



TODAY

... to protect the land forever | January 2022

Supervisors recommend scaling back SDC development plans to respond to community concerns



At a pivotal hearing on the future of the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC), on January 25, 2022, the Board of Supervisors directed staff to scale back proposals for housing development from nearly 1,000 homes to between 400 and 700 homes. The Press Democrat [reported](#), *“Speaker after speaker called for a scaled-down footprint, additional time to study wildlife impacts, more public transportation and bike lanes, services for people with disabilities and a greater concentration of affordable housing.”*

SLT’s Executive Director Eamon O’Byrne focused his testimony on how, “SDC provides an opportunity for a major win for two critical state and county priorities: creating more affordable housing and using nature-based solutions to adapt to climate change.”

Supervisor Susan Gorin led the effort to protect the open space and wildlife corridor values of SDC, listening and

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We’re hiring!



Are you (or someone you know) looking for a high-impact career where protecting Earth’s natural resources for current and future generations is part of your job description? Then the Director of Marketing and Media Relations position at Sonoma Land Trust may be right for you.

In this role, you will help develop our marketing strategies and vision, and lead our communication functions for the organization. Help us spread the word!

[Learn more](#)

Impact Report

consistent with environmental and community priorities.

Birding by the numbers



During the winter holidays, birders with [Madrone Audubon Society](#) visited sites across Sonoma County, including Estero Americano Preserve, Glen Oaks Ranch, Tolay Creek Ranch and Jenner Headlands — Sonoma Land Trust protected lands. In addition to enjoying nature, these volunteers were on a mission to count birds for the National Audubon Society's [Christmas Bird Count](#) (CBC), the nation's longest-running community science bird project.

On a recent episode of [NPR's Science Friday](#), scientists from the National Audubon Society discussed how this valuable bird count information is analyzed on a national level to answer questions such as how warming temperatures and habitat loss affect winter bird distributions. This [information](#) is then used to guide conservation policy, to conserve bird populations and to improve management of protected lands. To learn more about CBC trends, here and across the country, check out National Audubon's [Trends Viewer](#).

Thanks for being A Force for Nature



[Read our full 2021 Impact Report](#) to learn how we...

- Added 1,000+ acres to parks/protected land.
- Secured \$2 million to “fight fire.”
- Helped thousands realize nature’s value via virtual and live community programs.
- Educated stakeholders about wildlife corridors and linkages.
- Brought awareness/funding to the Highway 37 rebuild.
- Reached 86.5% of our \$80 million *A Force for Nature* campaign goal.

Sit Back and Relax on a Virtual Hike



Join us for fun, relaxing and interactive hikes. We'll debut the tidal marsh restoration being done at Sears Point and continue our virtual hikes to the unique area of Sonoma County known as The Cedars.

[Sign up for a virtual hike here](#)



Thanks to the 1,750 donors who joined our End-of-Year Challenge, we raised \$1.8 million, exceeding our goal of \$1.3 million. These funds will support your Land Trust's work to build a more resilient and equitable Sonoma County. We are humbled by your generosity, which makes possible our all-out effort to adapt to climate change. Your investment will support proven, nature-based solutions, such as prescribed fire and wetland restoration, at a scale large enough to make a real difference. Our work, funded by your donations, protects our communities and preserves natural resources that will sustain us for generations to come.

Thanks also to our [A Force for Nature Campaign Steering Committee](#), who jointly issued the challenge to our community. Find out more about Sonoma Land Trust's *A Force for Nature Campaign* [here](#).

What artificial intelligence and recorders are telling us about birds



Listening to the sounds of nature can help us understand the health of ecosystems, which is why we're so excited about recent reports from Soundscapes to Landscapes (S2L) that identify the different birds living on 11 Sonoma Land Trust preserves. S2L uses audio recorders, artificial intelligence and space-based remote sensing to monitor bird diversity. Volunteers, students and landowners throughout Sonoma



Press Democrat

[County moves ahead with preliminary plan for Sonoma Developmental Center, but likely with less housing](#)

[Sonoma Land Trust says more time needed to study wildlife corridor at Sonoma Developmental Center](#)

[Estate donation from late Sea Ranch couple helps preserve Sonoma County landscapes](#)

Sonoma Sun

[Decision time on the future of the Sonoma Developmental Center](#)

Kenwood Press

[North Sonoma Valley MAC targets housing emphasis in SDC planning](#)

Sonoma County Gazette

[We need more time to make the right decision about the SDC campus](#)



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through a computer algorithm that can detect 57 bird species' vocalizations. Using spatial modeling techniques, bird diversity data can be linked to remotely sensed images and climate data, resulting in dynamic maps of bird species across the county.



Join us on February 17 for Language of the Land: Soundscapes to Landscapes to hear leaders share more about how they are mapping Sonoma County's biodiversity and what they are learning.

[Register](#)

[Listen to birds on Pole Mountain](#)

[Listen to birds on Glen Oaks Ranch](#)

S2L is a partnership among the following: Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Analysis (CIGA) at Sonoma State University, Point Blue Conservation Science, Audubon California, Pepperwood Preserve, Sonoma County Ag + Open Space, Northern Arizona University, UC Merced and The University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Questions or comments? Email info@sonomalandtrust.org.
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