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Contact:

CJ Benavidez

Phone: 805-966-4520

Cell: 805-450-9973

Email: communications@sblandtrust.org

Storm Damage Temporarily Closes Arroyo Hondo Preserve, Recovery Efforts Underway

Santa Barbara County, CA — January 9th, 2026 — Recent winter storms caused extensive damage at Arroyo Hondo Preserve on the Gaviota coast, resulting in flooding, landslides, and impacts to trails, roads, parking areas, and infrastructure. For safety reasons, the preserve is currently closed while conditions continue to shift and recovery planning moves forward.

While the preserve is resilient, the effects of the storm are significant. Some areas remain difficult to access, and additional winter storms may further impact conditions. Certain repairs cannot begin until the ground dries and stabilizes, making recovery a careful, phased process.

“Our role is to show up for the land — especially after moments like this,” said **Meredith Hendricks, Executive Director of The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County**. “Storms are part of the landscape we steward, and caring for Arroyo Hondo Preserve right now means prioritizing safety, patience, and long-term responsibility.”

The Land Trust’s stewardship team is actively assessing damage and planning recovery efforts, which will require significant resources to support cleanup, stabilization, and long-term care of the preserve. Arroyo Hondo is expected to remain closed for at least several months while this work continues.

The Land Trust will share updates as assessments progress and recovery work advances. A central update page, including photos and the latest information, is available at: <https://bit.ly/ahp-recovery-updates>

Those wishing to support recovery efforts can contribute at: <https://bit.ly/ahp-recovery-support>

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About The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County

The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County is a nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving natural resources, agricultural land, and open spaces throughout Santa Barbara County. Since its founding in 1985, the organization has protected over 58,000 acres of land, ensuring the preservation of the county's diverse landscapes for future generations. For more information about The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County and its conservation efforts, visit www.sblandtrust.org, and follow on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).