

DONATION INFORMATION

Developer dedications and private land donations represent a significant part of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's acquisition program. The one-acre Chatsworth Peak-Grech donation and the 355-acre Castaic-Larwin donation are two properties donated to the Conservancy this year. The role of dedicated and gifted land is crucial to the Conservancy's success in expanding parklands and preserving the natural resources of California.

The Conservancy is authorized to accept cash and noncash charitable contributions pursuant to Section 170(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code, which provides for the deductibility of contributions to a state or any political subdivision of a state. The Conservancy is also authorized to accept any gifts, donations, or bequests from individuals, corporations, or organizations, or accept grants of funds from private or public agencies pursuant to Section 33211(a) of the Public Resources Code.

In fiscal year 2001-2002, key acquisitions, including the 1,015-acre Tuna Canyon property and the 151-acre Agoura Hills / Rasmussen property were made possible through the Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit of 2000. Authored by Senator Jack O'Connell of Santa Barbara, this Act provides tax incentives for landowners who donate their land or water rights to state or local agencies or nonprofit organizations for land conservation purposes and is administered by the state Wildlife Conservation Board.

