



COMMITTEE FOR
GREEN FOOTHILLS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 10, 2003

Contact:
Zoe Kersteen-Tucker, Executive Director
Phone (650) 728-2823; Zoe@GreenFoothills.org

NEWS RELEASE

Local nonprofit hires environmental attorney Stanford law grad will serve as Santa Clara County Legislative Advocate

PALO ALTO, CA –Environmental nonprofit [Committee for Green Foothills](http://www.GreenFoothills.org) announced today that the group has hired environmental lawyer Brian Schmidt to serve as the organization's Santa Clara County Legislative Advocate.

Schmidt, who is serving as a fellow at the nonprofit public interest law firm Earthjustice (formerly known as the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund), will begin the position in April. He will be replacing Denice Dade, who served as the Committee's Santa Clara County Legislative Advocate for nearly five years.

A graduate of Stanford Law School and Georgetown University, Schmidt has also worked with the Natural Resources Defense Council and the land use law firm Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger. He is experienced with the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and the California Environmental Quality Act.

"We are thrilled to have Brian joining our team. His experience with land use law will be invaluable to the Committee's work throughout Santa Clara County," said Zoe Kersteen-Tucker, Executive Director. "We expect that his professional credentials and commitment to open space will continue the Committee's legacy of working to protect local lands for future generations."

As Committee for Green Foothills' Santa Clara County Legislative Advocate, Schmidt will lead the group's work throughout the County, advocating protections for foothills, agricultural lands, ranchlands, riparian corridors, and other open space. His work will focus on creating strong land-use regulations, helping to create the Habitat Conservation Plan required in exchange for development rights in south San Jose, and monitoring implementation of the Stanford University General Use Permit and Community Plan.

"My work as a practicing attorney has proven to me how vital direct political participation can be to environmental protection, and I am eager to be a part of the Committee's long track record of successes in this realm," said Schmidt. "I am impressed with the Committee's energy and dedication to helping people safeguard areas they truly care about, and look forward to helping to protect open space in this special region."

About Committee for Green Foothills

Committee for Green Foothills is a regional grassroots organization working to establish and maintain land-use policies that protect the environment throughout San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. Committee for Green Foothills, established in 1962, is a Bay Area leader in the continuing effort to protect open space and the natural environment of our Peninsula and Coast. For more information about the Committee, visit www.GreenFoothills.org.

###