

# NEWS RELEASE



## SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY AND MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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### **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PARKLAND CLOSED BY RECENT STORMS**

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority urge public to avoid mountain parks and back country trails until storms pass later this week.

Los Angeles—The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) announced today that recent heavy rainstorms and the resulting swollen creeks, fallen trees, erosion, potential mudslides, and extremely wet conditions have necessitated the temporary closure of some Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority parks in the Southern California area.

“It is vital for everyone’s safety that the public respect park closure signs and barricades, and do not try to enter a closed park or trail.” said Senior Ranger Ken Nelson, who is leading the MRCA’s response to the series of storms that are pummeling the Southern California region this week. “Park rangers are patrolling the parks, but land erosion and mudslides can be extremely unpredictable and dangerous. This is not a situation to take any risks.”

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Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Park Rangers and staff as well as twenty Americorps cadets stationed in the Santa Monica Mountains are working around the clock to monitor the quickly changing conditions in the more than 60,000 acres of parkland managed by the MRCA. While no MRCA parkland was burned in the recent station fire, the rain is subjecting the mountain and hillside areas to extremely hazardous conditions including excessive mudflow and debris. MRCA rangers trained in swift water awareness are also patrolling the Los Angeles River.

Nelson recommends the public avoid all mountain parkland, backcountry trails, and river areas until after the series of storm events have passed.

**Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Parks Closed During Current Storm Events:**

- King Gillette Ranch off of Mulholland Highway in Calabasas
- Franklin Canyon Park near Mulholland Drive and Coldwater Canyon
- Tujunga Wash Greenway in North Hollywood
- Wilson Canyon Park in Sylmar
- Vista Hermosa Park in Downtown Los Angeles
- Bosque del Rio Hondo Park in the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area
- Ed Davis Park at Towsley Canyon, Mentryville, Pico Canyon and East Canyon in the Santa Clarita Woodlands
- Whitney Canyon Park in Santa Clarita
- Michael D. Antonovich Park at Joughin Ranch in the Simi Hills

Updates will be posted on both the Conservancy and MRCA websites:

[www.smmc.ca.gov](http://www.smmc.ca.gov) and [www.mrca.ca.gov](http://www.mrca.ca.gov).

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The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is a State agency established by the Legislature in 1980 to strategically buy back, preserve, protect, restore, and enhance treasured pieces of Southern California to form an interlinking system of urban, rural, and river parks, open space, trails, and wildlife habitats that are easily accessible to the general public.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is a local government public entity dedicated to the preservation and management of open space, urban parkland, watershed lands, trails, and wildlife habitat. The MRCA manages almost 60,000 acres of public parkland that it owns or that is owned by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and other agencies. It is one of the lead agencies revitalizing the Los Angeles River and its tributaries.

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