

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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October 22, 2018

Ms. Eimon Smith
CEQA Project Manager
2202 South Figueroa Street, #621
Los Angeles, CA 90007

via electronic mail: comments@iecg-inc.com

**Mission Canyon Park project
Mitigated Negative Declaration Comments**

Dear Ms. Smith:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the *draft* Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed Mission Canyon Park (project). It is our understanding that the project is a partnership between the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) and the County of Los Angeles and will create a trailhead and formalize public access to an approximately 500-acre former landfill site. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) supports the proposed project and offers the following comments:

The comprehensive design including a regional connection to the existing Canyonback Trail, formalization of a 2.5-mile loop trail, and development of parking lot(s) and other site amenities are vital to the continued protection of this openspace for public use. Furthermore, the project would fulfill the intent of the 1966 Joint Powers Agreement for the former landfill which states that the purpose of County is “to construct, operate, and maintain park and recreational facilities upon said lands when they are no longer needed for refuse disposal purposes for the benefit of the public”. The landfill has been non-operational for the past approximately 50 years, and the Conservancy supports completion of this commitment to provide more public park and recreational resources.

The proposed connection to the Canyonback Trail is a regionally significant component of the project which will provide benefits to future trail users. The MRCA controls the immediately adjacent lands to the east and as such, it is a logical partnership and connection to make due to consistency of patrol, maintenance, trail rules, land preservation, etc. Additionally, by allowing the existing maintenance road to serve as the footprint and alignment of the future

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formalized trail, the project minimizes its environmental impacts. The proposed trailhead is necessary to provide areas for future users to park, use the restroom, etc. We recommend that the traffic study be expanded to include Mulholland Drive's unique conditions and proximity to schools in this particular project area.

Please contact Paul Edelman, Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning, at 310-589-3200, ext. 128 or at the above letterhead address with any questions and future correspondence.

Sincerely,

CRAIG SAP
Chairperson