

Update on New Land for the Conservancy

Negotiations continue to purchase open space in Rancho Palos Verdes.

LAND IN PORTUGUESE BEND

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy and the City of Rancho Palos Verdes are continuing negotiations with York Long Point Associates to acquire 191 acres of open space in the Portuguese Bend area. The area, formerly owned by the Vanderlip family, is known as Filiorum, and is the linchpin that links together previously preserved lands in the Portuguese Bend area which are managed by the Conservancy.

This open space is the largest developable block of land remaining on the south side of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. “The acquisition of the property will establish a contiguous natural area that will serve as a vital passage for wildlife and re-open the trails in the area to the public,” said Henry Jurgens, President of the PVPLC.

The planned acquisition will enable completion of the city’s Draft Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), developed by an innovative, years-long process that involved city leaders, environmentalists, state agencies, and land owners. The NCCP provides for the preparation and implementation of large-scale natural resource conservation plans. It bestows comprehensive management and conservation of multiple species, including species listed in the California Endangered Species Act or Federal Endangered Species Act.

When this agreement and purchase is completed it will be the fourth acquisition of property in this area: the 160-acre Forrestal property was acquired in 1996, the 100-acre Three Sisters property in 2001, and the 399-acre Portuguese Bend Reserve in 2005. Combined with the new acquisition, the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve will total almost 1,000 acres of open space --the largest block of natural open space in the South Bay.