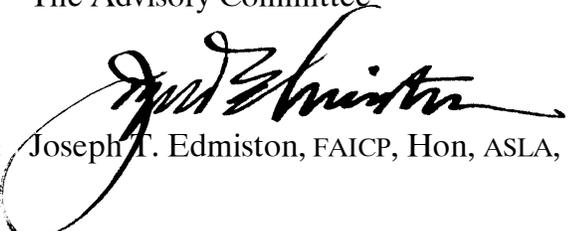


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: January 28, 2008

From : 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon, ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 17: Consideration of request by City of Santa Clarita for the Conservancy to oppose the Las Lomas Project located between Interstate-5 and State Route 14, unincorporated Los Angeles County and proposed to be annexed to the City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy consider the request by the City of Santa Clarita to oppose the Las Lomas Project and authorize the Chair and/or staff to provide comment to upcoming City of Los Angeles hearings on the subject project.

Legislative Authority: Section 33211 (c) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: At its August 26, 2002 meeting, the Conservancy authorized a comment letter to the City of Los Angeles Environmental Review Section on the Notice of Preparation for the Las Lomas Annexation Project (see attached letter dated August 26, 2002). Although the project proposal raised concern about a multitude of environmental constraints, the Conservancy's letter stressed the regional significance of the property for its critical habitat linkage between the Santa Susana Mountains and the San Gabriel Mountains. The Conservancy expressed its concern that large scale development posed unavoidable, significant, adverse impacts on that inter-mountain habitat linkage.

In recent months the project proponent has requested that the City of Los Angeles approve a supplemental fee agreement that could expedite the review of the development project and reimburse city staff time. The City of Santa Clarita has asked that the Conservancy join it and a number of other elected officials and organizations in opposing the Las Lomas development (see attached correspondence from the City of Santa Clarita).