



**Foothills Forever Fund passes \$10 million in just 10 weeks —
Help Fund the remaining \$8 million
Preserve San Marcos Foothills!**

Foothills Forever, the campaign to purchase the West Mesa of the San Marcos Foothills, announced it has raised over \$10 million in just 10 weeks, and with solid community support is in the home stretch to raise the needed \$18.6 million by June 1st to acquire the property.

Donors from throughout the community are excited to help. "The outpouring of community support to save these lands is exciting and encouraging," stated County Supervisor Gregg Hart.

When asked why she supports the campaign to preserve the San Marcos Foothills Forever, Gwen Dawson stated simply "I want this land for my children, my grandchildren and my great grandchildren—for everybody's children. That's something I can get excited about. Saving the land for the children, where kids can walk on this land, to know it, and see nature, see the animals and be changed. And know beauty and peace forever in these foothills."

Marianne Para, a member of the executive committee and campaign leadership team, expressed "a heartfelt thank you to the Allemall Foundation, that joined us as a conservation partner last month, to Judy & Jack Stapelmann who matched our first anonymous donor with a \$1 million gift, and to the more than 4,300 individuals who have donated amounts large and small."

Composer and filmmaker Cody Westheimer says, "What better to inspire our young people than saving wild land? This place is an endless well for those who want to create and explore, or simply go and contemplate life. For me, the San Marcos Foothills has been a beacon, especially during these pandemic times."

Mr. Westheimer has produced several short videos about the campaign to help raise awareness of the campaign to purchase and protect the San Marcos Foothills. These are viewable at FoothillsForever.org. Mr. Westheimer used the West Mesa as inspiration for his piece "Foothills Forever" for string orchestra, which is part of his "Free Range Composing" series. This can be accessed through YouTube or a link on the FoothillsForever.org website.

"It is inspiring to see the wide range of support for preserving this important piece of land, from school children to seniors. This property has something for everyone to enjoy, which is why so many people have contributed to add the San Marcos Foothills West Mesa to our community's important open space lands forever," said campaign co-chair Peter Schuyler.

To be successful in purchasing the property, the Foothills Forever Fund, a fiscal sponsorship fund of the Santa Barbara Foundation, must raise an additional \$8.6 million by June 1st to cover the purchase price, repay the short-term loan, and cover the essential campaign and closing costs to complete the escrow and obtain control of the property. After June 1st, they will develop the long-term management plan for the property and to create an endowment for the maintenance and restoration of the property.

Campaign volunteers are providing docent-led tours from 10 -11:30 am every Saturday and Sunday through the Month of May. Tours may also be scheduled through FoothillsForever.org

To find out more about this once in a lifetime effort, including information on how to donate through the Santa Barbara Foundation, sign up for tours of the property, or register for an informational zoom meeting, go to FoothillsForever.org, or contact campaign director Mary Rose at 805-448-0663 or info@foothillsforever.org.

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