

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
GRANT APPLICATION**

Project Name: Coastal Slope Trail Decker-to-Trancas Connector Project	Amount of Request: \$ 325,000 Total Project Cost: \$ 420,000						
Applicant Name: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority	Matching Funds: \$ 95,000 (CHIMF) Lat/Long: 34°3'32"N, 118°52'47"W						
Applicant Address: 570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100 Los Angeles, CA 90065	Project Address: Coastal Slope – Decker Rd to Trancas Canyon Rd						
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>County</td> <td>Senate District</td> <td>Assembly District</td> </tr> <tr> <td align="center">Los Angeles</td> <td align="center">27</td> <td align="center">50</td> </tr> </table>	County	Senate District	Assembly District	Los Angeles	27	50
	County	Senate District	Assembly District				
Los Angeles	27	50					
Phone: 310-589-3230, ext. 121 Email: chad.christensen@mrca.ca.gov	Tax ID: 77-0112367						

Grantee's Authorized Representative:

Cara Meyer, Deputy Executive Officer 323-221-9944, ext. 117
Name and Title *Phone*

- Overhead Allocation Notice:**
- Any overhead costs will be identified as a separate line item in the budget and invoices.
 - The Conservancy encourages grantees to reduce overhead costs including vehicle and phone expenses.
 - The overhead allocation policy has been submitted prior to, or with, the grant application.
- Outreach and Advertising Requirement:**
- Applicant has read the staff report and board resolution regarding contract policies.
 - Applicant has adopted contract policies for the purpose of increasing outreach and advertising to disadvantaged businesses and individuals.
- All check boxes must be checked*

Brief Project Description:
The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority requests Proposition 68 grant funds for a project that would provide for pre-acquisition services, acquire land interests, permit trail construction, and construct new trail for three sections of the Coastal Slope Trail between Decker Canyon Road and an ownership gap in National Park Service's Trancas Canyon unit. The grant focuses on twenty privately owned parcels. The provision of grant funds, in combination with MRCA-held funds from the Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund, would allow the MRCA to immediately close on the acquisition of APN 4473-006-028 that connects the trail alignment to Encinal Canyon Road. The MRCA would then immediately seek a Coastal Development Permit to construct a section of trail between Encinal Canyon Road and Charmlee Wilderness Park. Funds would also be used to work with Los Angeles County to ensure a viable trail connection east of Encinal Canyon Road on the old Banyon subdivision that is currently undergoing a tract map revision. Other distinct tasks include trail alignment, permitting, and construction on the recently secured Von Furstenberg donation just east of Decker Canyon Road.

Tasks / Milestones:	Budget:	Completion Date
Property Acquisition (APN 4469-046-008)	\$ 190,220.00	December 2018
Staff Time (Legal and Planning)	\$ 42,500.00	December 2020
CST Permitting	\$ 10,000.00	December 2020
CST Construction and/or Additional Acquisitions	\$ 152,280.00	December 2020
Appraisal, Title Reports, and Appraisal Review	\$ 25,000.00	December 2020

For Acquisition Projects: **APN(s):** 4469-046-008, etc. (see Attachment 1)
Acreage: TBD

I certify that the information contained in this Grant Application form, including required attachments, is accurate.

Cara Meyer

Signature of Authorized Representative

11/29/2018

Date

STATE OF CALIFORNIA ♦ THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

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Coastal Slope Trail Decker-to-Trancas Connector Project

NARRATIVE

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) requests grant funding from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) through the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's (Conservancy) Proposition 68 Grant Program for the proposed Coastal Slope Trail Decker-to-Trancas Connector Project (Project).

With matching funds held by the MRCA from the Los Angeles County Santa Monica Mountains Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund (CHIMF), the proposed MRCA project would provide for pre-acquisition services, acquire land interests, permit trail construction, and construct new trail for three sections of the Coastal Slope Trail between Decker Canyon Road and an ownership gap in National Park Service's Trancas Canyon unit. The grant focuses on twenty privately owned parcels. The provision of grant funds, in combination with MRCA-held funds from the Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund, would allow the MRCA to immediately close on the acquisition of Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 4473-006-028 that connects the trail alignment to Encinal Canyon Road.

Upon acquisition of the 2.5 acre APN 4473-006-028, the MRCA would then immediately seek a Coastal Development Permit to construct a section of trail between Encinal Canyon Road and Charmlee Wilderness Park. Funds would also be used to work with Los Angeles County to ensure a viable trail connection east of Encinal Canyon Road on the old Banyon subdivision that is currently undergoing a tract map revision. A few large parcels in the Trancas Canyon watershed that are not in the CST alignment are included in the Project Area because they are owned by the same entity as the subject Banyon subdivision. It is hoped that in the process of working with the County and the landowner that those parcels can be permanently protected all or in part. Those parcels are in the trail corridor viewshed.

Other distinct tasks include trail alignment, permitting, and construction on the recently secured Von Furstenberg donation just east of Decker Canyon Road. In addition, the MRCA would pursue land donation interests and conduct appraisals to negotiate with owners for future fee simple acquisitions.

The Project Area, described in further detail below and in the attached figures, focuses on 20 target parcels based on slope analysis and route distance for the CST and parcels with high habitat preservation and interpretive value. The CST generally traverses the middle- and lower-portions of coastal watersheds with key perennial water sources and riparian habitat for mammals of all sizes, birds and raptors, amphibians, and reptiles, especially in times of drought. Future final connection of the CST within the Project Area would result in approximately 44,000 linear feet (8.3 miles) added to the CST and provide over 78,600 linear feet (14.9 miles) of CST between the nearest discontinuities.

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Currently only one of the twenty target parcels, Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 4469-046-008, contains an existing development. Acquisition for this parcel will focus on securing a trail easement only. For the remaining 19 target parcels within the Project Area, the primary focus will be acquiring fee title interest. Public acquisition and preservation of these 19 parcels would prevent development of up to 24 additional Single-Family Residences. This project only guarantees the permanent protection of one parcel (APN 4473-006-028) that abuts the west side of Encinal Canyon Road that the MRCA has under contract. Presuming a minimum of 5,000 square feet per residential unit, preservation of this parcel would result in an annual savings of at least 42.3 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent to the amount of carbon sequestered by 49.9 acres of U.S. forests in one year.

