



# TODAY

... to protect the land forever | July 2022

## Wetland restoration and climate resilience opportunities



From left to right: Sonoma County District 2 Supervisor David Rabbitt, Congressman Mike Thompson (District 5), and Congressman Jared Huffman (District 2)

Our goal for the San Pablo Baylands is to protect and restore at least 20,000 acres to tidal marsh wetlands by 2030. Doing so will benefit people and nature by increasing resilience to the impacts of flooding from rising seas and intense storms. But sometimes seeing is believing. That’s why Congressman Huffman recently asked the Land Trust to show decisionmakers and other stakeholders wetland restoration and climate resilience opportunities in the San Pablo Baylands along the State Route 37 Corridor, including our restoration project at Sears Point.

One attendee, Congressman Thompson, said he was struck by the enormous restoration potential of the area the minute the group stood up on a ridgetop overlooking the Sonoma Creek Baylands.

DONATE NOW

### Sonoma Land Trust welcomes director of marketing and media relations

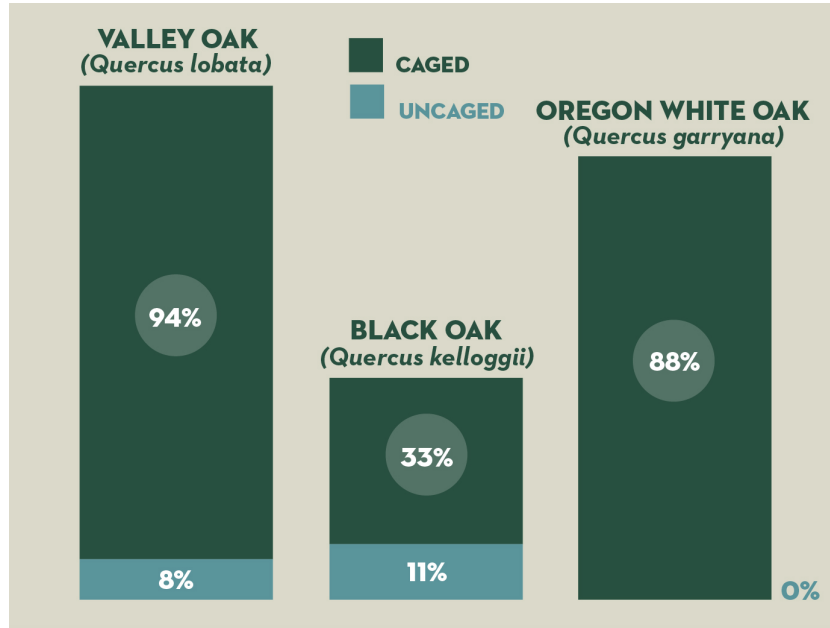


Following an extensive search, the Land Trust has welcomed Gina Fabiano to its executive team as the director of marketing and media relations. Gina is a strategic marketing and communications professional with more than 20 years of experience working in a wide range of industries, including nonprofits,

positive and productive conversations with Congressman Huffman, other elected officials and agency representatives—are bringing attention and funding to the region to improve transportation infrastructure while restoring wetlands.

recently, healthcare. As an ardent environmentalist, she brings her passion and her skills to this role. She excels at translating complex ideas into relatable stories that reach large and diverse audiences and believes relationship building is the key to fostering authentic connections. Outside of work, Gina loves biking, hiking, and kayaking with her husband and exploring the scenic beauty of Northern California.

## Helping young oaks survive



The bar chart, above, shows the survival rates of three species of oak seedlings—with and without caging.

In recent years, we, along with land managers across California, have observed low rates of oak recruitment. Recruitment of seedlings into “adult” trees is important for replacing old trees that die from disease or age. Limits to recruitment include competition for water, light and nutrients by nearby vegetation; browsing deer; and the stressors of climate change.

In 2017, the Nuns Fire stimulated the germination of a bumper crop of oak seedlings at Glen Oaks Ranch, giving us an opportunity to better understand limits on recruitment. We decided to measure the impact of browsing deer on the seedlings by caging half of them in our test area.

Fast-forward five years, and the caged seedlings have a much higher survival rate than seedlings left uncaged (see chart above). Based on the results of this experiment, we will add caging to our toolkit for stewarding healthy and resilient oak woodlands.

## OpenRoad features work at Sears Point



Where is San Francisco Bay's best opportunity for restoring and connecting a vast mosaic of tidal wetlands? The answer is Sonoma County's San Pablo Bay Shoreline between the Petaluma River and Sonoma Creek. Julian Meisler, Baylands program manager at the Land Trust, joined OpenRoad host, Doug McConnell, to discuss this incredible

information to support its adaptive management philosophy, which is critical to its ability to address the impacts of climate change.)

## Sonoma Land Trust's water strategy explained



One way Sonoma Land Trust is responding to the decline of salmon and steelhead trout is by focusing directly on projects that will increase freshwater flows in key watersheds. As these fish run out of the water needed to survive an increase in prolonged droughts due to climate change, a focus on protecting, managing and acquiring water rights in the right places became an important strategic move for us. To find out about this important program, [visit our website](#) or read our [recently published brochure](#), which explains our approach in more detail.

## Supreme Court limits EPA's ability to mandate carbon emissions reductions

adaptation and resilience. You can see OpenRoad: Restoring Wetlands—Protecting Ourselves From Sea Level Rise (Episode 80) [here](#).

## Language of the Land: Sonoma Valley Wildlands Collaborative



The Wildlands Collaborative is a group of six conservation landowners who work together on creating more fire-resilient landscapes in Sonoma Valley. Join us on August 24 for a presentation with Monica Delmartini of Sonoma County Ag + Open Space, Naftali Moed of California State Parks, and Joe Plaugher of Sonoma Land Trust. You'll hear about management tools the Collaborative is using to recover from past wildfires, manage for future fires and contribute to scientific research.

[Register here](#)





### Sonoma Land Trust earns Candid's Platinum Seal of Transparency



The Supreme Court ruled on June 30 to restrict the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to mandate carbon emissions reductions, the second-largest source of greenhouse gases in the United States. Without this critical tool for restricting planet-warming emissions, even more responsibility falls on us to support local and state actions to combat climate change. Sonoma Land Trust is conserving natural spaces in our county to protect biodiversity and build resilience to climate change. We are also working to meet the state and national 30x30 goals—to conserve 30 percent of our lands and coastal waters by 2030—to avoid the worst impacts of a warming planet. How can you help? Join us in being [A Force for Nature](#).

We're excited to share that Sonoma Land Trust has earned a 2022 Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid. Candid, formerly known as GuideStar, is the world's largest source of nonprofit information. A Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest level of transparency an organization can earn, considers goals, strategies and financials, ensuring that you can support our work with confidence. View our profile [here](#).

---

## The greenest way to give





When you join as a recurring donor, you are A Force for Nature investing in natural solutions that promote the health of our land, water and communities. As a nonprofit, we rely on our supporters to help us fulfill our mission. By becoming a recurring donor, you make it possible to make decisions based on our available resources, ensuring that we can continue our critical work. Not only that, but by reducing mailings and other resources typically used in fundraising campaigns, it is also the greenest way to give. Become a monthly donor.

Questions or comments? Email [info@sonomalandtrust.org](mailto:info@sonomalandtrust.org).  
Copyright 2008-2022 Sonoma Land Trust. All Rights Reserved.