

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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April 22, 2019

Attn: Ms. Erika Lam
Department of City Planning
City of Los Angeles
6262 Van Nuys Boulevard, Room 351
Van Nuys, California 91401

**ENV-2019-1743-EIR, CPC-2019-1741-CPU, CPC-2019-1742-CPU, CPC-2019-1745-CPU
Notice of Preparation: Southwest Valley Community Plans Update EIR**

Dear Ms. Lam:

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) offers comments on the Notice of Preparation of a combined Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Southwest Valley Community Plans Update. The Conservancy, together with our joint powers authority, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), is responsible for the maintenance and patrol of thousands of acres of public parkland and open space both within and adjacent to the Canoga Park-Winnetka-Woodland Hills-West Hills and Encino-Tarzana Community Plan Areas. The updated Community Plans have the potential to impact biological, scenic, and recreational resources on that public land.

The updated Community Plans for both the Canoga Park-Winnetka-Woodland Hills-West Hills and Encino-Tarzana Community Plan Areas must address the existing and future recreational use of the unimproved portion of Mulholland Drive (Dirt Mulholland) that exists within those plans areas. The portion of Dirt Mulholland that currently exists east of the intersection with Saltillo Street in Woodland Hills should remain unpaved, in perpetuity, to maintain significant recreation, scenic, historical, and ecological resources. The Draft EIR must include an alternative that provides for permanent retention of unpaved Mulholland Drive east of Saltillo Street. Such an alternative should include minor drainage improvements and annual surface maintenance.

The Draft EIR should include an alternative that provides for both comprehensive green way habitat, and watershed improvements of the vast Mulholland Drive right of way located west of the Ensenada Drive intersection coursing towards Topanga Canyon Boulevard.

All three updated Community Plans (including the Reseda-West Van Nuys Community Plan) must also address issues of pedestrian access to the upper Los Angeles River and Los Angeles River tributaries within the subject Community Plan areas. The EIR should include a minimum of two Alternative Projects which analyze current and future pedestrian access

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to the Los Angeles River and tributaries on all parcels where such future pedestrian access is feasible.

Please contact Paul Edelman of our staff regarding any questions at 310-589-3200, ext. 128 or by e-mail at edelman@smmc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

IRMA MUÑOZ
Chairperson

cc: Ms. Claudia Rodriguez, Department of City Planning
Ms. Adrineh Melkonian, Department of City Planning