

Sustainability Roadmap 2022-2023 Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Sustainability Master Plan
and Biannual Progress Report on Legislative
Sustainability Mandates and the
Governor's Sustainability Goals
for California State Agencies
March 2024



Gavin Newsom, Governor

March 2024

DEPARTMENT ROADMAP

Sustainability Road Map 2020-2021 Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's mission is through direct action, alliances, partnerships, and joint powers agencies to strategically buy back, preserve, protect, restore, and enhance treasured pieces of Southern California to form an interlinking system of urban, rural, and river parks, open space, trails, and wildlife habitats that are easily accessible to the general public.

The Conservancy has six staff. Office functions at the Conservancy's former headquarters park in Ramirez Canyon, Malibu, were vacated after the 2018 Woosley Fire, which burned out one of the five former residential structures. The former office functions were relocated to other facilities in Los Angeles and Calabasas owned by a local government agency. Restoration work via FEMA has been underway since 2019 to demolish the burned structure, remediate significant mud flow and damage throughout the 23-acre property in the canyon, reestablish utilities, and remove hazard trees. Currently two of the residential structures are occupied by a local agency caretaker and local agency park ranger.

Climate change adaptation: SMMC continues to prioritize acquisition of natural land within and surrounding the Los Angeles area, which preserves habitat, retains carbon sequestration, and reduces conversion to hardscape and greenhouse gas-producing urban/suburban development. Approximately 90,000 acres have been preserved to date. Grants for restoration of oak woodlands, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, wetlands and riparian areas, and streams and the Los Angeles River are ongoing. SMMC has granted significant funding to local agencies and communities for wildfire resiliency projects, including ignition prevention, structure hardening, workforce development, and tree planting.

Zero Emission Vehicles: SMMC has NO vehicles.

Energy: Southern California Edison is the electric provider for domestic usage and for security lighting and gate. Southern California Gas Company is the provider for domestic heating of the two residences. Given the relocation of office uses, the electric and gas usage has been greatly reduced from pre-Fire usage.

Water Efficiency and Conservation: Water is supplied from Los Angeles County Waterworks District 29. Lawn areas were previously reduced pre-fire for

conservation, and have not been restored. Some supplemental watering is required for restoration and maintenance of oaks and sycamores in the canyon. Low flush toilets were installed in every building over 10 years ago. A back-up tank for fire fighting was replaced and remains full for emergency use. California Red-Legged Frogs were relocated to Ramirez Creek several years before the fire and were reproducing well in a joint effort by SMMC and the National Park Service. Downstream mud flow post fire wiped out part of the population, but surveys indicate some persist.

Sustainable Operations: SMMC relies on its local government partner to operate and maintain the park, through a cooperative management agreement. That agency strives to reduce costs and uses best landscape management and building maintenance practices. Any yard waste is either composted on site or removed for recycling by the local waste hauler.

Funding Opportunities: SMMC will encourage its local government partner to explore the potential for solar installation, and funding opportunities for same. SMMC has no purchasing authority on its own.

Public Outreach: Ramirez Canyon Park does not currently have daily public access, constrained by limitations of private road access, ongoing site restoration, and staffing need. Efforts to reestablish a hike-in and disabled access campground in Ramirez Canyon are components of an underway Public Works Plan, which when completed will be subject to public comment before approval by the Coastal Commission. Coastal access for all is a priority for SMMC, and its local government partner actively plans and implements a number of beach access projects on the Malibu coast. The beach at Paradise Cove is easily accessible by foot from the planned Ramirez Canyon campground.

In summary, SMMC's former headquarters in Ramirez Canyon is managed by a local government joint exercise of powers agency, which maintain the park and buildings at no cost to SMMC. All utilities waste-hauling, and other service provider accounts are held and paid for by that agency.



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