Monitoring and reporting on the progress and effectiveness of the project will occur via written project status reports.

Description of Project Area

The Project Area consists of approximately 453.5 acres of predominantly undeveloped open space within four coastal watersheds of the western Santa Monica Mountains in Los Angeles County (County) and the City of Malibu (City), west to east: Los Alisos Canyon, Lachusa Canyon, Encinal Canyon and Trancas Canyon.

Los Alisos Canyon, west of Decker Road, connects to Leo Carrillo State Park and MRCA's Leo A. Carrillo and Edith Carrillo Memorial Park and Robert Yoshio Nagata Park. Residential development is concentrated along Decker Road. The proposed CST alignment traverses easterly out of Leo Carrillo State Park through the above mentioned MRCA properties to outlet at the Ben Saltsman Trailhead on Decker Canyon Road. Lands recently donated to the MRCA by the Von Furstenberg family provide access from Decker Canyon Road easterly to Lachusa Canyon and towards MRCA-managed Charmlee Wilderness Park.

Lachusa Canyon contains portions of Charmlee Wilderness Park and four private parcels targeted by this Project for acquisition and/or easements.

Encinal Canyon spans both sides of Encinal Canyon Road with Charmlee Wilderness Park to the west and, to the east, several private parcels targeted by this Project for acquisition. The CST route is proposed to exit Charmlee Wilderness Park onto APN 4473-006-028 to then cross Encinal Canyon Road. APN 4473-006-028 (currently under contract) is the immediate target parcel for this project proposal. Few alternate routes east of Encinal Canyon Road exist due to topographic constraints. Thus, the proposed CST route travels northeast below Encinal Canyon Road before turning southeast to connect with Los Angeles County-owned "Banyon" open space.

Trancas Canyon contains the remaining six private parcels targeted for acquisition by this Project.

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Of the Project Area acreage, approximately 6.5 acres are designated H3 Habitat (significantly disturbed or severely fragmented habitat) by Los Angeles County’s Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program (SMMLCP) with the remaining 447 acres designated as H1 Habitat (habitat of the highest biological significance, rarity, and sensitivity within the Coastal Zone) or H2 Habitat (habitat of high biological significance, rarity, and sensitivity). Because public hiking trails are considered resource-dependent uses by the SMMLCP, the proposed CST, related directional signage, and interpretive signage are allowable uses within H1 Habitat and H2 Habitat areas so long as the proposed CST and signage conform to the development standards identified in the Santa Monica Mountains Local Implementation Plan (SMMLIP) Section 22.44.1920.M. Funding for this Project will, in part, facilitate CST design, analysis, and permitting to comply with regulatory agency requirements.

APN	Acreage	Jurisdiction	Zoning	Principle Permitted Use
4473-028-003	14.22	Los Angeles County	R-C-20 ¹	1 Single Family Residence (SFR)
4473-028-002	25.89	Los Angeles County	R-C-20	1 SFR
4473-006-036	31.04	Los Angeles County	R-C-20	1 SFR
4473-006-033	94.64	City of Malibu	RR20 ²	4 SFRs
4473-006-028	2.49	City of Malibu	RR5 ³	1 SFR
4473-006-010	8.60	City of Malibu	RR20	1 SFR
4472-030-007	41.60	Los Angeles County	R-C-20	2 SFRs
4472-030-005	23.03	Los Angeles County	R-C-20	1 SFR
4472-030-003	26.13	Los Angeles County	R-C-20	1 SFR
4472-028-041	9.68	Los Angeles County	R-C-10 ⁴	1 SFR
4472-028-019	5.50	Los Angeles County	R-C-10	1 SFR
4472-028-017	4.64	Los Angeles County	R-C-10	1 SFR
4472-025-019	20.22	Los Angeles County	R-C-20	1 SFR
4471-027-050	23.20	Los Angeles County	R-C-20	1 SFR
4471-027-020	14.97	Los Angeles County	R-C-20	1 SFR
4471-027-005	8.56	Los Angeles County	R-C-20	1 SFR
4471-027-004	39.79	Los Angeles County	R-C-20	1 SFR
4471-027-002	40.00	Los Angeles County	R-C-20	2 SFRs
4469-046-008	10.26	Los Angeles County	R-C-20	1 SFR ⁵
4469-046-001	9.05	Los Angeles County	R-C-20	1 SFR
Total Parcels	Total Acreage			Total Allowable Residences
20	453.51			25 SFRs

¹ Rural-Coastal, 20-acre minimum lot size

² Rural-Residential, 20-acre minimum lot size

³ Rural-Residential, 5-acre minimum lot size

⁴ Rural-Coastal, 10-acre minimum lot size

⁵ APN 4469-046-008 contains an existing SFR development

BUDGET

This Project grant request to the Conservancy’s Proposition 68 Grant Program is for a total of \$325,000.

Matching funds from the MRCA-administered Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund (CHIMF) of \$95,000 will contribute to the acquisition of APN 4473-006-028.

Combined, the total budget for the proposed Project is \$420,000.

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TIMELINE

The proposed grant expenditures for Phase 1 of this Project would begin in January 2019 or as soon as a grant agreement is executed to complete the acquisition of APN 4473-006-028. Steps to complete a Coastal Development Permit for the trail construction between Charmlee Wilderness Park and Encinal Canyon Road would also begin before Spring 2019. Planning work on the trail through the Von Furstenberg property would begin in Spring 2019. The timing on the trail alignment and easement dedication through the Banyon subdivision is based on the applicant's timetable with the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Department but per tract map extension limitation would have to occur in the next 15 months. The pursuit of other fee simple and easement acquisitions will be ongoing throughout the grant period ending approximately in December 2020.

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RESPONSE TO EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Project achieves multiple purposes of Proposition 68 per Public Resource Code Section 80001(b) and several Strategic Goals and Common Ground principles of the Conservancy.

Prioritization Value

Project achieves 80001(b)(4) by providing urban recreation and protecting or restoring natural resources.

