

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: February 27, 2017

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 12: Consideration of resolution authorizing addition of Conejo Mountain area into the Conservancy Workprogram, unincorporated Ventura County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing the addition of properties into the Workprogram in the unincorporated Conejo Mountain area between Thousand Oaks and Camarillo.

Legislative Authority: Section 33208 of the Public Resources Code.

Background: Please see the attached map. The Conservancy's comprehensive Land Acquisition Workprogram and scoring criteria was adopted in 2000. Subsequent nominations for inclusion of properties have been periodically. A nomination to include the Conejo Mountain area into the Workprogram was made by Ventura County Supervisor and SMMC Board member Linda Parks. At least a portion is included in the Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency's priority listing of areas to complete the "Ring of Green" open space system encircling the City of Thousand Oaks and Conejo Valley. The Conejo Mountain area would be an important addition to the SMMC Workprogram.

Using the Conservancy's previously adopted Land Acquisition Evaluation Criteria, the land area scores highly for: Wildlife Resource; Floristic Resource; Trail Resource; Scenic Resource; Archaeological/Historic Resource; and Watershed Resource. Moderate to lower scores are applied to: Other Recreational Resource; Access; Partnership; and Economic Opportunity. Staff scored total points of 107, which would rank Conejo Mountain with scoring similar to the top ten projects in the original year 2000 ranking (which included Ahmanson Ranch, Big Tujunga Canyon, Lower Topanga Canyon, Whitney Canyon, and Oakmont in Glendale, to point out a few).

Adding a property or properties to the Conservancy Workprogram does not guarantee that any acquisition is imminent or even possible; there are no negotiations with willing sellers underway at this time. However, inclusion in the Workprogram may spur interest in land donations and/or working with other partners for funding opportunities if a property becomes available.