



MACPHERSON 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 are protected to enhance wildlife connectivity, safeguard sensitive species and substantial parcels of valuable habitat.



San Diego Horned Lizard

ABOUT THE PRESERVE

The 204-acre MacPherson Preserve is located in the northern foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains within Silverado Canyon. The Preserve is surrounded by open space with some adjacent low density residential development to the south. The Cleveland National Forest is located to the east with county-owned land to the west. This area is considered to be unincorporated Orange County.

The Preserve has a variety of habitats including:

- Chaparral
- Grassland
- Coastal Sage Scrub
- Coast Live Oak Woodland

MacPherson provides habitat for several important species such as:

- Coastal California Gnatcatcher
- Intermediate Mariposa Lily
- Many-Stemmed Dudleya
- Chaparral Nolina
- Coast Horned Lizard
- Orange-Throated Whiptail
- Mountain Lion
- Bobcat

Several important wildlife movement corridors have been identified on MacPherson, portions of which are contiguous to the Cleveland National Forest. Mammals expected to use the corridors include mule deer, mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes and gray foxes. OCTA's acquisition of this property in December 2013 allows this core segment of the Silverado Canyon area to be preserved as open space. This will help maintain the natural open space value and ensure the preservation of wildlife mobility in the area.

