

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: 9/11/2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Event: Tour of Railroad Right-Of-Way in Half Moon Bay.

Event Date: Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008 from 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.

Contact Persons: Jo Chamberlain, Executive Director, Coastside Land Trust, 650-284-5056 or 650-346-3775; Shari Deghi 640-284-5056 or 650-208-9020

Event Details:

The Ocean Shore Railroad operated for the first two decades of the 20th century, bringing people to the then sparsely populated San Mateo coast and giving birth to the towns we know today as Pacifica, Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada and Half Moon Bay.

Although the Railroad is gone today, there is an area in Half Moon Bay called the Railroad Right-Of-Way (RROW) which is still vital to the town of Half Moon Bay. The RROW runs from Kelly Avenue south to Seymour Street between the western edge of the Arleta Park and Alsace Loraine neighborhoods, and a pristine open space bluff top overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The Coastside Land Trust, formerly call HOST or Half Moon Bay Open Space Trust, working with a group of coastside residents raised the funds for the City of Half Moon Bay to purchase the RROW from private owners in 2004. The Coastside Land Trust is the holder of the conservation easement over the RROW and is sponsoring the September 27th tour. The tour is designed to familiarize the local community with the history of the railroad, wildlife and native plants that are abundant in the area.

The tour will start at the beach end of Kelly Avenue in Half Moon Bay at 10 a.m. Members of the board of directors of the Coastside Land Trust and Executive Director Jo Chamberlain will welcome participants. Toni Corelli, botanist, author, environmental consultant and Chairperson of the Rare and Endangered Plant Committee of the California Native Plant Society, Santa Clara Valley Chapter, will speak about the native plants found in the area. Gary Deghi, wildlife biologist, wetlands scientist and Sequoia Audubon board member, will describe the wildlife that inhabit that area and highlight

bird species of interest. Deborah Ruddock, of the California Coastal Conservancy will discuss the environmental significance of the RROW easement for the coast. Chris Hunter, former editor of the Pacifica Tribune and author of Ocean Shore Railroad, will talk about the railroad's history.

Participants will walk along the Railroad Right-Of-Way to the second "stop" at the corner of Central and Railroad Avenues. At 10:45, the speakers will give more information about the plants, wildlife and history of the area.

The final "stop" will be at Poplar and Railroad Avenues across from the original Arleta Depot, which has been a private home for many years. The speakers give even more depth in their subject areas, answer questions and the event will conclude at 12:00.

The Coastside Land Trust is dedicated to the preservation, protection and enhancement of the open space environment including the natural, scenic, recreational, cultural, historical, and agricultural resources of Half Moon Bay and the nearby areas. There will be an opportunity for interested volunteers to sign up to help the Coastside Land Trust with a number of upcoming activities.