

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Christian Valley Park Protected**

*Placer Land Trust easement guarantees recreation forever*

**Auburn, CA**—Placer Land Trust and its partners are very pleased to announce the permanent protection of Christian Valley Park, a 16-acre recreation property east of Auburn.

The land was donated by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to the Auburn Area Recreation & Parks District (ARD) in June. Simultaneously, a conservation easement was granted to Placer Land Trust to guarantee the park is protected forever.

“Christian Valley Park is a very popular park,” said ARD Administrator Kahl Muscott. “The easy access, multi-use sports field and the oak woodlands together offer a beautiful setting for family and community recreation, including Little League baseball and youth soccer.”

ARD has been running recreation activities at the park since 2001 though a lease with PG&E. According to Muscott, ARD’s ownership of the park now saves ARD \$1,800 per year in lease payments and gives ARD the ability to plan for the long term, rather than year-to-year.

To ensure this property remains protected for the public forever, the nonprofit Placer Land Trust agreed to hold a perpetual conservation easement on the property. The conservation easement permanently prohibits subdivision, development and other land uses that interfere with the property’s beneficial public values.

“Our job is to ensure that the property is kept open and accessible not only for the public today, but for future generations as well,” said Placer Land Trust Executive Director Jeff Darlington at a June 7 dedication event at the park. “The conservation easement permanently protects Christian Valley Park and the benefits this land provides the public – specifically public recreation, scenic open space, and natural habitat.”

Funding for the perpetual monitoring and enforcement of the conservation easement was provided by a grant from the Pacific Forest and Watershed Stewardship Council, along with pooled contributions from Placer Land Trust’s members.

“We’re pleased to support ARD and Placer Land Trust in their efforts to protect and enhance this property and improve the lives of young Californians through connections with the outdoors,” said Art Baggett, Stewardship Council Board President.

For Placer Land Trust, this project is planned to be the first of many working with PG&E and the Stewardship Council. As part of a land conservation commitment stemming from a 2003 bankruptcy settlement, PG&E is working with land trusts, the Stewardship Council, and other partners to permanently protect 140,000 acres of resource and recreation land in Northern California, including over 6,200 acres in Placer County to be protected by Placer Land Trust.

“In partnership with the many organizations that make up the Stewardship Council, PG&E is pleased to permanently protect the natural resources and beauty of the Christian Valley parcel and the watershed lands associated with our hydroelectric system for the benefit of current and future generations,” said Mike Schonherr of PG&E’s land conservation commitment department.

Christian Valley Park can be visited by the public anytime. For questions about sports and other organized recreational activities at the park, contact ARD at (530) 885-8461.

### **About Placer Land Trust**

Placer Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public benefit organization incorporated in 1991 that works with willing landowners and conservation partners to permanently protect natural and agricultural lands in Placer County for future generations. To date the Trust has protected over 8,000 acres in 35 locations across Placer County – including farms and ranches, riverfront lands, wildlife preserves, scenic open spaces, and public parks and recreation areas. For details, see [www.placerlandtrust.org](http://www.placerlandtrust.org) or call (530) 887-9222.

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### Photos

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*View from the batter's box into the oak woodlands at Christian Valley Park.*