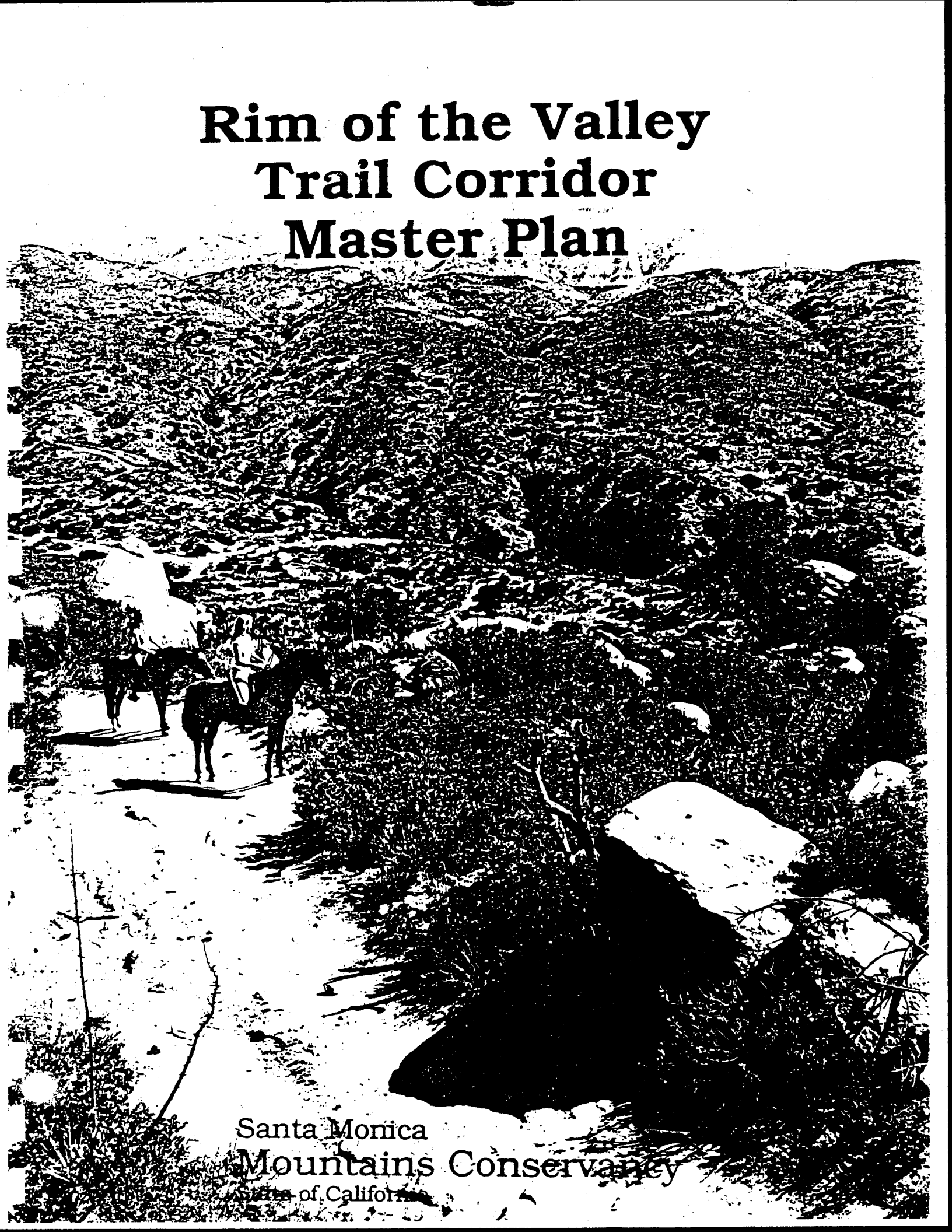


# Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan



Santa Monica  
Mountains Conservancy  
State of California

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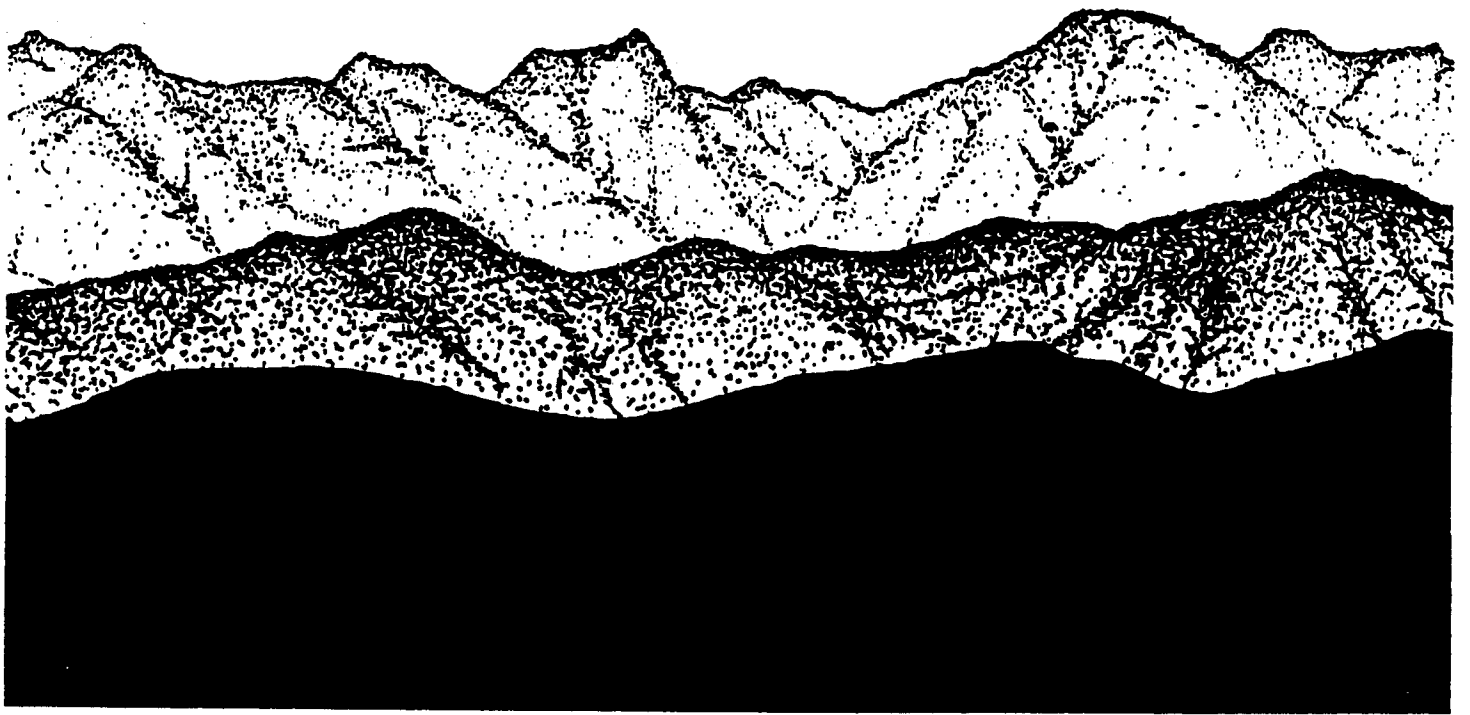
# **Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan**

June 28, 1990

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Santa Monica  
Mountains Conservancy  
State of California

prepared by  
Dangermond & Associates



## Summary

### Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan

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The preparation of the following Master Plan is the direct result of AB 1516 authored by Assemblyman Richard Katz which was approved by the Legislature and signed by Governor George Deukmejian in 1989. The Master Plan is intended to guide both the Mountains Conservancy and the Legislature over the next five to ten years in preserving important resources within the Rim Corridor and providing public recreation.

The legislation requires the preparation of the plan, specifies elements which must be included, requires a number of public hearings, and establishes a deadline for reporting back to the Legislature. The specific requirements have been met in accordance with the legislation.

Eleven public hearings were held by the Mountains Conservancy, as required in the legislation. These were well attended by elected officials, agency and group representatives as well as the general public. The suggestions and ideas regarding plan elements and needs of the area make up the backbone of the Master Plan which is hereby presented.

The primary components of the Master Plan are the Rim of the Valley Trail and an interlocking system of wildlife habitats and open space areas which provide a corridor connection between the Santa Monica Mountains, the Santa Susana Mountains, the Sespe Mountains and San Gabriel Mountains. Those interrelated components create a major recreation resource and a wildlife link vital to the long-term health and diversity of this region of southern California. Numerous special opportunities exist within this area and when joined together they represent an overall project of tremendous statewide significance.

