

SANTA CLARITA WATERSHED RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governing Board Members

**FROM:** Joseph T. Edmiston, AICP

**DATE:** November 20, 1997

**SUBJ:** Agenda Item IV; Legislation to expand the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor to include the area previously excluded from the Corridor lying east of Highway 14, including Whitney and Elsmere Canyons

Background: In 1989 the Legislature passed Assemblyman Richard Katz's bill (AB 1516) to provide for better coordinated trail and parkland acquisition and development in the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor. Pursuant to the requirements of the legislation the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy commissioned a master plan study by Dangermond & Associates that, among other things, recommended that the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor be expanded to include areas like Whitney and Elsmere Canyons that were a functional part of the ecosystem adjacent to what was then the trail corridor.

During the public review process the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts vigorously objected to inclusion of the Whitney and Elsmere Canyon areas because of potential impact on the proposed landfill in Elsmere Canyon. Attached you will find a copy of that portion of the minutes of the Conservancy's June 18, 1990 meeting dealing with this issue.

In the end, because of the position of Los Angeles County Sanitation District and the County's representative on the Conservancy Board, Whitney and Elsmere Canyons were excluded from the corridor boundary.

As a result of Congressional legislation sponsored by Representative McKeon, Elsmere Canyon is no longer actively being considered as a landfill, although it remains on the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Plan.

Proposal: Staff has had several meetings with Assemblyman George Runner about returning to the original consultant's recommendation for inclusion of Whitney and Elsmere Canyons based strictly on recreational and environmental considerations. Assemblyman Runner is to be congratulated for his interest in the viability of the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor and the Governing Board should consider supporting legislation that would include these canyons.

Attachments (2)