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▶️ **B-Roll Videos/Photos**

Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris Presents $2M Check for Randall Preserve Stewardship

With the Property Management Plan Recently Approved the Team is Advancing Stewardship, Operations, and Public Access



NEWPORT BEACH, CA — On Thursday, October 8th, Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris (D-Irvine) presented the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) with a check for $2 million to support the opening and stewardship of the Randall Preserve/Genga. After a more than two year planning process, the Preserve is gearing up for a phased public access program launching in approximately 18 months. The Proposition 4 grant allocation supports climate resilience, public access and public safety, as well as stewardship and

operations of the Randall Preserve.

A few dozen people gathered in an outdoor setting to hear from speakers about the importance of the Preserve, funding its stewardship and operations, as well as getting to see first hand the work being done to clean up the property from its decades of oil use. After the check presentation, the group walked to a nearby overlook to enjoy a vista with views of Catalina Island, the San Gabriel Mountains, and the Santa Ana River.



"More than two decades ago, Orange County residents shared a vision to preserve one of the last remaining privately owned coastal parcels in Southern California," said Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris (D-Irvine). "Today, that once-in-a-generation vision has become a reality. Restoration work is underway to protect the Randall Preserve's sensitive habitats and native species, while planning efforts move forward to expand public access and allow Orange County residents to experience this crown jewel along our world-renowned coastline. I'm proud to have partnered with the Coastal Corridor Alliance, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to secure state funding for the property's acquisition and additional funding through Proposition 4 to support stewardship and public access."

With what is expected to be another year and a half of oil remediation done on the property by the previous titleholder, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is now gearing up to roll out a phased public access and species protection plan that includes: limited trail access, habitat and species studies and plans for permanent public amenities. The access gradually expands both in route options and also volume of trail users.

Studies before and after the trail opens were promised to the Randall Preserve Advisory Committee via the Property Management Plant to assuage fears of impacts to the rich biodiversity—plant and animal life. There are over 160 bird species alone that use this Preserve for feeding, foraging, and nesting. In addition, there are over 45 rare, sensitive, threatened, and endangered species found on the Preserve.

"Seeing the Preserve, its coastal bluff scrub, wetlands, and wildlife—especially birds—was a highlight," remarked Miguel Luna, Chair of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. "Working closely with our elected leaders to not only protect important places like the Randall Preserve, but also get it ready for public use is testament to the solid partnerships

that have been created for the benefit of the people, the land, and the wildlife. The Preserve has also established important relationships with Tribal Nations for cultural practices here."



The communities surrounding the Preserve are designated disadvantaged by the State of California, meaning they face higher poverty rates, increased health challenges, and limited access to clean air, water, and land. Investments in these predominantly Spanish-speaking communities and their recreational opportunities provide a catalyst for other important investments as well.

"California voters consistently support park, water, and climate bonds—including the 2024 Proposition 4 ballot measure," stated Melanie Schlotterbeck, a Randall Preserve consultant with the Coastal Corridor Alliance. "Today is a milestone in investing Proposition 4 dollars in nature adjacent to the communities that need funding the most. This is an important day for communities like those in Costa Mesa."

Stay tuned for additional Randall Preserve news by subscribing via the website: RandallPreserve.org/Subscribe.

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Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris *represents California's 73rd District including Irvine, Costa Mesa, and Tustin. She is the Chair of the Utilities and Energy Committee. She is also a member of the Budget Committee; Economic Development, Growth, and Household Impact Committee; Insurance Committee, and Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee. After working her way through Yale University, where she double majored in Economics and English, Cottie had a successful 20-year career in finance and technology. She helped to build businesses and led teams at Fortune 500 corporations, small companies and start-ups. Follow the Assemblywoman on Instagram (@asmcottie), and Facebook (AssemblywomanCPN).*

Coastal Corridor Alliance *is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, originally established to protect Banning Ranch, now the Randall Preserve. Our new mission is to protect biodiversity, foster community stewardship, and advocate for appropriate human access on the Randall Preserve and Santa Ana River Coastal Corridor. Learn more at: CoastalCorridor.org.*

The ***Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy*** *is a State Agency that was established by the Legislature in 1980. Since that time, it has helped preserve more than 80,000 acres of parkland in both wilderness and urban settings. The Conservancy's mission is 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.

*The **Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority** (MRCA) is a local government public entity exercising joint powers with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Conejo Recreation and Park District, and Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. The MRCA is dedicated to preserving and managing local open space and parkland, wildlife habitat, coastal access, watershed lands, and trails in both wilderness and urban settings, while ensuring public access to these lands. The MRCA works with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and local government partners on land acquisition, planning, wildfire resilience, habitat connectivity, and other efforts to protect and enhance public lands. The MRCA manages more than 85,000 acres, including land it owns and land owned by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.*