

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

RAMIREZ CANYON PARK
5750 RAMIREZ CANYON ROAD
MALIBU, CALIFORNIA 90265
PHONE (310) 589-3200
FAX (310) 589-3207
WWW.SMMC.CA.GOV



January 27, 2014

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
Attn: Sachi A. Harmai
Public Hearing
Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

**Proposed Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program
Public Hearing, February 11, 2014**

Honorable Supervisors:

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) offers the following comments on the Proposed Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program (LCP). The LCP consists of the Land Use Plan (LUP), Local Implementation Program (LIP), maps, and other associated documents. The proposed LCP is a product of many years of hard work by the County and California Coastal Commission staffs. The Conservancy appreciates the County's coordination with our staff. The Conservancy urges the Board of Supervisors to approve the LCP.

We compliment the Department of Regional Planning on the quality and focus of many of the goals, policies, and implementation measures in the LCP. Implementation of many of the habitat protection provisions will help focus developments away from the most biologically-sensitive habitat areas and will provide meaningful, long-lasting results. We commend policies such as CO-49, which requires development to be sited and designed to protect and preserve important, viable habitat areas and habitat linkages in their natural condition. We are heartened to see Policy CO-47, which states:

Open space conservation easements and dedications shall be utilized, where required or offered, to ensure the preservation of habitats and habitat linkages. The receiving agency shall be a qualified public agency or land conservation agency with the ability to manage, preserve, or enhance park and open space lands. Financing for the long-term maintenance of such areas should be

considered through endowments, assessments, or other public funding mechanisms.

Likewise, we appreciate the inclusion of recreational policies such as CO-156, which states:

Encourage a full range of recreational experiences to serve local, regional and national visitors with diverse backgrounds, interest, ages, and abilities, including the transit dependent and the physically challenged.

Another important policy of note is Policy CO-159, which states in part that lower-cost visitor-serving and recreational facilities shall be protected, encouraged, and where feasible provided. The Conservancy would like to clarify that the definition of low-impact camping should not preclude the establishment of wheelchair-accessible surfaces such as hardened decomposed granite.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please contact Paul Edelman, Deputy Director for Natural Resources and Planning of our staff by phone at (310) 589-3200, extension 128 (email edelman@smmc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

IRMA MUÑOZ
Chairperson