The major components of the Master Plan include:

1. The Rim of the Valley Trail, which completely encircles the San Fernando and La Crescenta valleys and unifies the various parts of the corridor recreational system.
2. A wildlife corridor which connects the Santa Monica, Santa Susana, Sespe and San Gabriel Mountains. This will provide for long term biological diversity and will incorporate major habitat areas along the way, including the Santa Susana Mountains State Park, Rocky Peak and the Santa Clarita Woodlands.
3. Periodic access trails and trailheads which provide convenient points of access with companion facilities for all users.
4. Major access and loop trails which connect the Rim Trail with important natural and historic areas including: Santa Anita Canyon, Santa Clarita Woodlands,

Placerita Canyon State /County Park, Happy Camp County Park and Santa Susana Mountains State Park.

5. Additional wildlife and scenic open space areas throughout the corridor area. These lesser spaces will also be connected to the primary wildlife corridor between the mountains.
6. Recommendations for major recreational area improvements for future development at Hansen Dam, Happy Camp, Chatsworth Reservoir and Devil's Gate. These will provide large regional park facilities which are also connected to the Rim system by trails.
7. Recommendations for special use trails for nature study and for special populations such as the physically impaired.
8. Recommendations for a chain of campsites along the Rim Trail to accommodate users on extended trips.
9. Proposals for information and interpretive programs to ensure that all residents of the region have access to the parks, to inform users, and to foster good stewardship of the resource.
10. Specific recommendations for a series of boundary adjustments are proposed as a means of incorporating the important projects and additions for the Rim of the Valley Corridor system. The recommendations are: a boundary adjustment easterly to Santa Anita Canyon; westerly to the join the Conservancy Zone boundary at Calleguas Creek; and boundary adjustments to include areas north of Simi Valley and the proposed Santa Clarita Woodlands Park.