The Project proposes to acquire, permit and construct sections of the CST that would connect the trail from Leo Carrillo State Park through the MRCA-managed Charmlee Wilderness Park and easterly to Los Angeles County's "Banyon" open space and eventually into the NPS-owned Trancas Canyon unit.

Project achieves 80001(b)(6) by having already obtained all required permits and entitlements.

The Project guarantees the acquisition of one trail parcel (APN 4473-006-028). That action requires no permits and has authorization by the MRCA Governing Board. It is also and is categorically exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Additional fee simple acquisitions, dedications, donations, and easements would also be exempt.

Project achieves three or more actions listed in 80001(b)(8)(A through G).

Public relations are an integral part of any public park, recreation, and/or open space preservation agency. As part of regular employee duties, the MRCA has dedicated staff to promoting agency activities including the preservation and protection of natural lands and open spaces through social media and multilingual material. Completion of the CST is important goal within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area with support from several public agencies. Public outreach will be conducted to highlight the public benefit upon acquisition. Public outreach will continue as CST construction is permitted. The public and news outlets will be invited to participate in ceremonies inaugurating the completion of the Decker-to-Trancas connection of the CST. Continual agency outreach to encourage public use of the CST will continue indefinitely.

Project achieves more than one of the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives.

The proposed Project will fund MRCA staff time and related expenses (appraisals, title reports, etc.) to facilitate acquiring fee title interests, trail easements and conservation easements for the proposed CST route from Decker Road to Trancas Canyon. Acquisitions of fee interest or easements will promote open space recreational opportunities, habitat protection/enhancement, and greenbelt preservation within the western Santa Monica Mountains.

Project achieves more than one of the Common Ground guiding principles.

The proposed Project will expand public habitat preservation between Leo Carrillo State Park and Charmlee Wilderness Park and between Charmlee Wilderness Park and NPS-

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owned Trancas Canyon open space. The Project will directly improve public access (via CST) to open space lands and promote recreational activities and natural resource interpretive values therein. Because the proposed CST route is often near, or on parcels with, United States Geological Survey (USGS) blue line streams, preservation of Project Area parcels will also improve surface water quality by acquiring habitat buffers around the middle- and lower-watershed portions of these coastal streams.

Category Value

The project will provide benefits to multiple values including water, recreation, habitat, and interpretation of natural resources.

This Project proposes to acquire lands for, permitting and construction of sections of the CST between Leo Carrillo State Park and NPS Trancas Canyon unit. Completion of the proposed Project will ensure preservation of high quality habitat and provide increased public access to the coastal slope of the Santa Monica Mountains.

Acquisitions within the Project Area could contribute to the protection and preservation of up to 9,700 linear-feet of USGS blue line stream.

The site lies wholly within a large block of undisturbed core habitat.

Los Angeles County designates approximately 98-percent of the Project Area as H1 Habitat or H2 Habitat. The entire Project Area is within the Coastal Zone of the Santa Monica Mountains and is part of the core habitat formed by the NPS Zuma-Trancas unit and Leo Carrillo State Park.

At least one-fourth of the site is located within a designated ecologically sensitive watershed or significant ecological area.

The entire Project Area is located within the Coastal Zone of the Santa Monica Mountains. All of the Santa Monica Mountains are designated a Significant Ecological Area (SEA) by Los Angeles County.

The site contains largely undisturbed communities with species diversity.

The lands proposed for protection contain high quality riparian, oak woodland, coast sage scrub, and chaparral communities.

Project will benefit specially protected species pursuant to the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990.

Mountain lion (*Puma concolor*) mortality, inbreeding, and declining health are all well documented effects endangering the species within the Santa Monica Mountains. Incremental habitat preservation is a primary objective of this project. This project guarantees the protection of APN 4473-006-028 along Encinal Canyon Road.

The site has documented use by State or Federally-listed animal species.

The Federally-listed endangered least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) and the coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) have the potential to occur in

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the Project Area based on the most current CNDDDB. In addition, the NPS and USGS have successfully reintroduced the Federally-listed threatened red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) into select coastal watersheds of the Santa Monica Mountains—the locations of which are not public information.

The site contains a State or Federally-listed plant species.

There are no definitive records of listed plants on any of the twenty target parcels. For the general area of the Santa Monica Mountains there are potential listed species. The State-listed rare Santa Susana tarplant (*Deinandra minthornii*) has several documented occurrences in the Project Area. In addition, the Federally-listed endangered Lyon's pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta lyonii*) has the potential to occur in the area. Within 1.5 miles of the Project Area are documented occurrences of Federally-listed endangered Braunton's milk-vetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*) and Federally-listed threatened, State-listed rare marcescent dudleya (*Dudleya cymosa* ssp. *marcescens*).

The site has documented use by an animal species that is a candidate for State or Federal listing.

The western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*) is listed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as a Species of Special Concern and documented by the California Native Diversity Database (CNDDDB) as occurring within the Project Area. While not part of the Project Area, the outlets of Los Alisos Canyon, Lachusa Canyon and Encinal Canyon provide documented overwintering sites for the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) which is listed in the CNDDDB as an imperiled and vulnerable species within California. Preservation of upstream lands for open space will promote water quality throughout the lower watershed and help support habitat for overwintering monarchs. CNDDDB also documents the Santa Monica grasshopper (*Trimerotropis occidentiloides*) as a critically imperiled and presumed extant species occurring within one mile of the Project Area.

The site contains a plant species that is a candidate for State or Federal listing.

The Sonoran maiden fern (*Thelypteris puberula* var. *sonorensis*) occurs in the lower portion of Encinal Canyon within the Project Area and is ranked 2B.2 ("moderately threatened in California") by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS).

The site contains a plant community that is rare or unusual in the region.

The State-listed rare Santa Susana tarplant (*Deinandra minthornii*) has several documented occurrences in the Project Area. CNPS ranks the Santa Susana tarplant as 1B.2 meaning the plant is rare throughout its range and moderately threatened in its documented area.

The site contains high-quality fresh water habitat and/or a perennial natural water source.

