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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dangerous Madrona Project Overturned by OC Judge on all Major Points

Brea, California—Hills For Everyone is thrilled to announce that Orange County Superior Court Judge Robert Moss overturned the approval of a controversial 162 unit housing tract proposed for natural lands located deep in Carbon Canyon. The Brea City Council had approved the project in a 4-1 vote in June 2014, even with overwhelming and consistent public opposition to it for 15 years. This court ruling overturns those project approvals.

While Hills For Everyone took the lead on this lawsuit, co-petitioners included California Native Plant Society; Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks; and Sierra Club. The 2014 lawsuit against the City and landowner sought to overturn the approval of the Madrona project and the project's often amended Environmental Impact Reports (EIR). The suit alleged that the project approval violates:

- state planning laws mandating consistency between general plans and specific plans, and
- the California Environmental Quality Act by failing to disclose the project's true impacts on traffic and the environment in the EIR.

Sara Clark and Gabriel Ross, our attorneys from Shute, Mihaly and Weinberger, consistently and clearly represented us through the years on this case.

“We feel vindicated. The Judge agreed with us that the Madrona project violated the City's own planning documents,” said Claire Schlotterbeck, Executive Director of Hills For Everyone. “In fact, the Judge outlined in numerous instances where the City admitted that the project violates its own policies. We are thankful Judge Moss understood the complexities of the case and we are so grateful to the residents who dug into the details.”

The Madrona project has been fraught with turmoil from the beginning; from a lawsuit grandfathering in the project under old standards to various bankruptcies of the project applicant. In fact, the State of Idaho was appointed trustee to take responsibility for processing this development in its most current form. The project straddles the Orange County-San Bernardino County line. Residents on both sides were concerned with the public safety, the fire-prone location, excessive water use, and project's lack of adequate access. The project would have removed 1400 oak and walnut trees and those dwindling woodlands are now safer.

The City of Brea and developer may opt to appeal this decision.

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For more than 35 years, **Hills For Everyone** has worked to preserve the unique and disappearing landscapes of the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor. **California Native Plant Society** focuses on conservation of California native plants and their natural habitats. **Friends of Harbors, Beaches, and Parks** works to protect the natural lands, waterways, and beaches of Orange County. **Sierra Club**'s mission is to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth.

Learn more at: www.HillsForEveryone.org or www.StopMadrona.org