This Master Plan is a combination of all the elements found in this report, i.e.,

1. The definitions, objectives and criteria
2. The plan, as described in the text and illustrated in the figures
3. The proposed project list
4. The proposed boundary adjustments

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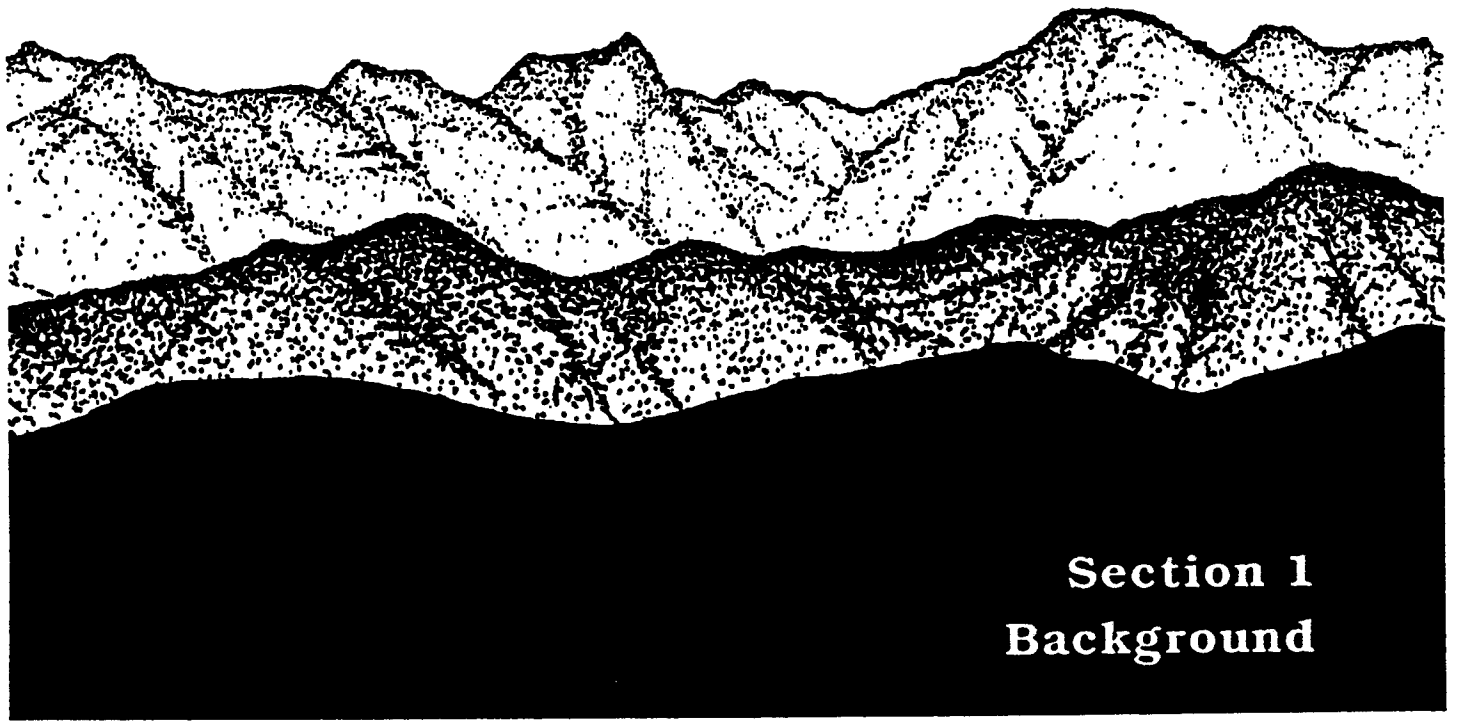
## Introduction

## INTRODUCTION

The study described in this report was authorized by Assembly Bill No 1516 of the 1989-90 session of the California Legislature, relating to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor. The primary goal of that legislation, and therefore this study, is to establish a "master plan", or framework, for the activities and expenditures of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) within the general Rim of the Valley Corridor area over the next ten years.

The following section of this report describes the background of the Conservancy which precedes AB 1516, while Section 2 considers in detail the language and objectives of that proposed legislation. The process and methods used in the study are presented in the third section, followed by a discussion of the Master Plan components in the Section 4. Section 5 provides an overview of the complete Master Plan. Criteria for prioritizing the projects is discussed in Section 6.

All projects considered in this study are listed in Appendix A and keyed to the 21 USGS topographical maps in Section 7 of this report. The maps indicate the location of existing and proposed parks, trails and public open space. The list includes a description of each proposed project and the source of the proposal.



**Section 1**  
**Background**