

NEWS RELEASE



MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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HEAVY RAIN STORMS NECESSITATE CLOSURE OF SOME SANTA CLARITA AREA PARKS

Santa Clarita—The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority announced today that recent heavy rainstorms and mudslides have necessitated the closure of some parkland operated by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority in the Santa Clarita Valley. Ed Davis Park at Towsley Canyon, Mentryville and Pico Canyon, and East Canyon in the Santa Clarita Woodlands Park will be closed until further notice. In addition, the parking lot at Whitney Canyon Park is also closed, although the park itself is still open to the public.

The combination of heavy rains and the devastation of a very hot fire in 2003 have resulted in excessive mudflows and debris. Trails have been washed out, and may not be safe for recreational use. No structures, however, have been damaged. “The 2003 fires in the Santa Clarita Woodlands were extremely hot and eliminated almost 90% of the vegetation in both Pico and Towsley Canyons,” said Paul Edelman, Deputy Director for Natural Resources and Planning for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. “Portions of Towsley Canyon had not burned for over ten years. Last year’s below

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average rainfall was not sufficient to provide significant regrowth. Thus we have almost a worst case scenario of erosion and mudflows in the canyons.”

Parks will be closed until damage can be fully assessed and heavy equipment can be moved in to perform repairs. For more information, contact MRCA Ranger Services at (310) 858-7272.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and its Joint Powers partner, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority are dedicated to the preservation and creation of parkland within the Santa Monica Mountains, and the Rim of the Valley Corridor including the Santa Clarita, La Crescenta, Simi and Conejo Valleys.

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