

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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August 6, 2004

The Honorable Cindy Miscikowski
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street, Room 415
Los Angeles, California 90012

Public Trail Access on Canyonback Road

One further and important point of clarification: The imposition and intimidation to legitimate public parkland trail users, posed by having to push a button to seek a remotely-stationed security guard's permission to enter the street, is not acceptable to the Conservancy. The decade-old example of a similar "check through the guard first" protocol at Fossil Ridge Park in Sherman Oaks reveals the intractable flaws of such a system. The only gate design that the Conservancy would consider is one in which foot, bicycle, and equestrian use can occur unimpeded by any person, electronic device, or latching system. The entire length of the trail system on Canyonback, including the interface with County Sanitation District land at the north end of the street must be designed to encourage and advertise the availability of the trail for public use.

We understand that in any event the City Attorney is reviewing the legality of street closure. If it turns out that the street vacation is a viable option for the Crown Homeowners Association, we stand ready to work with all parties involved to forge a solution, but one that does not diminish established recreational opportunities and public access to public resources.

Sincerely,

RORIE SKEI
Chief Deputy Director

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