

# NEWS RELEASE



## SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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### **Michael D. Antonovich Open Space Preserve Dedicated** *Stunning 500-acre addition to Santa Clarita Woodlands Park Provides Continuous Wilderness Trails in the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor*

Newhall—The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and its joint powers partner, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) dedicated the Michael D. Antonovich Open Space Preserve today in the Santa Clarita Woodlands Park. The stunning preserve, accessed from the East and Weldon Canyon Trailheads off of I-5, offers commanding views of the Santa Susana, San Gabriel and Sierra Pelona Mountains.

It was Supervisor Antonovich who introduced a motion to require that this property--and an adjacent 520-acre property in Bee Canyon--be preserved as open space as a condition of granting Browning Ferris Industries its permit for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill expansion. Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, which will retain recreational trail easements over the property as part of the County trail system, facilitated the dedication.

“Mike Antonovich articulated the vision of years of citizen commitment to preserving the heart of the Santa Clarita Woodlands,” said Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

The Conservancy has worked alongside a devoted group of citizens—including now-Santa Clarita Councilmember Laurene Weste—and Supervisor Antonovich to preserve the canyon since 1992. It contains the finest mixed forest in Southern California. Species include, Big Cone Douglas Fir, five species of Oak, California Bay Laurel, Foothill Flowering Ash, Sycamore, Big Leaf Maple and California Walnut Woodlands.

With this acquisition, Santa Clarita Woodlands Park will expand to 4,000 acres. The Park is owned and managed by the MRCA.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the MRCA are dedicated to the preservation and acquisition of open space and parkland throughout Southern California.

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