

## Protecting and Preserving the Environment

The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria are committed to environmental protection and preservation and have taken meaningful steps towards long-term ecological sustainability in the Sonoma County region. The Tribe has established a remarkable track record of working to preserve open space and to restore native habitat in Sonoma County. By donating its option to purchase nearly 1,700 acres of pristine land to a local land trust, working in partnership with state and federal agencies on critical restoration projects, identifying land for its reservation which is consistent with local land use planning, and engaging the public in the environmental review process, the Tribe has been a key participant in the County's efforts to protect and preserve the surrounding natural environment.

## Land Donations

**Sears Point Baylands.** The Tribe played an instrumental role in the acquisition by the Sonoma Land Trust of 2,327 acres of scenic property located on the edge of the San Pablo Bay between the mouth of the Petaluma River and Tolay Creek.

The following events culminated in the purchase and protection of this environmentally and culturally significant property in 2005:

- November 2003 – The Tribe donates its purchase option worth \$4.2 million to acquire the bulk of the property – 1,679 acres – to the Sonoma Land Trust.
- December 2003 – The Tribe donates \$75,000 to the Sonoma Land Trust to establish a fundraising campaign to purchase the 1,679 acres and an adjacent ranch.
- Winter 2005 – The momentum generated by the Tribe's donations results in a successful fundraising campaign and the purchase of 2,327 acres.



## Additional Open Space

Once the Tribe's development project is under construction, the Tribe has agreed to donate the following:

- An additional 321 acres of Sears Point Baylands – valued at \$4.5 million – to the Sonoma Land Trust.
- \$2.7 million to the City of Rohnert Park for the purchase of open space.

## A Commitment to Sustainable Development

The Tribe's commitment to the environment includes efforts to establish its proposed resort and casino as a model of environmentally sustainable development. The resort will be built using green building techniques, with an emphasis on water conservation and reclamation.

- The Tribe will implement the recommended measures in the EIS to ensure that its project has the least possible impact on local water supplies such as double-plumbing the facility for reclaimed water use. The Tribe will also pay for additional measures to study, improve and restore local water resources.
- The Tribe has hired a green building team to integrate sustainable design elements into the project and to support the design and construction of an environmentally responsive facility built in accordance with LEED level environmental standards.
- In many cases the mitigation measures the Tribe has committed to will not only address project impacts but also improve the environment and provide net benefits to the community.

Laguna de Santa Rosa



Tolay Lake