

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

During fiscal year 2002-2003, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy continued its legacy of preserving and protecting treasured open space throughout Southern California. The acquisition of over 3,600 acres was made possible by partners at the local, state, and federal level as well as private donors.



Major accomplishments of the Conservancy this year include:

- Acquisition of 244-acre Verdugo Mountains Open Space Preserve, augmenting a contiguous 4,000-acre block of open space in the Verdugo Mountains
- Acquisition of 404-acre Browns Canyon, foundation for the 2,000-acre Michael D. Antonovich Regional Park
- Dedication of several new parks around Southern California including Tuna Canyon Park in Malibu, Whitney Canyon Park in Santa Clarita, the Michael D. Antonovich Open Space Preserve, and the Marge Feinberg Rim of the Valley Trail
- Completion of the Richard Lillard Outdoor Classroom in Studio City, the first of many planned improvements along the Los Angeles River in the San Fernando Valley
- Establishment of a matching funds grant program to aid conservation efforts by local governments and nonprofit organizations
- Continued leadership in environmental education, with programs for seniors, special-needs children, volunteers, inner-city pre-teens and teens, and comprehensive training for park professionals
- Final negotiations of the 1,733-acre Joughin Ranch acquisition, ensuring preservation of this core Santa Susana Mountains habitat and cross-mountain connection

Dedication to the preservation of open space by citizens and local lawmakers is an important part of the Conservancy's success. As the population continues to increase exponentially in Southern California, the protection of undeveloped open space remains a key component in maintaining the quality of life. With funding from citizen-supported Propositions 12, 13, 40, and 50, the Conservancy is able to extend the benefits of our mountains into the city, creating green space along the Los Angeles River and in heavily urbanized areas. We look forward to carrying on the effort to create a treasured network of parks, trails, and open space for public use and wildlife habitat.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome C. Daniel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

JEROME C. DANIEL

Chairperson

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy