

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Endorses Local Open Space Measure

Santa Clarita Preservation District will protect some of the most ecologically significant open space in rapidly expanding Santa Clarita Valley.

Santa Clarita—The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy announced its complete support today for the City of Santa Clarita Open Space Preservation District.

“Santa Clarita contains some of the State’s most beautiful and diverse natural areas,” said Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. “The funds generated by this local measure will leverage State dollars to preserve and protect much of the area’s remaining open space from development. This will have a direct and lasting effect on the ecological health of the community for generations to come.”

All property owners in the City of Santa Clarita were mailed ballots asking if they would be willing to pay \$25.00 annually to acquire open space, wildlife areas and natural lands in the Santa Clara River Watershed in and around the City. The Preservation District would secure a greenbelt around the City and protect important habitat and wildlife corridors, while creating additional parkland and trails.

A similar measure passed by property owners in the Santa Monica Mountains in 2002, resulted in the preservation and protection of almost 2,000 acres of open space, while

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providing public accountability in a transparent process. Proceeds generated by this preservation district provided matching funds for State bond funds to create even more parkland.

“This measure builds upon what was done by property owners in the Santa Monica Mountains,” continued Edmiston. “There are numerous safeguards in place, and opportunities for citizen involvement to assure that the money raised will be spent as intended, and in the most efficient manner. Preserving undeveloped land as public open space is the best investment the public can make to maintain the quality of life in the Santa Clarita Valley.”

Property owners have until July 10, 2007 to return their ballots.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is a State agency dedicated to the preservation and creation of parkland within the Santa Monica Mountains, and the Rim of the Valley Corridor including the Santa Clarita, San Fernando, La Crescenta, Simi and Conejo Valleys.

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