

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

Malibu, CA (February 12, 2014)—The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy announced today the election of its new officers for 2014. The Honorable Linda Parks, Ventura County Supervisor from the Second District was elected Chairperson by a unanimous vote of the Members. Jerome C. Daniel, appointee of Los Angeles Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, was appointed Vice Chairperson. The Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson are selected by the voting members of the Conservancy for a one-year term.

The Honorable Linda Parks is the Ventura County Supervisor from the Second District. She previously served as a Planning Commissioner, City Councilmember, and Mayor for the City of Thousand Oaks. As an open space advocate, Supervisor Parks was a champion in the sixteen-year grassroots effort to preserve what is now Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve (formerly known as Ahmanson Ranch).

Supervisor Parks' goal as Chair of the Conservancy in 2014 is to champion the construction of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Corridor across the 101 Freeway to ensure continuation of threatened species in the Santa Monica Mountains, including mountain lions. Several mountain lions have recently been hit and killed by cars trying to cross roads, including the 101 freeway. Studies have shown a lack of safe road crossings as the number one contributor to loss of the mountain lion species in the Santa Monica Mountains in addition to causing their lack of genetic diversity because of the inability of the lions to roam.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, established by the Legislature in 1980, is composed of nine voting members and three ex officio members. The nine voting members represent local, state, and federal government including the Superintendent of the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area, a member appointed by the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, a public member appointed by the Governor, a public member appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, one public member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, a member appointed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, a member appointed by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, the designee of the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency of California, and the Superintendent of the Angeles District of California State Parks. Ex Officio Members include the Supervisor of the Angeles National Forest and appointees of the California Coastal Conservancy and the California Coastal Commission.

A 26-member Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of local jurisdictions and members appointed by the Governor, the Senate Rules Committee, and the Speaker of the Assembly advise the Conservancy.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy was established by the State Legislature in 1980. Since that time, it has helped to preserve over 69,000 acres of parkland in both wilderness and urban settings. Its mission is to strategically buy back, preserve, protect, restore and enhance treasured pieces of Southern California to form an interlinking system of urban, rural and river parks, open space, trails, and wildlife habitats that are easily accessible to the general public.

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