

News Release



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State Parks, Baldwin Hills Conservancy Announce Expansion of Recreation Area

LOS ANGELES – California State Parks and the Baldwin Hills Conservancy today announced the expansion of Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area with the acquisition of the first in a series of parcels along the Stocker Corridor in the Baldwin Hills.

The preservation of the 38-acre open space corridor is part of the ongoing effort to expand Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area into a two-square mile natural park, open space and recreation oasis in the heart of southwest Los Angeles. This new acquisition will ultimately provide a critical link between the Crenshaw Community and the existing Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. Proposition 12 funds have been earmarked for the Stocker Corridor project via legislation by Sen. Kevin Murray and supported by Speaker Herb Wesson and the Davis Administration.

The Stocker Corridor is a mile-long series of parcels that has remained as natural open space through the efforts of community members in the surrounding neighborhoods of View Park, Windsor Hills, Baldwin Hills Estates and Ladera. With the support of Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, community members have successfully protected the area from development, which has included proposals ranging from apartment complexes to pawn shops. The purchase of this first parcel along the corridor for \$675,000 has been the culmination of community, local and state agency efforts to preserve the corridor and retain the natural characteristics of the Baldwin Hills area.

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The corridor is a part of the larger vision embodied in the community-based Baldwin Hills Park Master Plan that was adopted by a unanimous vote of the Conservancy this September. The plan calls for conversion of the remaining open space in the Baldwin Hills, including the oil fields along both sides of La Cienega Boulevard, into parkland. That would expand the existing park from 400 acres to nearly 1400 acres. When completed, the park will be larger than Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. The Conservancy has been allocated \$40 million from Proposition 40, the parks bond measure passed by voters last March, to acquire land and implement the vision for “one big park” in the heart of one of the most densely populated areas in Los Angeles County.

The purchase of land in urban areas is a part of California State Parks’ mission to create parks near large populations of people. State Parks was instrumental in the creation of the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area over 20 years ago through a partnership with the County of Los Angeles.

The opportunity to develop a trail along the Stocker Corridor that will improve access to the Recreation Area coincides with the Conservancy’s and State Parks’ long-term goals to connect a series of trails along the lower end of the Stocker Corridor, across the Recreation Area and across La Cienega Boulevard, culminating at the new Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook and continuing to the Ballona Creek Trail and Bikeway that leads to the Santa Monica Bay.

For more information please call the Baldwin Hills Conservancy at (310) 641-3497.

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