

Media Release, Tuesday, May 5, 2015

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Title: Finding a Better Connection to the Outdoors: Ron Brown Retiring from Save Mount Diablo

Images: Link to download hi-res images with credit information in the file names:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cnnrhcywlx9e5kf/AAD1vW4nXpsjXqjSQSCgqO7Qa?dl=0>

There may not be any wi-fi in the Diablo wilderness but Save Mount Diablo's Executive Director Ron Brown is hoping to find a better connection with the outdoors that he's helped to protect for more than 15 years.

Brown plans to retire from the grassroots environmental non-profit organization at the end of 2015. "I have spent a lot of time in meeting rooms, swivel chairs and in front of computer screens to protect the Diablo wilderness," Brown explained. "The time has come for me to get outside and enjoy the great lands that we have protected together. At the end of this year, I will retire so that I can feel the wind in my hair, hike trails and go camping with my grandkids."

By the time he retires, the Executive Director will have completed more than 42 years of full time work in non-profit organizations. "Ron has been an inspiring force for Save Mount Diablo and we will miss him dearly. We are pleased that he will be working with us towards a smooth transition," said Scott Hein the President of the Board of Directors for Save Mount Diablo. A search firm is working with Save Mount Diablo's Board of Directors to select the next Executive Director. Brown will continue to actively work through the transition period and will assist in orienting the new Executive Director. Although he's eager to get out of the meeting room, his commitment to protecting land runs deep and Brown will continue to consult on special projects through 2016.

Under Brown's leadership, there have been many successes for Save Mount Diablo's work with their partners to advance land preservation in the East Bay. Even though a third of the Diablo wilderness is still unprotected, he feels confident that the mountain will be saved for future generations. "Although the work is not done, I know the organization has amazing supporters, is strong and successful with an actively engaged board of directors. I don't doubt that, together, we will protect the remaining threatened acres."

Brown looks forward to working on saving more land this last year and hiking, camping and especially fishing next year.

To make a donation in honor of Ron Brown's work to Save Mount Diablo, please visit SaveMountDiablo.org.

Summary:

WHAT – Save Mount Diablo's Executive Director Ron Brown plans to retire. "I have spent a lot of time in meeting rooms, swivel chairs and in front of computer screens to protect the Diablo wilderness," Brown explained. "The time has come for me to get outside and enjoy the great lands that we have protected together"

WHO – Ron Brown has lead Save Mount Diablo, the grassroots environmental non-profit organization, for more than 15 years.

WHERE – Save Mount Diablo is located in Walnut Creek, CA and works to protect the entire 180,000 acre Diablo wilderness encompassing Mount Diablo. Only 60% is currently protected.

WHEN - Brown plans to retire from the grassroots environmental non-profit organization at the end of 2015 but will consult on special projects through 2016.

WHY - “At the end of this year, I will retire so that I can feel the wind in my hair, hike trails and go camping with my grandkids,” said Brown.

Save Mount Diablo is a non-profit 501(c)(3) conservation organization, which has been preserving lands on and around Mount Diablo and informing the public of the Diablo wilderness’ natural values since 1971. Preserved lands have increased from 6,788 acres in one park to more than 110,000 acres in more than 40 parks and preserves. Save Mount Diablo continues to preserve, defend and restore the remainder of the mountain for people and wildlife to enjoy. Contact: Save Mount Diablo, telephone: (925) 947-3535, fax: (925) 947-0642, 1901 Olympic Blvd., Suite 320, Walnut Creek, CA 94596; www.SaveMountDiablo.org ###