

## Bibliography of Publications

### **Conservation Easement Basics**

California Association of RCDs – Conservation Easement Guide

[http://carcd.org/conservation\\_easements\\_guide0.aspx](http://carcd.org/conservation_easements_guide0.aspx)

California Department of Conservation – Conservation Easements

[http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/cfcp/overview/Pages/ag\\_consrv\\_easements.aspx](http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/cfcp/overview/Pages/ag_consrv_easements.aspx)

Conservation Easements – The Primer (Briscoe Ivester & Bazel LLP)

<http://briscoelaw.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/ConservationEasements.pdf>

The Nature Conservancy – What are Conservation Easements?

<http://www.nature.org/about-us/private-lands-conservation/conservation-easements/what-are-conservation-easements.xml>

### **National Organizations**

The National Conservation Easement Database

<http://www.conservationeasement.us/>

Find A Land Trust | Land Trust Alliance

<http://findalandtrust.org/states/california06>

Private Landowner Network

[www.privatelandownernetwork.org](http://www.privatelandownernetwork.org)

### **California Conservation Easement Information:**

California Conservation Easements Registry

<https://easements.resources.ca.gov/>

California Council of Land Trusts

<http://www.calandtrusts.org/>

California Rangeland Trust

<http://www.rangelandtrust.org>

GreenInfo Network / CPAD / California Protected Areas Database

<http://www.greeninfo.org/work/project/cpad-the-california-protected-areas-database>

## Books

Anella, Anthony, John B. Wright, and Edward Ranney. **Saving the Ranch: Conservation Easement Design in the American West**. Washington, DC: Island, 2004. Print.

Byers, Elizabeth, Karin Marchetti. Ponte, and Janet Diehl. **The Conservation Easement Handbook**. Washington, D.C.: Land Trust Alliance, 2005. Print.

## Examples of Conservation Easement Projects in the Sierra Nevada

Campstool Ranch – Pacific Forest Trust

<https://www.pacificforest.org/2170-acre-jewel-in-californias-gold-rush-country-permanently-conserved/>

Cinnamon Ranch Conservation Easement – Eastern Sierra Land Trust

<http://www.eslt.org/Pages/projectCinnamon.html>

Goodwin Ranch – California Rangeland Trust

<http://www.rangelandtrust.org/~rangelan/conservation/conserved-ranches/21-conservation/conserved-ranches/132-goodwin-ranches.html>

Lemon Canyon Ranch & Calpine Meadow Ranch – Pacific Forest Trust

<https://www.pacificforest.org/public-private-partnership-conserves-sierra-valley-ranches/>

Loyalton Learning Landscape (Chadwick Ranch) – Feather River Land Trust

<http://www.frlt.org/conserves-land/success-stories/loyalton-learning-landscape>

Maddalena Ranch – Feather River Land Trust

<http://www.frlt.org/conserves-land/success-stories/maddalena-property-sierra-valley>

Pearce Family Ranch – Feather River Land Trust

<http://www.frlt.org/conserves-land/success-stories/pearce-family-ranch-indian-valley>

Rickert Brothers Ranch – Shasta Land Trust

<http://www.shastalandtrust.org/rickert-brothers-ranch/>

Rogers Key Brand Ranch – Feather River Land Trust

<http://www.frlt.org/conserves-land/success-stories/rogers-key-brand-ranch-indian-valley>

Side Hill Citrus – Placer County

<http://www.auburnjournal.com/article/1/16/15/ceremony-celebrates-mandarin-orchard-preservation>

Sinnamon Meadows – Eastern Sierra Land Trust

<https://easternsierralandlines.wordpress.com/2014/09/10/sinnamon-meadows/>

### **Recent Press Referencing Conservation Easements**

*A Displaced California Tribe Reclaims Sacred Land*

<http://www.hcn.org/issues/47.16/a-displaced-california-tribe-reclaims-sacred-land>

*Conserving Farms is Good Investment*

<http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/soapbox/article38965995.html>

*Phyllis Faber: Bold Ideas, Enduring Legacy*

<https://baynature.org/articles/phyllis-faber-bold-ideas-enduring-legacy/>

*Suburban Sprawl Continues Creep Across Desert*

<http://obrag.org/?p=102735>

### **Conservation Easement Criticisms**

Conservation Easements: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly (2008)

