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(202) 225-3976
waxman.house.gov

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Suite 310
Los Angeles, CA 90036
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4th Floor
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266-3708
(310) 321-7664

Ranking Member
Committee on
Energy and Commerce

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–0533

HENRY A. WAXMAN
33rd District, California

December 5, 2013

Mr. Douglas Bosco
Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, California 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to request that the California State Coastal Conservancy consider providing funding to the Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority (MRCA) for acquisition of the Ramirez Canyon parcels in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Because Ramirez Canyon abuts National Park Service (NPS) and MRCA parklands, acquisition of Ramirez Canyon properties would protect important natural resources, including Ramirez Canyon Creek, which flows directly to North Santa Monica Bay and provides important riparian habitat shaded by sycamore trees. The tracts predominantly contain oak woodlands habitat, which the California State Wildlife Action Plan has identified as an under-protected ecological community type. The land has been designated environmentally-sensitive habitat under the California Coastal Act.

The Trust for Public Land has secured $1,250,000 of the $1,300,000 needed for the first phase of the project and Coastal Conservancy funding of $50,000 would allow for the completion of this phase. An additional $150,000 would be dedicated to Phase III and used to leverage more funds to conserve the property.

I believe our local community would greatly benefit from the Ramirez Canyon project, as would recreational visitors to our local, State and National Park system. I ask the State Coastal Conservancy to give full and fair consideration to the MRCA's funding request.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

Henry A. Waxman

HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress

HAW:ro

RECEIVED
DEC 09 2013
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND OFFICE

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
401 West Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, California 91360-4207

In reply refer to:
L14 (SAMO) / 119-01

November 27, 2013

Re: Ramirez Canyon Properties within Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

To Whom it May Concern:

The National Park Service (NPS) offers the following information applicable to acquisition efforts for the Ramirez Canyon Properties, so-named for their location within the middle reaches of Ramirez Canyon Watershed. The properties cover approximately 110 acres, with six acres on the west side of Kanan Dume Road that are currently in process for acquisition by NPS. The remaining acreage east of the road includes two parcels of 48 acres and 56 acres.

The Ramirez Canyon properties are situated within the 153,250-acre Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA). SMMNRA is a world-renowned scenic and natural treasure visited by an estimated 33 million people annually. SMMNRA affords the public – especially the 17 million people living within an hour's drive – incomparable opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, bird watching, whale watching, swimming, surfing, and picnicking, all enhanced by the spectacular backdrop of rugged hillsides and ocean views. The Ramirez Canyon properties are adjacent to public parklands owned by NPS and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

The National Park Service's 1984 Land Protection Plan (LPP) for SMMNRA prescribes several methods of land protection (See enclosed LPP map). The methods range from federal fee acquisition to cooperative planning with state and local agencies. Cooperative planning entails state and local agencies' adoption and implementation of policies and standards supportive of park resources when considering private or public development proposals. A designation of federal fee acquisition conveys the NPS's highest prioritization of protection. The Ramirez Canyon properties have been designated since 1984 for federal fee acquisition, subject to willing seller status and available funding. A 1998 GIS-driven analysis of lands needed to fully protect SMMNRA park resources further confirmed that the Ramirez Canyon Properties are of highest acquisition priority. These lands serve to expand the vital habitat linkage between Zuma/Trancas Canyons and Malibu Creek State Park. The lands also provide a public recreational route that is visually attractive and would be degraded if development of these lands occurred.

NPS finds fee acquisition is the best way to protect this scenic, natural landscape and to protect native habitat to the benefit of native wildlife.