The Project Area's 453.5 acres cross Los Alisos Canyon, Lachusa Canyon, Encinal Canyon, and Trancas Canyon and contains several instances of high-quality fresh water habitat.

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The site contains an area of riparian or wetland habitat that integrates with upland habitat.

The Project Area's 453.5 acres cross tributaries and the main stems of Los Alisos Canyon, Lachusa Canyon, Encinal Canyon, and Trancas Canyon and include over 447 acres of County-designated H1 Habitat and H2 Habitat. Habitat connectivity within the Project Area will be preserved with the immediate acquisition of APN 4473-006-028 along Encinal Canyon Road. There is no guarantee that additional riparian or wetland vegetation will be permanently protected through this project but the odds are high it will be.

The site supports substantial upland vegetative cover in a predominantly natural watershed.

Of the 453.5 acres Project Area, only approximately 6.5 acres are designated as H3 Habitat (significantly disturbed or removed native vegetation communities). Habitat fragmentation within the Project Area is primarily due to Decker Road, Encinal Canyon Road and the associated residential development along these roadways.

The project results in a new public access to a natural resource with high interpretive and/or educational value, or enhances existing access.

This Project will facilitate the extension of the CST through the Project Area. The Project at a minimum includes the acquisition of APN 4473-006-028 along Encinal Canyon Road and the construction of a new feeder trail (CST) to Charmlee Wilderness Park which will result in a new public access to a natural resource with high interpretive value. Any additional project elements completed will add to this tally of new and enhanced public access resources.

The project contains a link in a local trail system.

The Project at a minimum includes the acquisition of APN 4473-006-028 along Encinal Canyon Road and the construction of a new feeder trail (CST) to Charmlee Wilderness Park which will result in a new public access to a natural resource with high interpretive value. Any additional project elements completed will add to this tally of new and enhanced public access resources.

The project provides a high-quality access point for nearby open space, parkland, regional multi-modal trails, or water-based recreation, including suitable area for parking and restrooms.

The Project at a minimum includes the acquisition of APN 4473-006-028 along Encinal Canyon Road and the construction of a new feeder trail (CST) to Charmlee Wilderness Park which will result in a new public access to a natural resource with high interpretive value. There is an ample sized road turnout with excellent sight distances for parking at that location. The constructed trail will be a multi-purpose trail. Any additional project elements completed will add to this tally of new and enhanced public access resources. Examples of such potential resources include CST vista points for hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers.

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The project protects a critical viewshed within a major trail corridor.

The CST is a long-anticipated trail envisioned by several public agencies including the Conservancy, MRCA, NPS, Los Angeles County, California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) and the State Coastal Conservancy. The project at a minimum includes the acquisition of APN 4473-006-028 along Encinal Canyon Road. This key trail parcel is visible from other proposed CST segments. This one parcel acquisition alone will protect a critical viewshed within a major trail corridor.

The project alleviates stress on other overburdened recreational resources within a 0.5-mile radius.

Leo Carrillo State Park and Charmlee Wilderness Park are two popular destinations within the Santa Monica Mountains. Construction of the CST between these two parks and connection to NPS' Trancas Canyon unit will help alleviate stress within the two parks by adding additional trails for visitors to access. An additional spur trail to connect with NPS' Malibu Springs property would provide an additional route from Pacific Coast Highway to the CST.

The project results in additional uses for users of a wide range of ability levels.

The proposed CST is a multi-modal trail that will accommodate hikers, equestrians, and cyclists. The proposed section to be constructed with this grant would not have any long sections with grades exceeding 12 percent. Even at that maximum gradient, topographical constraints may limit the full range of ability levels to participate in this section of the CST; however, all efforts will be made to route and construct the CST to allow for the greatest public participation possible. Directional signage and interpretive signage will provide sufficient information for groups and individuals to plan their use of the CST within the Project Area.

The project contains multi-modal accommodations that will benefit hikers, cyclists and equestrians.

The proposed CST is a multi-modal trail that will accommodate hikers, equestrians, and cyclists. Topographical constraints may limit the full range of ability levels to participate in this section of the CST; however, all efforts will be made to route and construct the CST to allow for the greatest public participation possible. Directional signage and interpretive signage will provide sufficient information for groups and individuals to plan their use of the CST within the Project Area.

The project is designed to accommodate the needs of users from a variety of cultural and economic backgrounds.

Thousands of people from a variety of cultural and economic backgrounds visit the Santa Monica Mountains every year. MRCA is committed to maintaining public parks, trails, signage, and open spaces for all. Public outreach is an integral part of any public park, recreation, and/or open space preservation agency. The new CST trailhead along Encinal Canyon Road will be designated on the MRCA website interactive map and will feature a park identification and rules sign.

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The site contains unique scenic elements: e.g. waterfalls, spectacular wildflower displays, geologic formations, vistas of scenic grandeur.

As the name indicates, the CST traverses the coastal slope of the Santa Monica Mountains. The section of CST within the Project Area has multiple views of the Pacific Ocean, canyon overlooks and inland views of crests along the Santa Monica Mountains' Backbone Trail. On clear days, the Channel Islands, Catalina Island and Palos Verdes Peninsula are visible. The key section of trail between Charmlee Wilderness Park and Encinal Canyon contains extensive rock outcropping and a seasonal waterfall along Encinal Creek.

The project provides a new vista point or overlook for a significant scenic viewshed.

The MRCA's recent acquisition from the Von Furstenberg family presents an opportunity for a new vista point west of Charmlee Wilderness Park that will provide 360-degree views of the Pacific Ocean and numerous crests of the Santa Monica Mountains. The proposed route of the CST through the County's "Banyon" open space will similarly provide panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and inland peaks.

The site contributes to an existing or proposed corridor or greenway.

Because habitat fragmentation is the leading disrupter of wildlife movement, continued acquisition of open space in the Santa Monica Mountains is imperative to preserve multi-directional wildlife corridors between protected areas. Acquisition of any of the twenty Project Area target parcels would contribute to habitat linkages between existing parklands.

The majority of the site is part of a watershed draining directly into a sensitive protected area.

