

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY**

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**Statement on Public Benefit Program for the Sweetwater Mesa Project in Malibu**

On April 25, 2011 the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy voted to support a public benefit program for the Sweetwater Mesa Project in Malibu in order to secure maximum benefit for the public should the development be approved. The benefits are assured if the houses are fully approved regardless of the number of houses that are actually constructed.

The California Coastal Commission, as well as Los Angeles County, and the City of Malibu are the approving governmental bodies for this development, not the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. It is unknown how the California Coastal Commission will vote on this project, or if it will ever be developed.

The Conservancy entered into this agreement in order to maximize the benefit for the public if the project is approved by the California Coastal Commission and other approving governmental bodies. These benefits include deed restrictions around the proposed homes, a conservation easement over 97 acres of the property, immediate dedication of trail easements for the public on three key segments of the regionally significant Coastal Slope Trail, \$750,000 in immediate grant funding to acquire and improve additional segments of the Coastal Slope Trail, and a further \$250,000 commitment in pre-acquisition and trail design services to secure and improve additional segments of the Coastal Slope Trail from the project area to Tuna Canyon Park in Malibu.

**Public Benefits Summary:**

- Conservation easement on 97 acres of the proposed development area
- Deed restrictions around the proposed homes
- Difficult to obtain trail easements for public use of the Coastal Slope Trail on three key lots in Carbon Mesa in Malibu
- Coastal Slope Trail dedication on a portion of Sweetwater Mesa Project area
- \$750,000 grant to acquire or improve further Coastal Slope Trail easements
- Commitment to pay an additional \$250,000 for acquisition and design services for the Coastal Slope Trail