completed in 2012.

CONTACT

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