



Top left: Sign from a set for the television show at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Top right: white-tailed kite. Bottom photo: Students participating in the S.H.R.U.B. program at SMMNRA. Photos: NPS.





## Chapter 7: Consultation and Coordination

Describes the history of public and agency coordination during the planning effort.

### Public Involvement

In 2008, Congress directed the National Park Service (NPS) to complete a special resource study of the Rim of the Valley Corridor, and to determine whether the area, or a portion of it, was eligible and suitable to be managed as a unit of the National Park System. The NPS provided opportunities for the many elected officials, organizations, local governments, and residents of the greater Los Angeles metropolitan region to learn about, and contribute to, the study process.

Throughout the special resource study process, the NPS used workshops, public meetings, stakeholder meetings, field trips, newsletters, and websites to gather input on issues, opportunities, and alternatives. A web page for the Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study ([www.nps.gov/pwro/rimofthevalley/](http://www.nps.gov/pwro/rimofthevalley/)) was developed to provide updates on the study. It contained detailed information about the special resource study process, background information about the study area, and was updated periodically to include all news releases and newsletters.

### Agency Partners

The NPS partnered with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC), California State Parks, and the Angeles National Forest in preparing this report. These core agency partners served as advisors in project planning, communications, involvement of interested parties, and community engagement. The partners also contributed resource data and expertise.

### Scoping

The NPS initiated public scoping on the special resource study in June 2010. The scoping process included meetings with agencies, elected officials and organizations, public meetings and workshops, two newsletters, a web page, and written public comments. These sources were used to identify the issues, significant resources, ideas for alternatives, and impact topics to be considered for environmental analysis.

The NPS used a variety of methods to notify the public and stakeholders of the study initiation. On June 4, 2010, a Notice of Scoping was published in the Federal Register, formally initiating the comment period for public scoping. The comment period extended to October 29, 2010.

The NPS launched the Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study process on June 4, 2010, at a public event at Eaton Canyon Nature Center in Pasadena, California. A newsletter (Newsletter #1) was published to announce the start of scoping, describe the study process, and to provide information on how the public and stakeholders could participate in the study process. Numerous newspaper stories and several radio reports announced the beginning of the study and invited the public to sign-up for email updates and to learn more about the study at the project website.

The NPS compiled a mailing list of nearly 2,000 contacts and mailed newsletters that described the study process and announced the dates and locations of public scoping meetings held throughout the study area. Nine public meetings were held, in Chatsworth, Los Angeles, Santa Clarita, Thousand Oaks, Calabasas, Tujunga, Altadena, and Sylmar.



The study process was officially publicly launched at Eaton Canyon Nature Center in Pasadena, California. Congressman Adam B. Schiff and representatives from the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service spoke at the event. NPS photo.



Public meetings, like the scoping meeting in Chatsworth shown above, typically included a formal presentation, followed by questions and answers. Participants then joined smaller breakout groups to provide comments and engage in discussion. NPS photo.

During the public scoping period, the NPS received 2,108 comment letters and e-mails from individuals, agencies, cities, organizations and elected officials. Input on the scope of the study was also provided by the approximately 400 people who attended the public meetings. Additional input was gathered through meetings with various individuals, agencies, organizations, cities, and local elected officials. After scoping comments were received, the NPS published a second newsletter summarizing the comments. The majority of scoping comments were related to the study process and scope, opportunities, potential impacts, and important resources to consider.

The NPS shared a summary of the public comments in Newsletter #2 during Summer 2011. The majority of the public comments identified the desire to protect habitat corridors between large areas of open space such as the Angeles National Forest, the Los Padres National Forest and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA); preserve scenic vistas; and to bring park experiences closer to dense urban population centers such as the San Fernando Valley and downtown Los Angeles. Public concerns also identified concerns with potential impacts to local land use control, property rights, the authority of existing regulatory agencies, fire fuels management, and public health and safety. The public also expressed concerns about limited funding for existing parks at all levels of government.

The following is a list of the agencies, communities, organizations, and elected officials with whom the study team met during public scop-

ing. Formal consultation letters were also sent to agencies and tribal groups.

#### Public Scoping Stakeholder Meetings

- Elected Officials and Staff Briefings (four meetings)
- California State Parks
- California Senator Fran Pavley's Office
- California Assemblyman Bob Blumenfeld's Office
- California Assemblyman Portantino's Office
- California Assemblywoman Audra Strickland's Office
- California Assemblyman Feuer
- California Assemblyman Cameron Smyth's Office
- Calleguas Municipal Water District – Habitat and Recreation Committee
- City of Agoura Hills
- City of Burbank
- City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks
- City of Los Angeles, City Council Staff
- City of Santa Clarita
- Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency
- Conejo Recreation and Parks Department
- Congressman Adam Schiff's Office
- Congressman Brad Sherman's Office
- Congressman Howard Berman's Office
- Congressman Elton Gallegly's Office
- Crescenta Valley Town Council
- Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation
- Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Office (Supervisor Michael Antonovich and Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky staff)
- Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation
- Lower Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers and Mountains Conservancy



A series of newsletters, made available in both electronic and hard copy formats, provided information to the public at key points during the study process. Newsletters were made available in both English and Spanish.

