

NEWS RELEASE



SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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Conservancy Announces Acquisition of Phase One of \$7 Million Park Project Near Downtown Los Angeles

*Confluence Park will transform industrial corridor along the Los Angeles River
into vibrant public space and outdoor environmental education center*

Cypress Park—The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy announced today acquisition of the first of several parcels of what will become regionally significant Confluence Park near the Los Angeles River. Located at the confluence of the Los Angeles River and the Arroyo Seco, the park will be adjacent to San Fernando Road near the intersection of the Golden State (I-5) and Pasadena (CA-110) freeways. It is envisioned as a series of urban spaces that combine public open space, an outdoor classroom, safe, attractive pedestrian and bike paths, public art, and the vision of a restored riparian ecosystem. Confluence Park will complement the connection of Griffith Park to Elysian Park and the historic El Pueblo in Downtown Los Angeles.

The Conservancy has already secured over \$7 million (\$4.7 million in Prop 12 Murray-Hayden and \$3 million in TEA-21 funds) to complete the project. Development of Confluence Park will include site cleanup, native plant restoration, landscaping, and creation of walking paths, community access, restrooms, a visitor center, a bicycle station, benches, educational displays and interpretive exhibits that tell the story of the

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expansion of Los Angeles into its original suburbs and that relationship to transportation, nature and culture.

Significant to Los Angeles history, the park area is part of the Juan Bautista De Anza National Historic Trail. The Trail marks the Anza expedition of 1776 which led to the founding of the pueblo that later became Los Angeles

The park will be developed in cooperation with State and local government on several parcels of land. The parcel acquired today from a private party is roughly one-half acre, at a cost of \$535,000. Other parcels include two lots directly across the street owned by the City of Los Angeles, a Los Angeles County-owned parcel, and land beneath the Arroyo Seco Parkway owned by Caltrans.

The project is part of a larger goal of Governor Davis to bring nature to the park-poor regions of urban Los Angeles. Over one million people from the neighborhoods of Cypress Park, Lincoln Heights, Chinatown, Elysian Valley, Silverlake, and many other communities will have easy access to the park and its educational facilities.

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

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