

NEWS RELEASE



SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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Conservancy Receives Distinguished Leadership Award from the California Chapter of the American Planning Association

Palm Springs—At the annual conference of the California Chapter of the American Planning Association (CCAPA), the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy was honored with its 2004 Award of Excellence for Agency of the Year. Calling the Conservancy “a very effective organization,” the jurors recognized the Conservancy’s “longstanding contribution and sustained presence to the preservation of 55,000 acres of open space parkland, which are accessible to millions.”

“The greatest recognition is recognition by one’s peers,” said Jerome C. Daniel, Chairperson of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. “The Conservancy’s work provides a statewide model for preserving and enhancing precious natural resources in urban areas.”

Other Southern California award recipients included Los Angeles City Councilmember Ed Reyes, Jeffrey Lambert, Director of Planning and Building Services for the City of Santa Clarita, and the Los Angeles Air Force Base Project.

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The California Chapter carries out the purposes and objectives of the American Planning Association within the State of California. CCAPA provides vision and leadership that fosters better planning for California; builds public and political support for sound planning; and provides its members with the tools, services, and support that advance the art and science of planning.

The CCAPA Awards Program encourages quality in planning and increases the public's awareness of the planning profession by recognizing outstanding achievement in the planning field. The program honors innovative plans and projects, distinguished APA members, lay contributors to planning, and achievements of local CCAPA Sections.

In 2003 the Conservancy's Executive Director, Joseph T. Edmiston was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), the professional institute of the American Planning Association. This honor is a recognition of the achievements of the planner as an individual, elevating the Fellow before the public and the profession as a model planner who has made significant contributions to planning and society.

The American Planning Association is a nonprofit public interest and research organization representing 33,000 practicing planners, officials, and citizens involved with urban and rural planning issues. APA resulted from a consolidation of the American Institute of Planners, founded in 1917, and the American Society of Planning Officials, established in 1934. APA members are involved, on a day-to-day basis, in formulating planning policies and preparing land-use regulations. APA's objective is to encourage planning that will meet the needs of people and society more effectively.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy was established by the California State Legislature 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 habitat that are easily accessible to the general public.

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