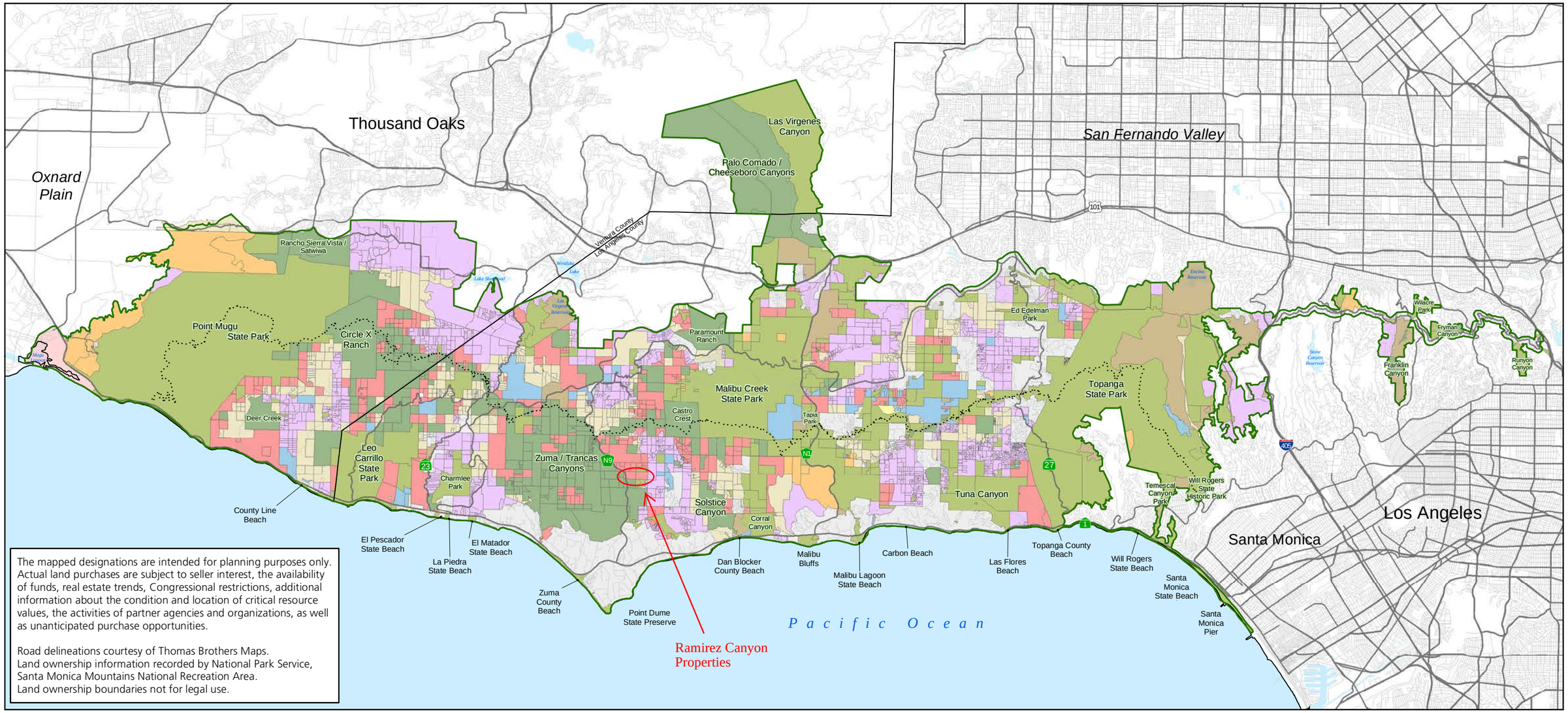
Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions, please call Melanie Beck at (805)370-2346.

Sincerely,

David M. Szymanski

David Szymanski
Superintendent

Enclosure: SMMNRA Land Protection Plan Map



The mapped designations are intended for planning purposes only. Actual land purchases are subject to seller interest, the availability of funds, real estate trends, Congressional restrictions, additional information about the condition and location of critical resource values, the activities of partner agencies and organizations, as well as unanticipated purchase opportunities.

Road delineations courtesy of Thomas Brothers Maps.
Land ownership information recorded by National Park Service, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.
Land ownership boundaries not for legal use.

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
Land Protection Plan

LEGEND

- Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Boundary
- Backbone Trail

- National Park Service Land
- National Park Service Easement
- Proposed National Park Service Fee Acquisition Area
- Proposed National Park Service Easement Acquisition Area
- Other Park Land (State, County, and City)
- Other Public Land
- State Conservation Easement Land
- Proposed State Acquisition Area
- Compatible Private Recreation Land
- Cooperative Planning Area
- Military Land
- Developed Area

Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 11N
North American Datum 1983
Scale 1:180,000

0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles
0 2 4 6 8 10 Kilometers

N

Map Produced by SMMNRA GIS.
Updated January 2011

State of California • Natural Resources Agency
Edmund G. Brown Jr., *Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
P.O. Box 942896 • Sacramento, CA 94296-0001
Major General Anthony L. Jackson, USMC (Ret), *Director*

Angeles District
1925 Las Virgenes
Calabasas, CA 91302

November 27, 2013

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco;

The California Department of Parks and Recreation encourages the State Coastal Conservancy to consider funding for the Mountains and Recreation Conservation Authority (MRCA) to acquire the Ramirez Canyon parcels in the Santa Monica Mountains.

The MRCA is dedicated to the preservation and management of local open space and parkland, watershed lands, trails, and wildlife habitat. The MRCA manages and provides ranger services for almost 69,000 acres of land both within and outside the Santa Monica National Recreation Area (Recreation Area). The property will become part of a network of open space managed by the NPS, MRCA, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and California State Parks-managed open space.

The Ramirez Canyon property sits within the boundary of the 153,075-acre Recreation Area, a world-renowned scenic and natural treasure visited by an estimated 33 million people annually. It affords the public – especially the 17 million people living within an hour's drive – incomparable opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, bird watching, whale watching, swimming, surfing, and picnicking. The Recreation Area is permeated by more than 70,000 acres of private lands that are developed at a rate of approximately 1,300 acres per year. Due to this patchwork of private-public land ownership within the Recreation Area, development is a very real threat to managing the park on a landscape level and to destroying vital wildlife corridors.

