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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Ridgeline Land Permanently Protected
Adjacent to Chino Hills State Park**

Brea, California—After four decades of aiming to conserve the land, 320 acres of natural land have finally been permanently protected. Thanks to funding from the state and federal government, the conservation transaction was completed on July 29, 2020. Hills For Everyone shepherded the property to closing. The land includes gently rolling grasslands, slopes dotted with oak trees, and coastal sage scrub that includes sensitive species like the California Gnatcatcher. It borders Chino Hills State Park on three sides and has been a goal for acquisition since it contained natural ridgelines.

“Chino Hills State Park was created along ridgeline boundaries to protect the views for visitors and the water quality for wildlife,” states Claire Schlotterbeck, Executive Director of Hills For Everyone. “This particular property protects part of the viewshed for Lower Aliso Canyon. We are grateful to all the partners who made this transaction possible.”

“We acquired this property over 20 years ago as part of a portfolio acquisition,” said Brian Rupp, Executive Vice President of Development at Shopoff Realty Investments. “After several years of working with multiple partners including the Sauls Company, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife Conservation Board, and Hills For Everyone, we are pleased to see that this land will be permanently preserved as open space.”

This acquisition’s funding was approved in February 2020 and transferred to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority in July. The long-term goal is to include this property as part of Chino Hills State Park, but for the last 12 years the Department of Parks and Recreation has not been accepting additional parklands. Thankfully, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority stepped up as interim manager to ensure the opportunity to buy this land from a willing seller was not lost. This acquisition begins to fill in a gap in ownership connecting the 14,100 acre State Park to the 4,000 acre Prado Basin.

“Conservation science has revealed that even our biggest parks must be connected to other protected natural lands to provide sufficient space to maintain the suite of species meant to be there,” relayed Schlotterbeck. “The land is within the City of Chino Hills in San Bernardino County and any development could have damaged what we have protected thus far.”

This is not the final acquisition Hills For Everyone is working on. Additional lands are targeted for conservation that will also protect nearby ridgelines, expand the connection to neighboring parklands, and ensure wildlife have a place to roam, nest, forage, and raise their young. In fact, the 80 acres immediately west of this acquisition, and also owned by Shopoff Realty Investments, we hope to partner to conserve next. See attached map.

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*For more than 40 years, **Hills For Everyone** has worked to preserve the unique and disappearing landscapes of the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor.*

Learn more at: www.HillsForEveryone.org

Recent Acquisitions Near Chino Hills State Park

