

SANTA CLARITA WATERSHED RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

*A PUBLIC ENTITY OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA EXERCISING JOINT POWERS OF THE CITY OF SANTA
CLARITA AND THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE
SECTION 6500 ET SEQ.*

June 25, 2015

Ms. Anne Dove, Project Manager
National Park Service
Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study
570 West Avenue 26, Suite 175
Los Angeles, California 90065

Rim of the Valley Corridor Draft Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment Comments

Dear Ms. Dove:

The Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority appreciates the opportunity to comment on the National Park Service (NPS) Rim of the Valley Corridor Draft Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment. The NPS Rim of the Valley Special Resource Study is a long awaited mechanism designed to incorporate and synthesize many years of land conservation efforts in the greater Los Angeles area by local, state, and federal agencies and community groups, and if adopted will result in a blueprint for the National Park Service to assist and enhance preservation of wildlife linkages, recreational opportunities, and public programs beyond the current Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area boundaries.

The NPS Draft Special Resources Study names Preferred Alternative C for a Rim of the Valley Boundary Adjustment. However, Alternative C leaves out critical identified habitat linkages in the upper Santa Clara River watershed, western Santa Susana Mountains, the Simi Hills, and Conejo Valley to Calleguas Creek. In contrast, Alternative D does include these important geographic areas that are critical to the regionally habitat connectivity of the SMMNRA. We therefore recommend Alternative D as it incorporates the optimal plan for long-term natural resource resiliency, and recreational opportunities for public access to natural area parklands.

Sincerely,

RICHARD E. GOULD
Chairperson