

POWER IN NATURE

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Randall Preserve Acquired with Planning Underway

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) acquired 387 acres of undeveloped coastal land in Orange County.

Jan. 9, 2023, NEWPORT BEACH – Today, the Power in Nature coalition announced the protection of roughly 387 acres following a December conservation acquisition by The Trust for Public Land and its partners, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) and Banning Ranch Conservancy (BRC). The land, formerly called Banning Ranch, now the Frank and Joan Randall Preserve, has been long sought after by tribes, non-profits, elected leaders, and community activists. As the last large undeveloped coastal landscape between the Ventura County line and Mexico, this property further bolsters the state’s goal to protect 30% of its lands and waters by 2030, and accelerates the work of the community-driven [Power in Nature Coalition](#).



The Randall Preserve sits adjacent to Newport Beach, Costa Mesa, and Huntington Beach. PHOTO CREDIT: FRED EMMERT, AIRVIEWS

“The Juaneno Band of Mission Indians is looking forward to collaborating with MRCA and BRC during all phases of the project,” said Chairwoman and CEO Heidi Lucero of the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation. “We are also excited to see what the future holds and in regaining an area for us to hold ceremony. This land, Geŋa, holds a special place in our hearts. We are thrilled to be able to share with the public the importance of this village, not only to the Acjachemen, but also to our plant and animal relatives as Cho’onom noneskinum (to all my relations).”

Protection of the Randall Preserve is completed under the banner of international, national, and statewide the 30x30 campaign. California’s goal was set in motion by Governor Newsom’s Executive Order [N-82-20](#), which requires the state to protect six million acres of land and half a million acres of coastal waters over the next seven years. Meeting 30x30 will demand a substantial commitment to acquire, restore, and manage properties. The Southland Power in Nature coalition is just one of roughly six geographies coordinating across California

helping to meet 30x30. The Banning Ranch Conservancy is part of the 100+ member Southland Coalition. It recently revealed its new direction through a strategic planning process and the award of a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to develop one of several plans needed for the property. The \$500,000 grant will create a Resource Management Plan and Coastal Resilience Plan in partnership with MRCA. This grant requires a \$1 million match.

“Three key plans will be developed for the Randall Preserve over the next several years while the property undergoes remediation for past oil operations,” said Melanie Schlotterbeck, the Power in Nature coalition’s Southland Regional group lead and executive director of the Banning Ranch Conservancy. “The Resource Management Plan documents the types of plants and animals in need of special protection on the land and what stewardship is needed. The two other key plans include a Tribal Engagement Plan and Public Access Plan.”



The Randall Preserve included a \$97 million price tag as developers had once eyed this landscape for housing and commercial areas, but sensitive, threatened and endangered species limited the development footprint.

PHOTO CREDITS: BANNING RANCH CONSERVANCY and FRANCISCO HERRERA

Protecting the Randall Preserve:

- Allows local Costa Mesa disadvantaged communities to gain access to passive recreational opportunities within walking distance of their home.
- Ensures 18 sensitive, threatened or endangered plant and animal species on the property are now conserved with room for restoration.
- Builds climate resilience, reduces the urban heat island effect, and includes many opportunities for community engagement.
- Means more than eight million residents within an hour’s drive will have additional public access to this land and the nearby 100+ mile Santa Ana River Trail, which stretches across three Southland counties.

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The Power in Nature Coalition is a statewide community-driven initiative that is committed to reaching the goal of protecting 30% of California’s land and coastal waters by 2030 (30x30). The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) released the Pathways to 30x30 report to provide a framework for California to protect 30% of its land and coastal waters by 2030. Learn more at [PowerInNature.org](https://www.powerinnature.org).



Randall Preserve (formerly Banning Ranch)

Oil
Remainder

Huntington
Beach

Costa
Mesa

Newport
Beach

