



ALISO CANYON PRESERVE

M2: ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM

OCTA's Measure M2 Freeway Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) provides comprehensive mitigation to offset the environmental impacts of the 13 Measure M2-funded freeway projects.

The EMP presents a comprehensive mitigation approach that provides not only replacement habitat, but also the opportunity to improve the overall functions and value of sensitive biological resources throughout Orange County.

Based on the evaluation of mitigation opportunities in the County, priority conservation areas were identified, including candidate parcels and properties that could be considered for wilderness preservation purposes. Properties were then selected for acquisition and restoration. These properties were selected to enhance wildlife connectivity, safeguard sensitive species and preserve substantial parcels of valuable habitat.



Indian Paintbrush and California Sagebrush

ABOUT THE PRESERVE

The Aliso Canyon Preserve is a 151-acre parcel located in the Southeast portion of the City of Laguna Beach. It is adjacent to Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, as well as Moulton Meadows Park. The Preserve features a variety of habitats, including chaparral, grassland, and coastal sage scrub.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife database has identified several special status plant and animal species within a one-mile radius of the study area. They include but are not limited to:

- Orange-Throated Whiptail
- Tidewater Goby
- Coast (San Diego) Horned Lizard
- Least Bell's Vireo
- Southwestern Pond Turtle
- Northern Harrier
- American Peregrine Falcon
- Coastal California Gnatcatcher
- Foothill Mariposa Lily
- Catalina Mariposa Lily
- Many-stemmed Dudleya
- Laguna Beach Dudleya
- Cliff Spurge
- Nuttall's Scrub Oak
- Crownbeard

The general unsullied nature of the terrain allows for several important wildlife movement corridors for deer, coyotes, brush rabbits, Beechey ground squirrels, Botta pocket gophers and more. The Preserve serves as the final open space connection between the south end of the Laguna Greenbelt, Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, and the sea. OCTA's acquisition of Aliso Canyon will allow for the area to be preserved as open space, ensuring the preservation of wildlife mobility as well as various sensitive species in the area.