Contiguous to existing NPS and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) parklands, conservation of Phase I (56 acres) and Phase III (48 acres) Ramirez Canyon properties will protect important natural resources, including Ramirez Canyon Creek. This stream flows directly to North Santa Monica Bay and provides important riparian habitat shaded by sycamore trees. The tracts predominantly contain oak woodlands habitat, which was identified in the California State Wildlife Action Plan as an under-protected ecological community type. This land has been designated environmentally sensitive habitat under the California Coastal Act.

The Trust for Public Land has secured $1,250,000 of the $1,300,000 needed to close Phase I. The Coastal Conservancy's $50,000 funding is pivotal to closing this phase. In

addition, the $150,000 dedicated to Phase III will be used to leverage additional monies to raise the funds necessary to conserve this property.

The Ramirez Canyon project will be a great asset to the local community and to the recreational visitors to our local, State and National Park system. I am pleased to support this application for funding from the State Coastal Conservancy and urge your favorable consideration of this worthy project.

Sincerely,

Craig Sap
Angeles District Superintendent

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

821 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
PHONE (213) 974-3333 / FAX (213) 625-7360
zev@bos.lacounty.gov / http://zev.lacounty.gov

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT

November 27, 2013

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to encourage the State Coastal Conservancy to consider funding for the Mountains and Recreation Conservation Authority (MRCA) to acquire the Ramirez Canyon parcels in the Santa Monica Mountains.

The MRCA is dedicated to the preservation and management of local open space and parkland, watershed lands, trails, and wildlife habitat. The MRCA manages and provides ranger services for almost 69,000 acres of land both within and outside the Santa Monica National Recreation Area (Recreation Area). The property will become part of a network of open space managed by the NPS, MRCA, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and California State Parks-managed open space.

The Ramirez Canyon property sits within the boundary of the 153,075-acre Recreation Area, a world-renowned scenic and natural treasure visited by an estimated 33 million people annually. It affords the public – especially the 17 million people living within an hour's drive – incomparable opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, bird watching, whale watching, swimming, surfing, and picnicking. The Recreation Area is permeated by more than 70,000 acres of private lands that are developed at a rate of approximately 1,300 acres per year. Due to this patchwork of private-public land ownership within the Recreation Area, development is a very real threat to managing the park on a landscape level and to destroying vital wildlife corridors.

Contiguous to existing NPS and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) parklands, conservation of Phase I (56 acres) and Phase III (48 acres) Ramirez Canyon properties will protect important natural resources, including Ramirez Canyon Creek. This stream flows directly to North Santa Monica Bay and provides important riparian habitat shaded by sycamore trees. The tracts predominantly contain oak woodlands habitat, which was identified in the California State Wildlife Action Plan as an

under-protected ecological community type. This land has been designated environmentally sensitive habitat under the California Coastal Act.

The Trust for Public Land has secured $1,250,000 of the $1,300,000 needed to close Phase I. The Coastal Conservancy's $50,000 funding is pivotal to closing this phase. In addition, the $150,000 dedicated to Phase III will be used to leverage additional monies to raise the funds necessary to conserve this property.

The Ramirez Canyon project will be a great asset to the local community and to the recreational visitors to our local, State and National Park system. I am pleased to support this application for funding from the State Coastal Conservancy and urge your favorable consideration of this worthy project.

Sincerely,

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Supervisor, Third District

ZY:mccp

STATE OF CALIFORNIA–THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., *Governor*

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
RAMIREZ CANYON PARK
5750 RAMIREZ CANYON ROAD
MALIBU, CALIFORNIA 90265
PHONE (310) 589-3200
FAX (310) 589-3207
WWW.SMMC.CA.GOV

December 2, 2013

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, California 94612

Support for Ramirez Canyon Parcel Acquisitions, Santa Monica Mountains

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) expresses its full support for the Mountains and Recreation Conservation Authority's (MRCA) application for funding to acquire the Ramirez Canyon parcels in the Malibu region of the Santa Monica Mountains.

Located contiguous to both National Park Service and MRCA-owned parklands, conservation of the Phase I (56 acres) and Phase III (48 acres) Ramirez Canyon properties will protect key natural resources, including Ramirez Canyon Creek, a blueline stream that flows directly into the north Santa Monica Bay. This region has been designated environmentally sensitive habitat under the California Coastal Act.

The Ramirez Canyon project will be a great asset to the local community and to the recreational visitors to our local, State and National Park system. We urge your favorable consideration of this worthy project.

Please feel free contact me at (310) 589-3200, extension 128 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

PAUL EDELMAN
Deputy Director
Natural Resources and Planning