

NEWS RELEASE



MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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Local Leaders Unveil Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Plan to Improve and Beautify Ballona Creek

*Ballona Creek Trail and Bike Path project will transform a neglected urban creek
corridor into a more accessible and revitalized bikeway and greenway*

Los Angeles—At a ceremony on the banks of Ballona Creek in the West Los Angeles community of Mar Vista, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), Congresswoman Jane Harman, Assemblymember George Nakano, and California State Parks unveiled a stunning new plan to improve and beautify the heavily used Ballona Creek trail and bicycle path. The eight-mile trail connects Baldwin Hills to Playa del Rey.

The first phase of the \$2 million project focuses on 2.5 miles of the 30-year old bicycle path between Sepulveda and Lincoln Boulevards in the City of Los Angeles. Improvements include development of several public access points, repairs to the path itself, new security lighting, new staging areas, native plant landscaping and habitat enhancement, decorative fencing, bike racks, public art, and safe and attractive seating. Funding for the \$450,000 initial phase of the project was secured by Congresswoman Harman (\$50,000 in U.S. Housing and Urban Development Funds), Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (\$200,000 in Los Angeles County Proposition A Funds), and California State Parks (\$200,000). This first phase will be completed in the next six months.

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“Thirty years ago, someone saw the recreational possibilities of Ballona Creek,” said Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Officer of the MRCA. “We are here today to expand that vision, and develop this regional treasure into an even better asset for the community.”

The bicycle path was originally developed on the maintenance road within the public right-of-way on the north bank of Ballona Creek in the 1970’s. The path extends through the cities of Los Angeles and Culver City, and connects to the beach bike path at its terminus at Playa del Rey. It is maintained by the two cities and the County of Los Angeles. The path is popular with cyclists, runners, strollers and skaters—especially on weekends. As one of the first bicycle paths in the region, it has not been renovated in over thirty years.

The project is part of a larger effort to improve and protect the area surrounding Ballona Creek and the adjacent wetlands. The project will coordinate with planning efforts currently underway in Culver City. The improvements will be made by the MRCA.

The MRCA is a Joint Powers Authority of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Conejo Recreation and Park District, and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. It 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 50,000 acres of public lands and parks that it owns and that are owned by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy or other public agencies.

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