

FAQs on the proposed Regent Properties La Viera Project

What does the September 21st announcement of proposed donated property mean?

It announces an agreement between Regent Properties and the Ventura Hillside Conservancy to begin negotiating the potential donation of 722 acres of open space.

This is an expansion from the originally proposed donation of 175 acres, adding 547 acres for a total of 722 acres of land being proposed as dedicated open space.

Explain the difference between the original 215 acre parcel and this new 547 acre parcel.

Regent Properties originally proposed an open space donation of approximately 175 acres as part of their purchase of 215 acres of land of the Mariano Rancho above the city of Ventura. The donation of 175 acres would only have allowed minimal recreational opportunities on trails that couldn't extend past the boundaries of the land-locked 215 acre parcel. Adding the proposed 547 acres of open space would allow for a larger network of trails on a 722 acre nature preserve that could connect to Grant Park and the Ventura Botanical Gardens, providing a valuable opportunity for public recreational access and environmental education.

What is VHC's position on the Regent development?

We cannot take a position on development projects. As a land conservancy, our mission and expertise is to acquire and permanently protect open space in the public interest. It is not our business to advocate for or against development projects. In the instances where donations of land are components of development projects, we value the land donation component on its own merit and overall benefit to the community. Since its inception in 2003, VHC's minimum criteria to negotiate potential land donations is 80% open space. In this instance, the land donation would be 94% of the space being discussed.

What is the difference between VHC and VCHP?

VHC (Ventura Hillside Conservancy) is a land trust 501(c)3 non-profit organization that acquires and manages nature preserves. Its mission is to permanently preserve open space resources through acquisition of land, stewardship of protected lands, and public education about local natural resources. VHC does not engage in political advocacy.

VCHP (Ventura Citizens for Hillside Preservation) is a 501(c)4 political advocacy organization whose focus is to actively participate in and influence the public planning process through public education campaigns as well as supporting like-minded organizations, public officials, political candidates, and ballot measures. VCHP does not acquire and manage land.