



Louise Olfarnes  
Communications Manager  
Tel: (310) 626-7863  
Email: [Lolfarnes@pvplc.org](mailto:Lolfarnes@pvplc.org)

Susan Wilcox  
Development Director  
Tel: (310) 308-0334  
Email: [SWilcox@pvplc.org](mailto:SWilcox@pvplc.org)

## **Two Peninsula Residents “Go Wild” with gifts totaling \$2 Million to create a Wildlife Corridor in Rancho Palos Verdes**

RANCHO PALOS VERDES – Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, the Rancho Palos Verdes City Council approved the naming of two reserve areas that will be part of a new Wildlife Corridor within the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve in Rancho Palos Verdes. The new reserve names provide recognition of generous gifts from two Peninsula families who joined the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy’s “Go Wild for the Peninsula” initiative to raise \$30 million to preserve and restore the last large remaining parcels of coastal open space on the Palos Verdes Peninsula and to restore critical habitats throughout the Peninsula.

The new reserves will be named for Rolling Hills residents Dorothy and Allen Lay and for Palos Verdes Estates resident Jacqueline M. Glass Family respectively. The Lays and Glass each donated \$1 Million. They share a dedication to helping preserve and restore the rare coastal lands of the Peninsula which will provide refuge for threatened wildlife. The Reserve Naming is one of several recognition opportunities made available by an agreement between the City and the Conservancy. Other naming opportunities include: Palos Verdes Nature Preserve naming at \$10 Million, Individual Reserve naming at \$1 Million, Scenic Overlook naming at \$250,000, Trail naming at \$100,000, and Group Recognition site naming at \$30,000+.

City of Rancho Palos Verdes Mayor Barbara Ferraro stated at the City Council meeting, *“The fact that the Glass and Lay families live in other cities on the peninsula shows at heart we are really ONE community.”* For Council member Eric Alegria, *“I believe these donors should be celebrated for their generosity.”*

The new Wildlife Corridor will connect coastal land to the contiguous Palos Verdes Nature Preserve above, owned by the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. The Land Conservancy, as Habitat Managers, will remove invasive, fire-prone plants such as mustard and acacia using goats, organized volunteer crews, and skilled landscape contractors to prepare the land for native plant seedlings and wildflowers.

In addition to these two major private gifts, public funding was awarded from the US Fish & Wildlife Service with \$12.6 million through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund. The Wildlife Conservation Board awarded \$4.8 million, Senator Ben Allen’s discretionary budget awarded \$5 million, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes contributed \$1.3 million and the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District awarded the Land Conservancy a competitive grant for \$1 million from Measure A.

This brings the total public funds to \$24.7 million, and with many community contributions received, the Land Conservancy is closer to its \$30 million goal.

Conservancy Executive Director Adrienne Mohan is *“gratified that the Lays and Glass understand the value of protecting our coastal land and the need for restoration to replace invasive vegetation with native species to create a healthy environment on the Palos Verdes Peninsula for future generations to enjoy. It is exciting that they both jumped at the chance to ‘Go Wild for the Peninsula’ and we know their gifts will inspire others. We are amazed by the outpouring from the community and encourage Peninsula and South Bay residents to make a contribution of any size in order to protect and restore Peninsula’s natural lands that we all cherish. There is still a lot of work to be done!”* Please join us and “Go Wild for the Peninsula” at: **GOWILDPV.ORG**. Additional information is forthcoming about other exciting individual gifts.

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### **Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy**

*The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy ([www.pvplc.org](http://www.pvplc.org)) works to preserve land and restore habitat for the education and enjoyment of all. The Conservancy preserves undeveloped land as open space for historical, educational, ecological, recreational and scenic purposes. Since its founding in 1988, the Conservancy has successfully preserved 1,700 acres of open space on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. The Conservancy works with the four cities in which the preserved lands are located: Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, and San Pedro (City of Los Angeles). The Conservancy’s vision is the creation and management of large blocks of natural open space where visitors may enjoy peaceful solitude, where children and adults can learn about the natural environment, and where native plants and animals can thrive.*