

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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April 7, 2014

Doug Bosco
c/o Joan Cardellino
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Support Letter for Puerco Canyon Acquisition

Dear Mr. Bosco:

We are writing to express our support for the acquisition by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority of the Puerco Canyon property, known as APNs 4457-004-056 through 072; 4457-005-012, 015, 017, 027, 028; 4458-031-001 and 002, totaling approximately 703 acres located in unincorporated Los Angeles County and the City of Malibu. The subject property is believed to be the largest remaining privately owned open space parcel in the Santa Monica Mountains. It is an outstanding example of the Mediterranean biome with a range of plant communities including chaparral, coastal sage scrub, native grasslands, and oak woodlands.

The property is mainly situated in the Puerco Canyon Watershed that drains directly into Santa Monica Bay approximately 0.8 miles downstream from the property. Drainages of the Corral Canyon and Malibu Canyon watersheds are also within the property boundaries. The property includes the entire headwaters of Puerco Canyon. The property features gentle terrain ranging from 620 feet above sea level to ridges as high as 1,840 feet above sea level. Thriving riparian vegetation lines the tributaries and includes western sycamore and coast live oak.

Currently the property is vacant open space. The northeastern corner is in the Malibu Canyon watershed and the northwestern corner is in the Corral Canyon watershed. Paved access is from the south via Puerco Canyon Road 2,000 feet from Pacific Coast Highway. Dirt-surfaced De Bell Ranch Road runs up the center of the property. This dirt road leads to scattered ranching and homestead pads that were graded long before the adoption of the California Coastal Act. The historic, unpaved, Puerco Motorway ridgeline fire road courses along the western property boundary and then connects to the unpaved Mesa Peak Motorway to Malibu Creek State Park and the Backbone Trail.

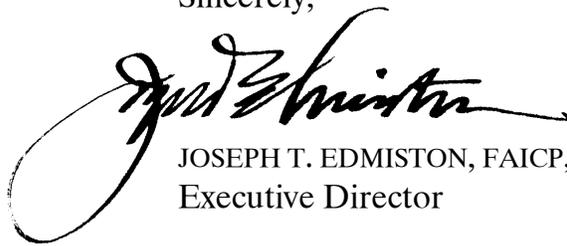
Mr. Doug Bosco
April 7, 2014

Page 2

The property provides important linkage between 1,000-acre Corral Canyon Park and 8,000-acre Malibu Creek State Park and would secure a large block of the Santa Monica Mountains coastal core habitat with uncommonly gentle terrain. The Puerco Canyon Coastal Core Habitat project abuts numerous public lands: California State Parks, National Park Service, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and Pepperdine University Open Space (conservation easement). Acquisition of the subject property is an opportunity to approximately double the size of the Corral Canyon Park complex, owned by the MRCA and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

The Puerco Canyon property represents one of the last major canyon open spaces in the Malibu area, the preservation of which would greatly serve the environment and the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Edmiston", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

JOSEPH T. EDMISTON, FAICP, Hon. ASLA
Executive Director