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**Mountains Recreation &
Conservation Authority**

Christmas Comes to Laurel Canyon with Successful Purchase of “Let’s Buy A Mountain” Property

17-Acres of Open Space Now Enjoys Permanent Protection as a Nature Preserve by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

December 26, Los Angeles – Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW) and longtime neighborhood organization, Laurel Canyon Association, announced today that they have successfully completed the purchase of the “Let’s Buy A Mountain” 17-acre mountain ridge for open space and wildlife habitat, nestled in historic Laurel Canyon, in the heart of Los Angeles.

The 17 acres are located between Lookout Mountain Avenue and Stanley Hills Drive and were purchased as the result of a non-profit donation campaign with intentions of turning the land over to the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority (MRCA) for land management and permanent preservation. Government agencies, neighborhood special events, resident and community donations, philanthropic support, and even gifts from some of Laurel Canyon’s most storied former residents helped complete the purchase.

Former Laurel Canyon resident and legendary musician Don Henley made a \$100K donation in memory of his friend and collaborator---and former Laurel Canyon resident--- Glenn Frey. "I greatly appreciate your efforts to preserve the rare undeveloped lands that remain in the Laurel Canyon area," said Henley. "These resources are precious, both in terms of wildlife habitat, and in terms of the human history that resides there," he added.

In addition, The David Schwartz Foundation generously donated the final \$300K necessary to close the sale. "Our family foundation is very pleased to have been a part of this important effort to preserve the wild nature of this land for all time, " said John Schwartz. "Protecting open space within thriving cities brings many unique attributes to our daily lives and informs in very important ways, the character of a community," he added.

The Board of the Laurel Canyon Association released a statement saying: "Protecting this land forever is a dream come true and it couldn't have happened without the coordinated effort of local residents, environmental organizations like CLAW, and government agencies like the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and government officials including LA County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl who gave \$100,000 Proposition A grant to the project as well as other government support from City Councilmembers

David Ryu (CD4) and Paul Koretz (CD5). We celebrate this important community accomplishment with all of them.”

Said Tony Tucci, Chair of CLAW, “As a result of our collaborative fundraising efforts, this very large piece of LA’s greenbelt will be protected forever from the threat of development. Our parks and hillside open spaces are the lungs of our city and this mountain ridge is critical habitat to a variety of species including deer, coyote, bobcats, pumas, owls and red-tailed hawks. This land will be maintained as open space where the preservation of natural vegetation and wildlife come first.”

“The long-term presence of larger mammal species in the mountain range between Laurel Canyon and Griffith Park depends on permanent protection of this 17-acre property, said Paul Edelman, Chief of Natural Resources and Planning for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. The Conservancy granted \$1 million in Proposition 1 funds to the acquisition. “The property’s standalone ecological resources are significant, and equally important, it forms the core of a 55-acre habitat hub that provides for wildlife movement between over half a dozen surrounding habitat areas.”

On October 26, CLAW’s wildlife camera photographed an un-collared mountain lion on the *Let’s Buy A Mountain* property. The camera remains in place and provides a first-hand look at the myriad of wildlife roaming the now protected land, all of whom continue to use the watershed as a wildlife corridor.

The *Let’s Buy A Mountain* campaign was supported and endorsed by environmental organizations, government officials, residents and celebrities. A community dedication of the preserve will take place in early 2018 with details to follow.

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Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW) is a 501(c)(3) public benefit non-profit corporation which advocates for the protection of wildlife in Los Angeles, educates citizens about its fundamental importance and promotes the establishment of wildlife habitats and wildlife corridors in L.A. County and beyond. www.clawonline.org

The Laurel Canyon Association (LCA) is a 501(c)(4) non-profit residents association with a mission to protect the quality of life and the environment of Laurel Canyon, a neighborhood in the Hollywood Hills area of Los Angeles. LCA. Laurel Canyon Association is the oldest association in the neighborhood and works in close harmony with surrounding homeowners associations, including Sunset Plaza, Wonderland Park, Laurel Hills and Mt. Olympus. LCA is also a member of the Hillside Federation and the Bel-Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council. www.laurelcanyon.org

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is a local public park agency dedicated to the preservation and management of open space, urban parkland, watershed lands, trails, and wildlife habitat. The MRCA manages more than 72,000 acres of public parkland and provides natural resources and scientific expertise, critical regional planning services, operations, fire prevention and ranger services, as well as education and leadership programs for thousands of youth each year. It is one of the lead agencies revitalizing the Los Angeles River and its tributaries. <http://www.mrca.ca.gov>

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