- National Parks and Conservation Association
- Naval Base Ventura County
- Sierra Club
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- U.S. Forest Service, Angeles National Forest
- USGS Western Ecological Center
- Ventura County Planning Division

## Resource Analysis

Following the scoping phase of the study process, the NPS began analyzing study area resources to determine if there were resources of national significance and if so, whether those resources would be suitable for inclusion in the national park system or for addition to Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. In addition to consulting written documents, the NPS consulted with subject-matter experts and scholars from various agencies and organizations to determine resource significance. NPS cultural and natural resource professionals were also consulted during this process.

## Experts, Scholars, and National Park Service Professionals Consulted or Contributed Information

- John Alderson, Paleontologist, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History
- Timothy Babalis, Environmental Historian, Pacific West Regional Office, National Park Service
- Melanie Beck, Outdoor Recreation Planner, SMMNRA, National Park Service

- Steven Bernal, Naturalist, Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation
- Erin Boydston, Wildlife Biologist, formerly with USGS
- Christy Brigham, Chief, Planning, Science and Resource Management, SMMNRA, National Park Service
- Gary Brown, Cultural Resource Program Manager, SMMNRA, NPS
- Tom Contreras, Forest Supervisor, USFS-Angeles National Forest
- Dan Cooper, Cooper Ecological Monitoring
- Rosi Dagit, Senior Conservation Biologist, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains
- Arturo Delgado, Biologist, USFS-Angeles National Forest
- Sabrina Drill, Natural Resources Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension
- Paul Edelman, Deputy Director, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- Kate Eschelbach, Visitor Services, SMMNRA, National Park Service
- Eugene Fritsche, Professor Emeritus of Geology, California State University Northridge
- Suzanne Goode, Senior Biologist, California State Parks
- Scott Harris, Fisheries Biologist, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Phil Holmes, former Anthropologist, SMMNRA, National Park Service
- Shirley Imsand, Los Angeles County Division of Regional Planning
- Pam Irvine, Geologist, California Geological Survey
- Elise Kelley, Executive Director, Santa Clara River Watershed Conservancy
- Chester King, Archeologist, Topanga Anthropological Consultants
- Bruce Lander, Paleontologist, Paleo Environmental Associates, Inc.
- Betsey Landis, California Native Plant Society
- Mickey Long, (retired) Director of Los Angeles County Nature Centers, Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation
- David Magney, David Magney Environmental Consulting
- Mary Meyer, Plant Ecologist, California Department of Fish and Wildlife



- Don Mullally, Biologist (retired), City of Los Angeles
- EJ Remson, Senior Program Manager, The Nature Conservancy
- Seth Riley, Wildlife Biologist, SMMNRA, National Park Service
- Tarja Sagar, Biotechnician, SMMNRA, National Park Service
- Ray Sauvajot, Chief, Natural Resource Programs, Pacific West Regional Office, National Park Service (former)
- Justin Seastrand, NEPA Coordinator, USFS-Angeles National Forest
- Woody Smeck, Superintendent, Sequoia & Kings Canyon NPs (former Superintendent, SMMNRA), National Park Service
- Richard Squires, Professor of Geology, California State University Northridge
- Mary Stecheson, Collections Manager, Invertebrate Paleontology, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History
- Nancy Steele, Executive Director, Council for Watershed Health
- Robert Taylor, Fire GIS Specialist, SMMNRA
- Barbara Tejada, Archeologist, California State Parks
- John Tiszler, Plant Ecologist, SMMNRA, National Park Service
- Mike Wilson, Fire Communications and Education Specialist, SMMNRA, National Park Service
- Marti Witter, Fire Ecologist, SMMNRA, National Park Service
- Sean Woods, Superintendent, California State Parks - Los Angeles Parks

### ***Alternatives Development***

The study team held a workshop with agency partners and NPS professionals to generate ideas for alternatives in early 2012. Based on ideas from public scoping and this workshop, the study team generated a set of preliminary alternative concepts for public review and input.

