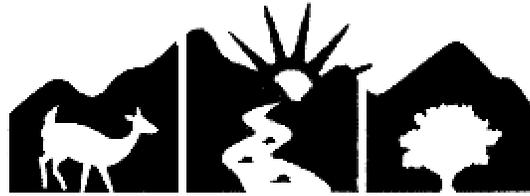


NEWS RELEASE



Mountains Recreation And Conservation Authority

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Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Announces Purchase of Key Backbone Trail Property

Key Segment of 65-Mile Trail Brings Thirty-Year Effort Near Completion

Malibu—The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) announced today it has purchased one of the last remaining properties needed to complete the 65-mile Backbone Trail System. The 10-acre property in Encinal Canyon in unincorporated Ventura County (APN 694-0-21-500) provides a critical link to more than 20 miles of the trail between Los Angeles County and Point Mugu. The \$275,000 purchase price includes an appurtenant easement over Etz Meloy Motorway, the trail alignment for the Backbone Trail. The acquisition is the latest of more than 177 individual parcels and trail easements that have been obtained by public park agencies since the crestline trail through the Santa Monica Mountains was first envisioned and planned in the late 1970s.

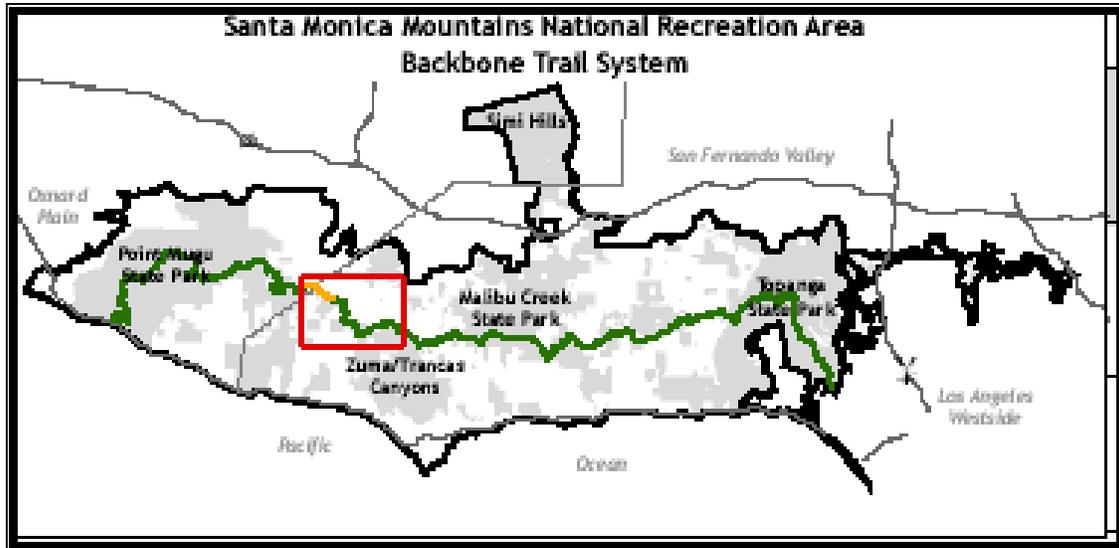
The Mountains Conservancy Foundation (MCF), a nonprofit organization, donated \$50,000 towards the purchase. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy granted the remaining amount in Proposition 84 funds approved by the voters in 2006 to complete the acquisition. Over 400 private donors have contributed to the Backbone Trail Completion Fund, which was established to augment public money to purchase trail properties. The donation is the latest in over \$145,000 of funds contributed by the MCF for the purchase of Backbone Trail properties since the year 2000.

“The enduring vision and hard work of park agencies and hundreds of volunteers and donors dedicated to the Backbone Trail has made this trail system through the Santa Monica Mountains a reality,” said Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Officer of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. “The goal of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is not only to preserve these magnificent mountains, but to make them accessible for all people to explore and enjoy.”

The Backbone Trail is a ridgeline trail unifying parklands in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and spanning two counties. The trail stretches east to west through vast canyon land, historic sites, streams, unusual geology, grassland, and coast 65 miles from Will Rogers State Historic Park in Pacific Palisades to Point Mugu State Park in Ventura County. It is anchored in the middle by Malibu Creek State Park. Completion of the Backbone Trail has been a more than 30-year effort by the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) unit of the National Park Service, California State Parks, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, and countless volunteers. Only three remaining parcels need to be purchased in order to complete the trail. Currently 63 miles of the trail are open to public use.

For more information about the Backbone Trail, including maps, visit the SMMNRA website at <http://www.nps.gov/samo/planyourvisit/backbonetrail.htm>. Press may also contact Melanie Beck at the National Park Service at (805) 370-2346.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is a Public Agency of the State of California formed pursuant to the Joint Powers Act between the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, and the Conejo Recreation and Park District. It has helped to preserve more than 60,000 acres of public parkland throughout the Southern California region.



Location of new 10-acre parcel and trail easement

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