

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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Stunning Pasadena Open Space Permanently Protected

Conservancy, impassioned residents led charge to prevent development of 20.63-acre Annandale Canyon in the San Rafael Hills in Northwest Pasadena

Pasadena—Escrow closed today on the purchase of 20.63-acre Annandale Canyon in the San Rafael Hills in the western portion of the City of Pasadena north of the 134 Freeway. The new parkland, which will be owned and managed by the City of Pasadena, features portions of two stunning north-south oriented canyons and ridgelines east of Glendale's Scholl Canyon Recreation Area. The open space includes chaparral, coastal sage scrub-grassland, oak and sycamore woodlands and a blue-line stream.

The purchase ends a more than seven-year effort by a coalition of concerned citizens and organizations, including the Conservancy and the City, to save the property from development. The property harbors high quality ecological resources that are vital to maintain larger mammals in the nearly isolated San Rafael hill system. In particular, the lush woodlands along the blueline stream offer rare refuge to birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

In 2005, the Conservancy commissioned the Trust for Public Land to conduct an environmental assessment of the property—which is comprised of 37 individual parcels—and propose a funding strategy to acquire the property for public parkland. After the passage of Proposition 84 in 2006, at the request of then-Advisory Committee Member (Now Assemblymember) Anthony Portantino, the Conservancy granted \$2.5 million to City of Pasadena for the purchase of the property. Using the Conservancy funds as a match, the City

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Annandale Canyon Purchase
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was able to secure \$500,000 in Los Angeles County Proposition A Funds from Supervisor Mike Antonovich, and an additional \$2 million from the City of Pasadena General Fund. In October 2008, residents in the neighborhood surrounding the property voted to establish the Annandale Canyon Benefit Assessment District, and assess themselves \$1,364,000 towards the purchase of the \$6,200,000 property.

“The property owners responded to the community vision and leadership of Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Committee Members Anthony Portantino and Tim Wendler and agreed to contribute their own funds to protect the open space,” said Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. “Their commitment to the project was extraordinary—and in the end—unstoppable.”

Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006, was approved by voters in November 2006. The measure includes funding designated to the Conservancy for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes, streams, their watersheds and associated land, water and natural resources.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is a State Agency established by the Legislature in 1980. Since that time, it has helped to preserve over 60,000 acres of parkland in both wilderness and urban settings, with a goal of forming an interlinking system of open space, trails, and wildlife habitat that is easily accessible to the public.

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