The study team released preliminary alternative concepts in Newsletter #3 for public review in the fall of 2012. The public comment period was open from October 22, 2012 to January 7, 2013. The study team produced and distributed over 2,600 newsletters to agencies, organizations and individuals through the mail and at public and stakeholder meet-

ings. In addition, an email notifying people of the availability of the newsletter on the study website was distributed to 2,900 contacts. A Spanish language translation of the newsletter was made available online and at public meetings. In addition, the newsletter was posted for comment on the NPS' Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website. News releases announcing the availability of the preliminary alternative concepts newsletter and the public meeting schedule were distributed to local media, and several news stories were published.

The purposes of the newsletter were to: 1) present preliminary study findings; 2) present preliminary alternatives; and 3) solicit comments on the preliminary findings and alternatives. The newsletter also contained information on the date, time, and locations of public meetings that were held to solicit comments on the preliminary findings. Between November and December 2012, the study team conducted seven public meetings at locations throughout the study area in Thousand Oaks, Santa Clarita, Glendale, Chatsworth, Encino, Moorpark and Pasadena. In all, approximately 125 people participated in the meetings. At each meeting, the study team presented the preliminary findings and alternative concepts and answered questions. Participants shared comments and suggestions in small groups facilitated by NPS staff and volunteers. Facilitators recorded comments on flipcharts during the discussion and participants were provided with comment forms and information about how to submit comments electronically and through the mail. In addition to the public meetings, the NPS study team held meetings with interested local, state, and federal government agencies, organizations, and communities. The study team also hosted two online, web-based forums. During these meetings, the study team presented the preliminary findings and alternative concepts using WebEx conferencing software. Participants asked questions and provided comments online using WebEx and through a telephone conference line that was made available. Approximately 15 people participated in the online public meetings. In addition to the public meetings, the NPS study team held meetings with local, state and federal government agencies, organizations, communities, and Congressional offices.

The NPS received approximately 5,200 comments, most of which were submitted via written letters and through e-mail. Of these written comments, 4,930 included four different standardized, or form letters from organized groups or efforts. The four form letters focused on the following areas: 1) potential effects of the Rim of the Valley Trail on shooting ranges (64 letters or emails), 2) preference for the no action alternative (76 letters or emails), 3) preference for combining the boundary adjustment areas for alternatives C and D (4,755 letters or emails), and 4) preference for preserving the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) property as part of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (35 letters or emails). In addition to the form letters, another 270 comments were submitted by government agencies, organizations, and individuals. In addition to the individually submitted written comments received, the notes from the public meetings were considered public comments.

In general the public supported the preliminary findings. Although some people did not want to see any changes in the NPS role within the study area, many commenters wanted to see an alternative that combined increased recreational access with maximum habitat connectivity through the study area.

Most commenters suggested that the NPS develop an alternative that explores a broader boundary adjustment for SMMNRA that would include the areas proposed in both preliminary alternatives C and D. Some commenters had specific suggestions for areas to be considered, or not considered. Some agencies and individuals that own and manage land in the study area expressed concern that inclusion in SMMNRA could impact or limit future uses of such lands.

Common goals and objectives identified by commenters included protecting habitat and wildlife corridors and providing more recreation and public enjoyment opportunities that are more available to urban residents. Public comments also suggested that private land stewardship plays an important role in conservation and should be part of the alternatives.

In June 2013, another workshop was conducted to identify preliminary impacts associated with the alternatives.

#### **Alternatives Stakeholder Meetings**

- California State Parks
- California Department of Transportation
- Congressman Adam Schiff's Office
- Congressman Brad Sherman's Office
- Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations
- Glendale Homeowners Coordinating Council
- Glenoaks Canyon Homeowners Association
- Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation
- Linkage Implementation Alliance
- Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation
- Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
- Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- Santa Susana Mountain Park Association
- Southwest Herpetological Society
- U.S. Forest Service, Angeles National Forest
- U.S.G.S. Western Ecological Center
- Ventura County Planning Division

#### **Agency and Tribal Consultation**

In January 2011, the National Park Service sent out a letter to agencies and tribal organizations announcing the commencement of the study and requested agency input.

#### **Agencies and Elected Officials**

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- California Coastal Commission
- California State Historic Preservation Office
- Native American Heritage Commission

#### **Federally Recognized Tribes**

- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Pala Band of Mission Indians

### ***Other Tribal Organizations***

- Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
- L.A. City/County Native American Indian Commission
- Ti'At Society/Inter-Tribal Council of Pimu
- Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians
- San Fernando Band of Mission Indians
- Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
- Gabrielino Tongva Nation
- Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
- Shoshoneon Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians
- Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe
- Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation
- Barbareno/Ventureno Band of Mission Indians
- In addition, letters were sent to seven Native American individuals suggested by the Native American Heritage Commission

### **List of Agencies and Elected Officials to Whom Copies of the Draft Special Resource Study Are Being Sent**

The Executive Summary of this report is being sent to the entire study mailing list which includes approximately 1,500 people and organizations. A postcard was sent to the mailing list allowing recipients to request a printed copy of the full report. The full study report is also posted on the Internet, at:

[www.nps.gov/pwro/rimofthevalley/](http://www.nps.gov/pwro/rimofthevalley/)

Agencies and elected officials are on the study mailing list and are among those that are being sent the draft special resource study and environmental assessment (*Table 7-1: List of Agencies and Elected Officials to Whom Copies of the Draft Special Resource Study Are Being Sent*).



