

July 26, 2010; Agenda Item No. 15

Resolution No. 10-38

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY SUPPORTING
PROPOSITION 21, THE STATE PARKS AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TRUST ACT

WHEREAS, California's parks, once considered the best in the nation, are falling apart because of chronic underfunding that has resulted in bad deterioration of resources and facilities; and

WHEREAS, Twice in the past two years, state parks were on the brink of being shut down; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 150 state parks were shut down part-time or suffered deep service reductions because of budget cuts, and more park closure proposals and budget cuts are expected this year; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of scenic acres are closed to the public because of reductions in park rangers, and crime has more than doubled; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 21, The State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund, would provide a stable, reliable and adequate source of funding for the state park system, for wildlife conservation and for increased and equitable access to those resources for all Californians; and

WHEREAS, Funding for the Trust Fund would come from an \$18 annual State Park Access Pass surcharge on all California cars, motorcycles and recreational vehicles that would be collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles as part of the annual vehicle license fee; and

WHEREAS, California vehicles subject to the State Park Access Pass surcharge and all occupants of those vehicles would receive free day use admission to all state parks throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, Every year, there are nearly 80 million visits to state parks, where the abundance of outdoor activities entices visitors to exercise and lead healthier lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, Parks contribute to public health by protecting forests and natural areas that are sources of clean air and water and by combating climate change by reducing greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, Parks protect the state's wide diversity of plants and animals, preserve an unparalleled collection of historic and cultural assets and provide exciting educational opportunities for young and old alike; and

WHEREAS, The State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund would protect California's 278 state parks so that all Californians can enjoy their benefits; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Director is authorized to make such typographical and factual corrections as may be necessary prior to transmittal to the Governor and Legislature, Now

Therefore Be It Resolved, That the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy hereby:

1. FINDS that the proposed action is consistent with the *Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan*, the *Rim of the Valley Corridor Plan*, and the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan* as adopted by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.
2. FINDS that the proposed action is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives.
3. FINDS that the proposed action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
4. ADOPTS the staff report and recommendations dated July 26, 2010 for this item.
5. ADOPTS a position supporting Proposition 21, the State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Act.
6. AUTHORIZES the Chairperson to perform any and all acts necessary to carry out this resolution; without limiting the generality of the foregoing, such authority shall include those provisions that he shall determine in the exclusive exercise of his discretion are necessary to carry out the purposes of this resolution and to comply with the policies of the Conservancy, and to otherwise carry out the provisions of state law and regulations.

~ *End of Resolution* ~

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, duly noticed and held according to law, on the 26th day of July, 2010 at Los Angeles, California.

Dated:

Executive Director