

NEWS RELEASE



SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Dedicates Malibu Trailhead in Honor of Environmentalist, Coastal Advocate, and Public Access Champion Sara Wan

Sara Wan Trailhead at Corral Canyon provides beach access and trail into the last undeveloped coastal canyon in Los Angeles

Malibu, October 20, 2009—Senator Fran Pavley and Assemblymember Pedro Nava joined the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy today to dedicate the beautiful trailhead at Corral Canyon Park to Malibu resident and longtime environmental activist Sara Wan. Ms. Wan, a biologist and engineer, has worked extensively to protect the California coast, and has been outspoken on issues of public access, land use, off-shore oil drilling, energy, and marine ecology. A California Coastal Commissioner since 1997, Ms. Wan has been an *ex officio* member of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy since 2007.

“Sara Wan is the conscience of the California Coast,” said Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. “The Sara Wan Trailhead at Corral Canyon is a fitting tribute to an extraordinary defender of the California coast and the people’s right to enjoy it. From the trailhead one can enjoy protected public wilderness and the stunning Malibu coastline. There is seasonal access to Dan Blocker State Beach. The entrance has an MTA bus stop, so people from any part of Los Angeles County can get here.”

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Located between Malibu Canyon and Kanan Dume Roads on Pacific Coast Highway, the Sara Wan Trailhead at Corral Canyon offers parking, picnic areas, restrooms, educational displays, and sitting benches. A 2.5-mile-long hiking trail leads to the last undeveloped coastal canyon in Los Angeles County that flows freely to the ocean. The trail climbs to the Puerco Canyon watershed divide providing spectacular views. It then descends onto an ancient marine terrace with native bunch grasses. Along this route, the hiker passes through coastal sage scrub, coastal bluff native grassland, and the riparian corridor of Corral Creek with its alder, coast live oak, California sycamore, and willow trees. A pocket of coastal salt marsh is located where the creek meets the Pacific Coast Highway bridge. The trail will eventually provide direct access to yet to be built sections of the Coastal Slope and Beach to Backbone trails.

Corral Canyon Park was acquired by the Conservancy in 1998 from entertainer Bob Hope, who had once hoped to build a golf course on the site. The trailhead was first developed in 2003 with Los Angeles County Proposition A and Caltrans Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program funds. In 2007 and 2008, the Conservancy added 632 acres to the park with funding from voter-approved Proposition 50 and Proposition 84 funds. The California Coastal Conservancy, the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, and the Los Angeles County Open Space District contributed to the purchase.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is a State Agency dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and creation of public parkland. The Conservancy's mission is to form an interlinking system of urban, rural, and river parks, open space, trails, and wildlife habitat that are easily accessible to the public. Established by the Legislature in 1980, the Conservancy has helped preserve over 65,000 acres of parkland throughout Southern California.