



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

January 17, 2006

Woody Smeck, Superintendent
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
401 West Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360-4207

Subject: Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Fire Management Plan Final
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) [CEQ #20050526]

Dear Mr. Smeck:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above referenced document. Our review and comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA Implementation Regulations at 40 CFR 1500-1508, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

Fire management is extremely important in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA), especially because of its proximity to and wildland/urban interface with densely populated areas of Los Angeles and Ventura counties. Based on our review of the Final EIS, we have no objections to the proposed project. We understand there may be circumstances where mechanical treatment may not generate the ecological benefits associated with SMMNRA's landscape management goals, and fire treatment will be used to achieve these benefits and goals. We encourage the National Park Service to work closely with the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District and South Coast Air Quality Management District to incorporate California's Smoke Management Program regulated by the State's *Smoke Management Guidelines for Agricultural and Prescribed Burning* into your landscape management activities.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this Final EIS and request a copy of the Record of Decision when it becomes available. If you have any questions, please call me at (415) 972-3988, or have your staff call Jeanne Geselbracht at (415) 972-3853.

Sincerely,

/S/

Duane James, Manager
Environmental Review Office

003923

cc: Ventura County Air Pollution Control District
South Coast Air Quality Management District