<http://www.nationalcenter.org/NPA569.html>

*Summary: Some land trusts are becoming “agents of government aiding in public land acquisitions.” Additionally, perpetual easements are locking up land forever and as conservation needs change or priorities shift, land under perpetual conservation easement cannot be adapted to meet those changing needs. The following example is provided: “Gains in scientific knowledge can change our definition of what is ecologically beneficial. For example, we know from scientific advances in forest management that thinning techniques are essential to protecting healthy forests and their habitat and preventing forest fires. Yet conservation easement requirements with the specific purpose of perpetually protecting habitat in a forest may not allow for necessary logging and thinning projects.”*

The Problems with Conservation Easements (2008)

<http://www.counterpunch.org/2008/05/08/the-problems-with-conservation-easements/>

*Lack of transparency in the process makes it difficult to determine the quality of the land being conserved and some land trusts and public agencies are more concerned with total acreage more than strategic value. Additionally, some easements have funding for the initial acquisition, but lack a long term plan and/or funding.*

Skeptics Perspective on Voluntary Conservation Easements

<http://www.vlrc.org/articles/176.html>

*Conservation easements are not, as is commonly believed, free market solutions since much of the funding is in the form of “direct public outlays, tax expenditures for donations of interests in land, or favorable tax treatment...” Additionally, the problem with voluntary easements is their very nature, “those willing to make voluntary contributions to the achievement of conservation goals are likely to be those who think they will be burdened the least...” There is too little “public debate” because the only parties to the conservation decision are “the landowner donor and the charitable*

*organization that will hold the easement.” Further, “social, economic, and even ecological conditions and priorities will change over time, meaning that some of today’s conservation decisions will appear misguided in the future.”*

In Land Conservation, “Forever” May Not Last (2008)

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=88038482>

*NPR story on a ranch in Wyoming that was placed under conservation easement. New owners argued that energy companies accessing their mineral rights made the land worthless for farming. The easement was rescinded and the new owners subdivided part of the ranch for a new home site.*

The Problem with Easements (2000)

[http://www.philanthropyroundtable.org/topic/excellence\\_in\\_philanthropy/the\\_problem\\_with\\_easements](http://www.philanthropyroundtable.org/topic/excellence_in_philanthropy/the_problem_with_easements)

*“Another way to make the same point is that acres protected by ownership are clearly assets, while those protected by easements come with liabilities attached—in the form of the aforementioned legal challenges.”*

Conservation Easements: A Critical Commentary (2000)

[http://www.citizenreviewonline.org/feb\\_2002/conservation\\_easements\\_a\\_critical\\_commentary.htm](http://www.citizenreviewonline.org/feb_2002/conservation_easements_a_critical_commentary.htm)

*Lengthy, critical assessment of conservation easements from a private property rights perspective, including, “...long-term future impacts on forestry are negative and may foreclose future forestry.”*

Landowners, while pleased with agricultural easements, suggest improvements (2002)

<http://californiaagriculture.ucanr.org/landingpage.cfm?article=ca.v056n01p21&fulltext=yes>

*When asked about the effectiveness and impact of the program's public goals such as slowing urbanization and preserving farmland, the great majority (83%) of landowners stated that the programs were successful. However, they expressed some common reservations and concerns about the easement programs.*

### **Williamson Act Basics**

California Department of Conservation – The Land Conservation Act

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/lca>

### **Williamson Act Additional Reading**

Analysis Reveals Potential Rangeland Impacts if Williamson Act Eliminated (2012)

<http://californiaagriculture.ucanr.org/landingpage.cfm?article=ca.v066n04p131&fulltext=yes>

*Bill on Williamson Act Signed Into Law (2015)*

<http://www.krctrv.com/north-coast-news/news/bill-on-williamson-act-signed-into-law/35764642>

California Land Conservation Act Still Keeps Millions of Acres in Agricultural Use (2015)

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/index/news/Documents/2015-12%20Williamson%20Act%20status%20report.pdf>

*The Land – Unprotected? Williamson Act has been Defunded (2014)*

[http://www.appeal-democrat.com/news/the-land-unprotected-williamson-act-has-been-defunded/article\\_ff5751f8-80e4-11e3-b1c4-0019bb30f31a.html](http://www.appeal-democrat.com/news/the-land-unprotected-williamson-act-has-been-defunded/article_ff5751f8-80e4-11e3-b1c4-0019bb30f31a.html)

The Williamson Act: Past, Present, Future? A Legislative Oversight Hearing (2010)

[http://www.calafco.org/docs/Williamson\\_Act-Past\\_Present\\_Future.pdf](http://www.calafco.org/docs/Williamson_Act-Past_Present_Future.pdf)