

INTRODUCTION

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy was established in 1980 following the passage of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Act. This landmark legislation, amended five times since then to bring more of the Southern California mountains within the Conservancy's jurisdiction, has resulted in the preservation of over 55,000 acres of parkland, the improvement of more than 100 public recreational facilities, and numerous individual grants to nonprofit organizations for educational and interpretation programs that have served hundreds of thousands of children, seniors, and other park visitors.

The Conservancy consists of nine voting members and two ex officio members. Six members of the Legislature participate in Conservancy meetings. This policy-making entity for the Conservancy is broadly representative of state, regional, and local interests. A twenty-six member Advisory Committee meets jointly with the Conservancy and offers citizens the opportunity for even greater participation. The composition of both the Conservancy and the Advisory Committee has greatly expanded since its inception.

The key to the Conservancy's success has been partnerships—cooperating landowners, local governments, joint powers entities, California State Parks and the National Park Service—all have contributed to the articulation of a greater vision for parks, open space, and natural habitat surrounding the Southern California metropolis.

This report will detail the financial activities of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for fiscal year 2002-2003, and highlight several of its parkland purchases and improvement projects over the past year. In accordance with previous years' reports, information regarding the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and other Joint Powers Agencies is also included in this report.