The entire Project Area is within the Santa Monica Mountains Significant Ecological Area (SEA). The Santa Monica Mountains are included in the North Santa Monica Bay Subregion of the Greater Los Angeles County Region Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. The permanent protection of properties within the subject area will contribute to four of the Subregion's five objectives:

- *Improve Water Supply* – through capturing storm water via infiltration and groundwater recharge of the long term;
- *Improve Water Quality* – the prevention of development within the Project Area would allow unpolluted surface water runoff to dilute downstream concentrations of pollutants found in all downstream portions of the subject watersheds;
- *Enhance Habitat* – by preventing development (which also requires permanent brush clearance) and protecting natural resources in perpetuity contributes to water quality enhancement; and
- *Enhance Open Space and Recreation* – by converting lands to public ownership for construction of the Coastal Slope Trail.

The site directly abuts and increases the ecosystem function of a protected habitat area.

The Project Area is central to a large core habitat area between Leo Carillo State Park and the Zuma-Trancas Unit of the SMMNRA. Acquisition of any of the twenty Project

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Area target parcels would contribute to habitat linkages between existing parklands. The Project Area includes the Robert Yoshio Nagata Park and Leo A. and Edith Carrillo Memorial Park that connect Leo Carrillo State Park to Decker Canyon Road. Continuing east from Decker Road, the recent MRCA acquisition from the Von Furstenberg family partially connects to Charmlee Wilderness Park. Target parcel acquisitions would significantly enhance the westerly connection into Charmlee Wilderness Park.

Exiting Charmlee Wilderness Park to the southeast, the Project Area includes target parcels that would connect the CST and protected habitat with the County's "Banyon" open space. Additional target parcels within Trancas Canyon abut NPS lands and would connect the CST route with the adjacent NPS lands.

The site directly contributes to the connection of two core habitat areas by serving as a habitat linkage or movement corridor for wildlife.

Acquisition of all Project Area target parcels would add over 453.5 acres of core habitat to MRCA's land-holdings and connect Leo Carrillo State Park to Charmlee Wilderness Park and NPS' Trancas Canyon unit. Project Area acquisitions would provide an east-west habitat linkage along the coastal slope between Los Alisos Canyon, Lachusa Canyon, Encinal Canyon, and Trancas Canyon.

The site contains substantial potential for restoration of natural vegetation.

Because the Woolsey Fire (2018) burned all of the Project Area, all of the target parcels will provide locations for restoration of natural vegetation.

The habitat is partially degraded but conditions are suitable for natural regeneration or restoration.

The Project Area's twenty target parcels cover 453.5 acres. Approximately 447 of those acres in the County LCP are designated H1 Habitat and H2 Habitat. Only 6.5 acres are designated as H3 Habitat (significantly disturbed or removed native vegetation communities). The Woolsey Fire (2018) burned all the Project Area. Fire and post-fire habitat succession are natural processes in the Santa Monica Mountains ecosystem. Because of the high baseline habitat quality of the Project Area all the Project Area is suitable for natural regeneration and restoration.

Current appraisal has been done or is under review by Department of General Services.

No appraisals have been completed; however, APN 4473-006-028 along Encinal Canyon Road is being acquired from Los Angeles County via tax deed sale which does not require an appraisal.

Implementation Value

Applicant has proven that implementation of the project is feasible.

The MRCA has acquired fee title to over 100,000 acres for natural resources conservation and manages over 75,000 acres of parkland. The MRCA has processed

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trail construction permits in the Coastal Zone for over a decade. The MRCA has a full time force account crew to construct trails.

Applicant has financial and technical capacity to perform project.

MRCA planning, legal, construction, restoration, and operations staffs have the expertise to acquire all land interests, design and permit trail construction, build trails, provide park and trail signage, and manage parklands. The MRCA has an over \$9.5 million operations budget that allows it to provide services in advance of payment.

Applicant, or active project partner, has successfully completed multiple projects of similar size and scope.

The MRCA has already acquired fee title to over 100,000 acres for natural resources conservation and manages over 75,000 acres of parkland. MRCA staff has constructed and maintains park facilities (including trails, picnic areas, parking lots, bathrooms, etc.) at over a dozen locations in the Santa Monica Mountains Coastal Zone.

The project is a partnership between two or more organizations and each organization has committed to contributing toward project implementation.

Trail alignment of the CST is a result of the partnership among the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, MRCA, NPS, and State Coastal Conservancy. However, the proposed project is entirely an MRCA project.

Applicant, or project partner, has 1+ years' experience operating projects of similar size and scope.

The MRCA, founded in 1985, is a local public agency exercising joint powers of the Conservancy, the Conejo Recreation and Park District, and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. The MRCA now manages over 75,000 acres of parkland.

Applicant has identified maintenance funding for at least 2 years after completion.

The MRCA has an annual operations budget greater than \$9.5 million. The sum resources available to the agency are great enough to ensure long-term maintenance of agency property.

Project has approval from all landowners to complete the project, or Applicant is the landowner.

The MRCA has a contract with Los Angeles County to buy the tax defaulted parcel APN 4473-006-028 along Encinal Canyon Road. The MRCA will own that parcel and a trail easement between it and Charmlee Wilderness Park to be able to permit and construct a new section of the CST. The MRCA also owns the Von Furstenberg donation lands east of Decker Canyon Road and thus can also immediately proceed with trail permitting and construction.

Proposition 68 Competitive Grant Application
Coastal Slope Trail Decker-to-Trancas Connector Project

Climate Change Value

The project acquires, preserves, or restores natural areas at risk of development and quantifiably avoids emissions associated with development.

Based on the County and City zoning, up to 24 additional Single-Family Residences may be allowable on the 19 target parcels without existing residential development. Presuming a minimum of 5,000 square feet per residential unit, preservation of the 19 parcels would result in an annual savings of at least 1,012 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent to the amount of carbon sequestered by 1,192 acres of U.S. forests per year. However since this proposed project only guarantees the permanent protection of one fee simple parcel (APN 4473-006-028 along Encinal Canyon Road), the only guaranteed annual savings of carbon dioxide would be 42.3 metric tons which is equivalent to the amount of carbon sequestered by 49.9 acres of U.S. forests in one year.

The project acquires and/or maintains wildlife corridors and linkages to provide connections between area of undeveloped lands, particularly significant public lands and key habitat ecosystems.

The Project Area is central to a large core habitat area between Leo Carrillo State Park and the Zuma-Trancas Unit of the SMMNRA. Acquisition of any of the twenty Project Area target parcels would contribute to habitat linkages between existing parklands between these two larger parks. The Project Area includes the Robert Yoshio Nagata Park and Leo A. and Edith Carrillo Memorial Park and Charmlee Wilderness Park. Each target parcel protected would add significantly to the linkage system between these parklands.

Additional Consideration

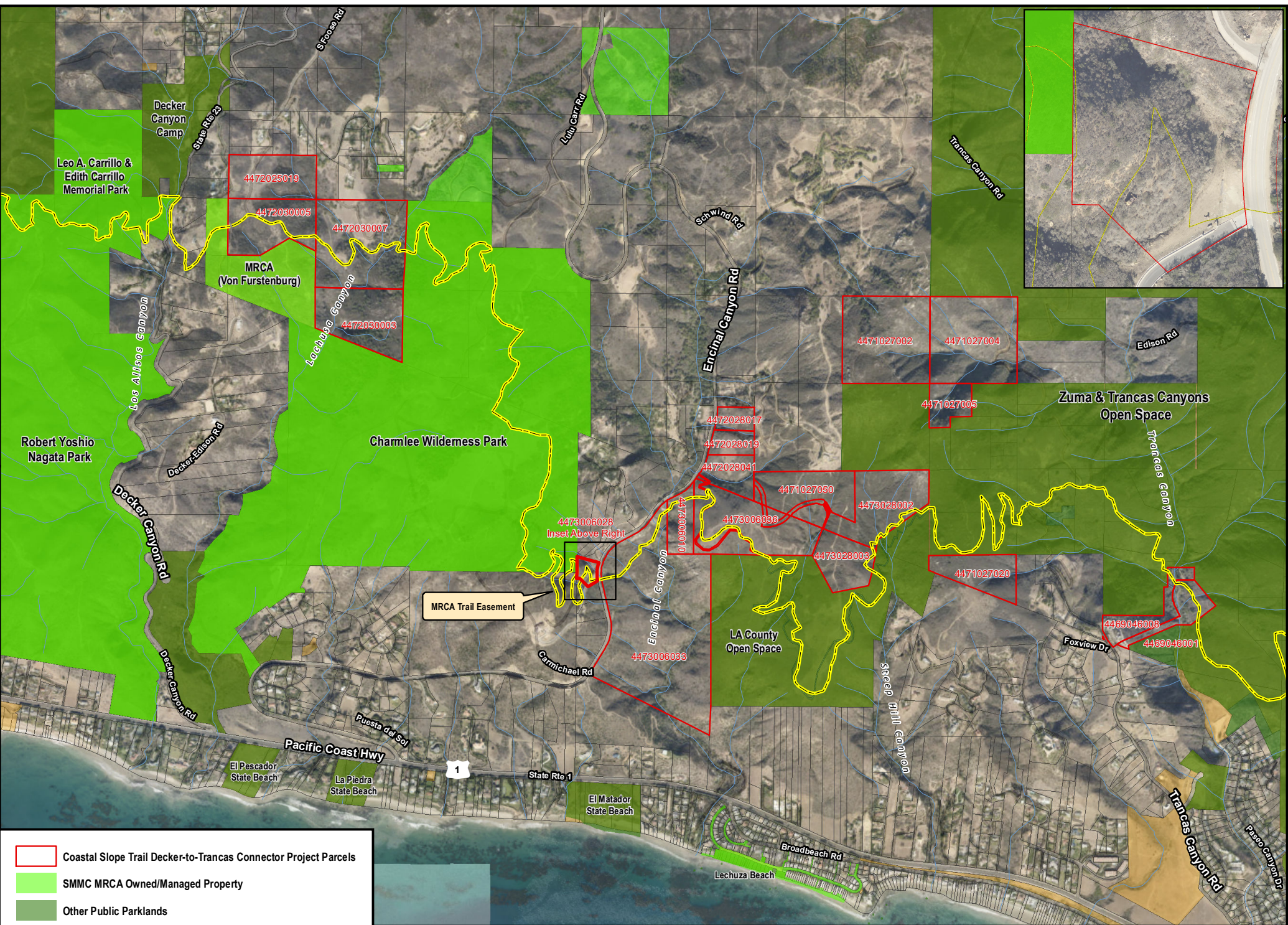
The site is subject to imminent threat that would preclude future implementation value.

Based on the County and City zoning, up to 24 additional Single-Family Residences may be allowable on the 19 target parcels without existing residential development. Because of topographic constraints, there are few alternate routes for the proposed CST. Therefore, public acquisition and preservation of any Project Area's target parcels is crucial to ensure that completion of the long-anticipated Santa Monica Mountains Coastal Slope Trail is not blocked by the construction of a single family residence.

MATCHING FUNDS WEIGHTING

Matching funds from the MRCA-administered Coastal Habitat Impact Mitigation Fund (CHIMF) of \$95,000 will contribute to the acquisition of APN 4473-006-028 along Encinal Canyon Road.





Combined, the total budget for the proposed Project is \$420,000. Matching funds represent approximately 23-percent of the total budget.