**Table 7-1: List of Agencies and Elected Officials to Whom Copies of the Draft Special Resource Study Are Being Sent**

Tribal Governments and Organizations	
All tribal governments and organizations sent a consultation letter in 2011 (see previous section) are also being sent a copy of the draft special resource study.	
Federal Agencies and Elected Officials	
Federal Agencies	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Bureau of Indian Affairs Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 National Aeronautics and Space Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Jet Propulsion Laboratory</li><li>Santa Susana Field Laboratory</li></ul> National Marine Fisheries Service Natural Resources Conservation Service U.S. Army Corps of Engineers U.S. Attorney's Office, Central District of California U.S. Bureau of Land Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>California Coastal National Monument</li><li>Palm Springs - South Coast Field Office</li><li>Bakersfield Field Office</li></ul> U.S. Department of Energy U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office</li><li>Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office</li></ul> U.S. Forest Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Angeles National Forest</li><li>Los Padres National Forest</li><li>Pacific Southwest Research Station</li><li>Region 5</li><li>Southern California Consortium</li></ul> U.S. Geological Survey U.S. Navy - Naval Base Ventura County (Point Mugu)
U.S. Senate	Honorable Barbara Boxer Honorable Dianne Feinstein
U.S. House of Representatives	Honorable Stephen Knight, District 25 Honorable Julia Brownley, District 26 Honorable Judy Chu, District 27 Honorable Adam Schiff, District 28 Honorable Tony Cardenas, District 29 Honorable Brad Sherman, District 30 Honorable Grace Napolitano, District 32 Honorable Ted Lieu, District 33 Honorable Xavier Becerra, District 34 Honorable Karen Bass, District 37 Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard, District 40 Honorable Mark Takano, District 41 Honorable Maxine Waters, District 43 Honorable Alan Lowenthal, District 47
State Agencies and Elected Officials	
California State Agencies	California Air Resource Board California Coastal Commission California Coastal Conservancy California Conservation Corps California Department of Fish and Wildlife California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection California Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks) California Department of Public Health California Department of Toxic Substances Control California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) California Department of Water Resources California Environmental Protection Agency California Geological Survey California State Lands Commission California Wildlife Conservation Board Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board State Historic Preservation Office State Water Resources Control Board San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
State Agencies and Elected Officials (continued)	
California State Assembly	Honorable Tom Lackey, Assembly District 36 Honorable Das Williams, Assembly District 37 Honorable Scott Wilk, Assembly District 38 Honorable Patty Lopez, Assembly District 39 Honorable Chris Holden, Assembly District 41 Honorable Mike Gatto, Assembly District 43 Honorable Jacqui Irwin, Assembly District 44 Honorable Matt Dababneh, Assembly District 45 Honorable Adrin Nazarian, Assembly District 46 Honorable Ed Chau, Assembly District 49 Honorable Richard Bloom, Assembly District 50 Honorable Jimmy Gomez, Assembly District 51 Honorable Miguel Santiago, Assembly District 53 Honorable Sebastian Mark Ridley Thomas, Assembly District 54
California State Senate	Honorable Bob Hertzberg, Senate District 18 Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson, Senate District 19 Honorable Steve Knight, Senate District 21 Honorable Ed Hernandez, Senate District 22 Honorable Kevin de Leon, Senate District 24 Honorable Carol Liu, Senate District 25 Honorable Ben Allen, Senate District 26 Honorable Fran Pavley, Senate District 27 Honorable Bob Huff, Senate District 29
Local Agencies	
Cities	Agoura Hills Beverly Hills Burbank Calabasas Camarillo Glendale Hidden Hills La Cañada Flintridge Los Angeles Malibu Moorpark
	Pasadena San Fernando Santa Clarita Santa Monica Sierra Madre Simi Valley South Pasadena Thousand Oaks West Hollywood Westlake Village
Counties	County of Los Angeles County of Ventura
Other Local Districts and Agencies	Southern California Association of Governments Calleguas Municipal Water District Camarosa Water District Castaic Lake Water Agency Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency Conejo Recreation & Parks District Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority Pleasant Valley Mutual Water Company Pleasant Valley Park & Recreation District Rancho Simi Recreation & Parks District Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority Southern California Edison Southern California Gas Company United Water Conservation District Ventura County Resource Conservation District Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1

