



# RAMONA GRASSLANDS PRESERVE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT & PUBLIC ACCESS PLANS

## DID YOU KNOW?



The Preserve supports a number of sensitive species including the federally endangered Stephens' kangaroo rat (SKR). The County and our consultants are currently conducting active management measures within a 3-acre Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR) Management Area located within the southwest portion of the Preserve. Management measures include scraping the top layer of vegetation to expose the soil and on-going mowing to maintain or increase the area's suitability to support SKR.



The Oak Country II staging area off Highland Valley Road near Archie Moore Road provides parking for cars and horse trailers. The Oak Country II trail is open seven days per week between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. in the fall and winter and 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. during daylight savings time. This trail provides users with amazing views of the Santa Maria Creek and picnic areas shaded by gorgeous oak trees.

## Project Update—July/August 2011

On June 3, 2011 the Oak Country II trail, an approximately 4-mile loop in the southwest portion of the Ramona Grasslands Preserve was opened to the public. This multi-use trail loop for hiking, biking, and equestrian use is accessed via a staging area off Highland Valley Road and traverses through grasslands, oak woodlands, and chaparral vegetation communities. The opening of this portion of the Ramona Grasslands Preserve to passive recreational uses represents the first step in the implementation of the proposed Public Access Plan for the entire 3,500-acre Preserve.

The preferred alternative for public access within the Preserve, developed by the County and our consultants and with input from stakeholders and the public, includes the Oak Country II trail as well as trails within the northwest, northeast, and southeast portions of the Preserve. The project team is currently in the process of preparing the environmental documentation, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), to address the potential impacts on the environment that would result from implementation of the proposed project, which consists of the following components:

- Implementation of the management directives in the Preserve Resource Management Plan and Preserve Vegetation Management Plan;
- Establishment of a multi-use trail system consistent with the Preserve Public Access Plan; and
- Construction of supporting infrastructure improvements in the northwest portion, such as a staging area, ranger station/interpretive center/restroom facility, primitive amphitheater, picnic areas, a viewing pavilion/visitor kiosk, and a horse arena.

Materials related to the Resource Management and Public Access Plans, are posted online at:

[http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/parks/openspace/RamonaGrasslands\\_RMPUpdate.html](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/parks/openspace/RamonaGrasslands_RMPUpdate.html)

## Next Steps...

- Public review of the environmental documentation prepared for the project and the supporting documents: Public Access Plan, Resource Management Plan, Vegetation Management Plan, Biological Resources Report, and Cultural Resources Report, is expected to begin in September 2011.

### NEED MORE INFORMATION? Contact:



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