

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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California State Parks
Southern Service Center
8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270
San Diego, California 92108

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park General Plan

Dear Chairperson Shriver and Commissioners:

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park is centrally located in the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Zone portion of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's jurisdiction. Our staff has great knowledge of the park and its surrounding areas. The Conservancy is in full support of the Preferred Alternative project in the Preliminary General Plan. The proposed six management zones in this alternative adeptly balance preservation, access, and public safety. We extend our compliments to your staff.

The growing populations of both the San Fernando and Simi Valleys and a million other people that live within a 45 minute drive of the park need increased recreational opportunities. The Preferred Alternative provides excellent public access opportunity commensurate with the park's absolutely unique ecological, archeological, and historical elements. The included reservation of a potential camping area on the former Spahn Ranch site is also essential to fit this model.

The park is a focal point of connectivity for both current and historic transportation routes as well as inter-mountain range wildlife movement so critical to the ecological sustainability of the Santa Susana Mountains, Simi Hills and Santa Monica Mountains. Few if any places in the region have so many accessible culturally and historically significant sites in a natural setting. The Conservancy supports further land acquisitions to expand the park and looks forward to ongoing endeavors with your Department throughout the Conservancy Zone

Please direct any questions to Paul Edelman, Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning at (310) 589-3200 ext. 128.

Sincerely,

ELIZABETH A. CHEADLE
Chairperson