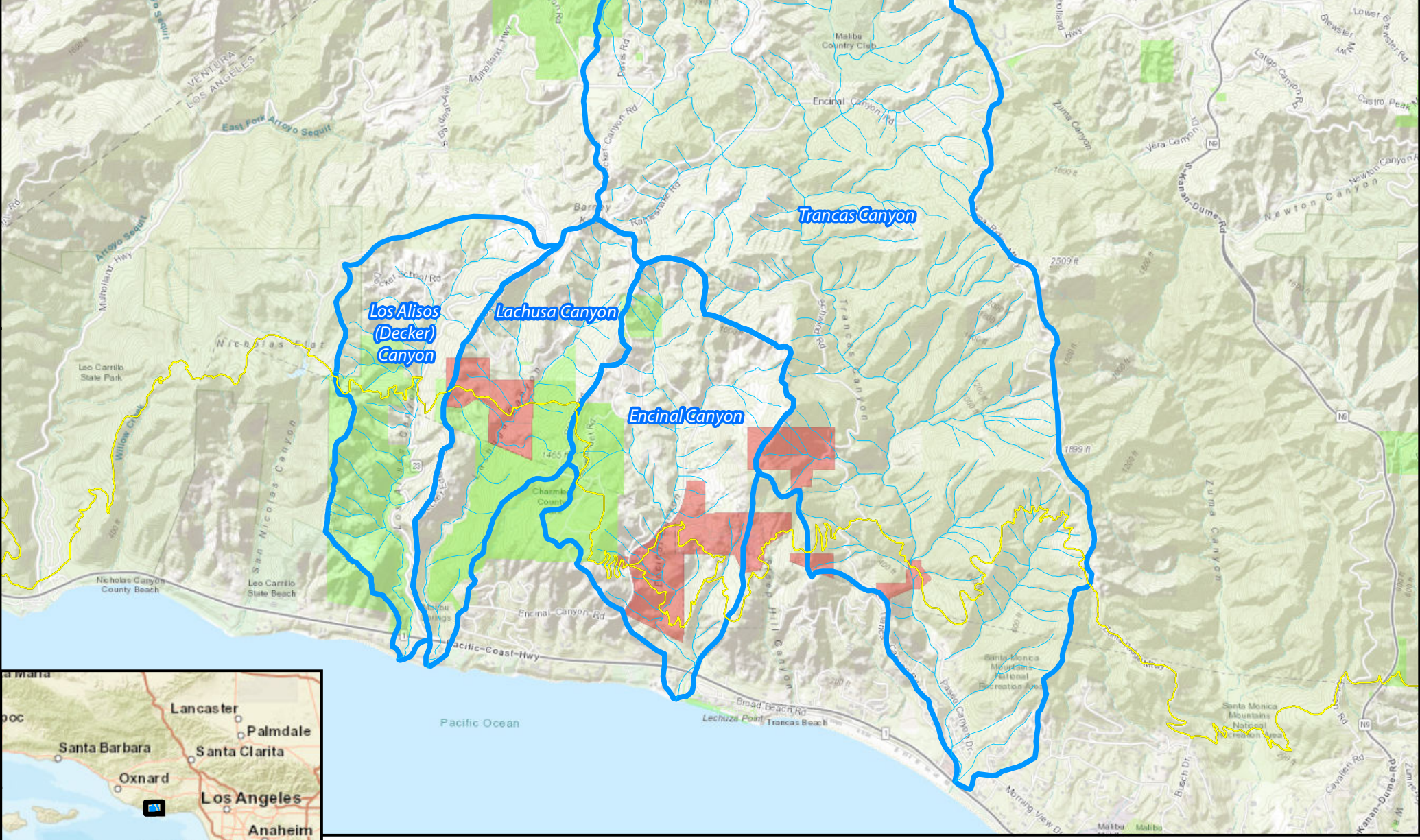


- Coastal Slope Trail Decker-to-Trancas Connector Project Parcels
- SMMC MRCA Owned/Managed Property
- Other Public Parklands
- Other Public Land
- Coastal Slope Trail (Concept)

Coastal Slope Trail Decker-to-Trancas Connector Project - Aerial Map

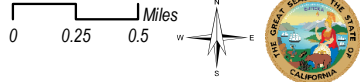
0 0.25 0.5 Miles

-  Sub-Watershed Boundaries
-  Decker to Trancas Coastal Slope Trail Connector Properties
-  SMMC MRCA Owned/Managed Property
-  Coastal Slope Trail (Concept)

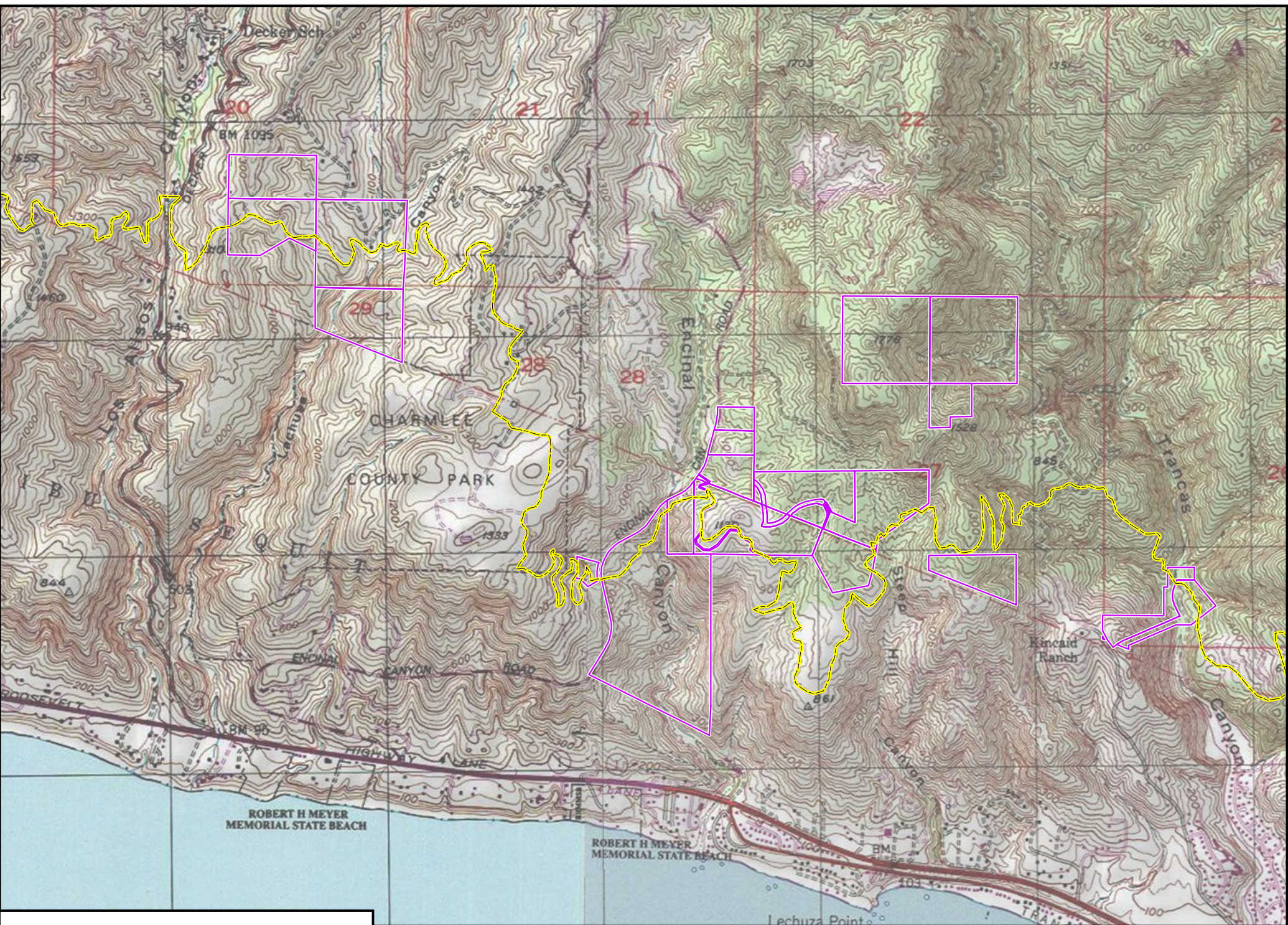



Coastal Slope Trail- Decker to Trancas Connector Project - Sub-Watershed Map


0 0.25 0.5 Miles



A north arrow and the Seal of the State of California are located in the bottom right corner of the map.

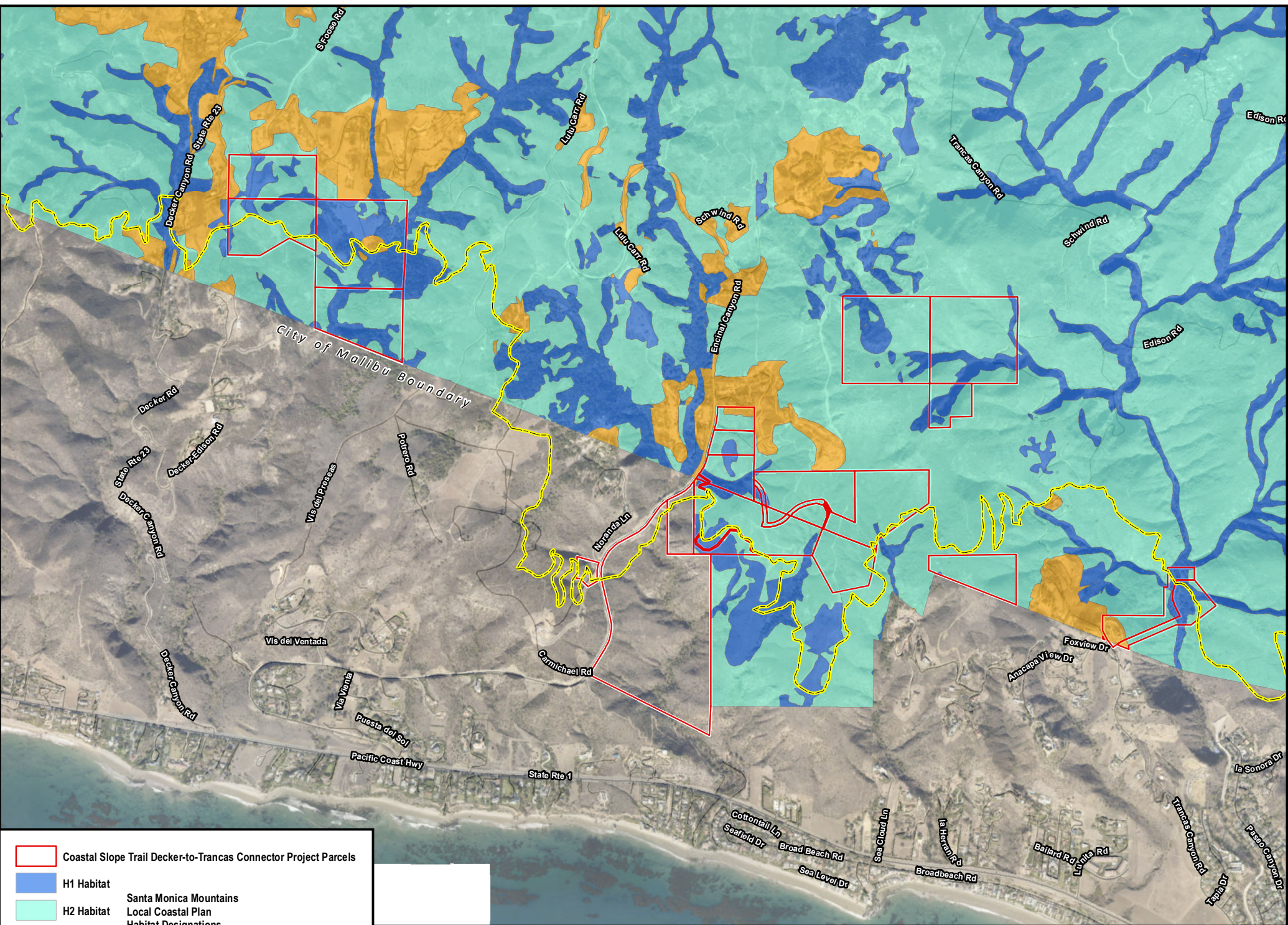







 Coastal Slope Trail Decker-to-Trancas Connector Project Parcels

 Coastal Slope Trail (Concept)

Coastal Slope Trail Decker-to-Trancas Connector Project - USGS Map





	Coastal Slope Trail Decker-to-Trancas Connector Project Parcels
	H1 Habitat
	H2 Habitat
	H3 Habitat
	Coastal Slope Trail (Concept)

Santa Monica Mountains
 Local Coastal Plan
 Habitat Designations

Coastal Slope Trail Decker-to-Trancas Connector Project - Habitat Map

