



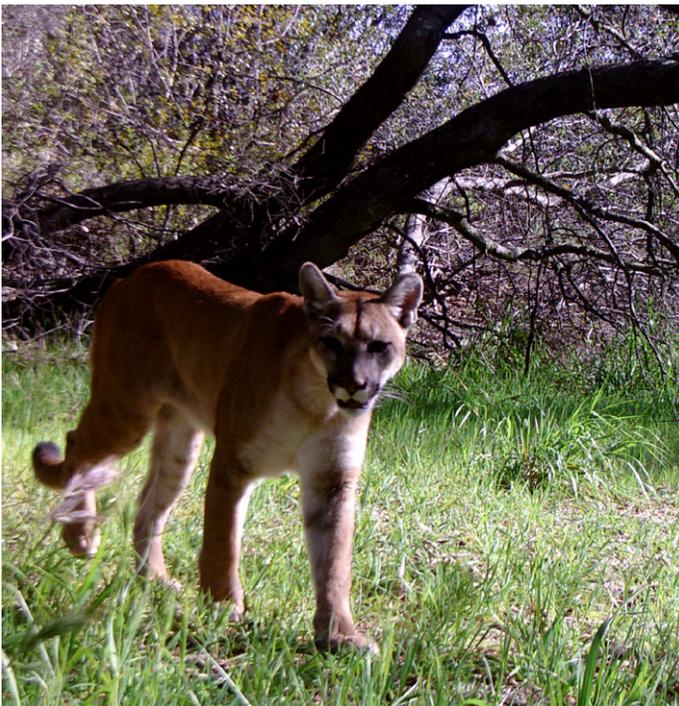
FERBER RANCH PRESERVE

M2: ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM

OCTA's Measure M2 Freeway Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) provides comprehensive mitigation to offset the environmental impacts of the 13 Measure M2-funded freeway projects.

The EMP presents a comprehensive mitigation approach that provides not only replacement habitat, but also the opportunity to improve the overall functions and value of sensitive biological resources throughout Orange County.

Based on the evaluation of mitigation opportunities in the County, priority conservation areas were identified, including candidate parcels and properties that could be considered for wilderness preservation purposes. Properties were then selected for acquisition and restoration. These properties are protected to enhance wildlife connectivity, safeguard sensitive species and preserve substantial parcels of valuable habitat.



Mountain Lion

ABOUT THE PRESERVE

The Ferber Ranch Preserve is a 399-acre parcel located northwest of the City of Rancho Santa Margarita in Trabuco Canyon. It's bordered by the Cleveland National Forest to the north and Trabuco Creek to the south, while Hickey Creek drains the western side. The Preserve features rolling terrain with elevations ranging from 1,120 to 1,650 feet above mean sea level.

The Preserve has a variety of habitats including:

- Coastal Sage Scrub
- Riparian
- Oak Woodland
- Cliff and Rock
- Chaparral
- Herbaceous Wetlands
- Grassland

Ferber Ranch provides habitat for several important species such as:

- Coastal California Gnatcatcher
- Southwestern Willow Flycatcher
- Intermediate Mariposa Lily
- Many-Stemmed Dudleya
- Chaparral Rein Orchid
- Coulter's Matilija Poppy
- Orange-Throated Whiptail
- Mountain Lion
- Cactus Wren
- Least Bell's Vireo
- Ocellated Humboldt Lily
- Chaparral Nolina
- Fish's Milkwort
- Coast Horned Lizard
- Western Pond Turtle
- Bobcat

The Preserve is also within designated critical habitat for the arroyo toad (federally endangered) and the coastal California gnatcatcher (federally threatened/state species of special concern).

Several important wildlife movement corridors have been identified on Ferber Ranch, which extend from Trabuco Creek to the Cleveland National Forest. Major mammals expected to use these corridors include mule deer, mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes and gray foxes. The acquisition of this preserve contributes to the EMP's goal of joining together adjacent open space areas in the foothills, while at the same time limiting urban encroachment. Ferber Ranch had a land use designation that would have allowed the construction of 188 dwelling units, however, OCTA's acquisition of this property enabled this core segment of the Trabuco Canyon area to be preserved as permanent open space.

