

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 16, 1998  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 13, 1998  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 23, 1998

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1997–98 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1972**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Knox**

February 17, 1998

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An act to amend Section 33204.2 of, and to add Sections 33204.25 and 33204.27 to the Public Resources Code, relating to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1972, as amended, Knox. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

Existing law authorizes the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to award grants, in accordance with prescribed procedures, to specified nonprofit organizations to carry out improvements, maintenance, acquisitions, or educational interpretation programs directly related to a project which the conservancy is authorized to carry out under the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Act.

This bill would authorize the conservancy to award grants to private educational ~~entities~~ *institutions*, and to local agencies and qualified nonprofit organizations, *including local conservation corps*, for a fire prevention and natural resource protection program *to protect lands that are subject to conditions set forth in specified provisions of existing law.*

The bill would also authorize the conservancy to award grants to school districts and other local agencies for the same purposes, as prescribed.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares both  
2 of the following:

3 (a) Partnerships between the conservancy and  
4 nonprofit organizations for educational interpretation  
5 and other programs authorized pursuant to Section  
6 33204.2 of the Public Resources Code have been  
7 successful in providing outdoor education and recreation  
8 experiences to over 1,200,000 children and their families  
9 in the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area since 1982.

10 (b) There is a need to expand those programs to  
11 include partnerships with school districts and other local  
12 agencies, as well as nonprofit organizations, in order to  
13 better serve the residents who otherwise would not have  
14 access to educational interpretation and other recreation  
15 and nature programs within the mountainous areas  
16 surrounding the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area.

17 SEC. 2. The Legislature also finds and declares that  
18 there is significant documentation on the devastation to  
19 both human and natural habitat by fires, and on the  
20 economic impact of fires. A mainstay of fire prevention  
21 is the brushing, or clearing, of properties owned by the  
22 Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy that abut  
23 residential communities. The Legislature further finds  
24 that the City of Los Angeles has recently implemented  
25 new ordinances, consistent with the ordinances of the  
26 County of Los Angeles, which double the previous  
27 brushing distance requirement. Local funding will cover  
28 only a portion of the costs to carry out the increased  
29 brushing distance requirements. The resulting funding  
30 deficiency will result in significant risks to public safety  
31 and an unfunded public liability if the City of Los Angeles



1 or the County of Los Angeles should decide to charge the  
2 State of California as the owner of record for those costs.

3 SEC. 3. Section 33204.2 of the Public Resources Code  
4 is amended to read:

5 33204.2. (a) The conservancy may award grants to  
6 nonprofit organizations qualified as exempt  
7 organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal  
8 Revenue Code of 1954 (26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3)), and  
9 private educational ~~entities~~ *institutions* to carry out  
10 improvements, maintenance, acquisitions, or  
11 educational interpretation programs that directly relate  
12 to a project that the conservancy is otherwise authorized  
13 to undertake pursuant to this division.

14 (b) Grants awarded pursuant to this section are  
15 subject to the review and approval of the Department of  
16 General Services. The conservancy shall not award a  
17 grant under this section for a project that is not for the  
18 purposes specified in subdivision (a). No nonprofit  
19 organization may expend any portion of a grant to engage  
20 in any activity not expressly authorized pursuant to  
21 subdivision (a).

22 (c) The executive director shall submit a notice to the  
23 Department of Finance 30 days prior to award of a grant  
24 under this section. The notice shall specify the recipient  
25 organization, the amount to be granted, and the purposes  
26 for which the grant is awarded. The period for notice  
27 under this subdivision may be concurrent with the review  
28 of the Department of General Services under subdivision  
29 (b).

30 SEC. 4. Section 33204.25 is added to the Public  
31 Resources Code, to read:

32 33204.25. The conservancy may award grants to local  
33 agencies or, pursuant to Section 33204.2, to qualified  
34 nonprofit organizations, *including local conservation*  
35 *corps*, to fund crews, supervisors, vans, and related  
36 equipment for a fire prevention and natural resource  
37 protection program *to protect lands that are subject to*  
38 *the conditions set forth in Section 33211.5.*

39 SEC. 5. Section 33204.27 is added to the Public  
40 Resources Code, to read:



1 33204.27. (a) The conservancy may award grants to  
2 school districts and other local agencies for any of the  
3 purposes for which it may award grants to nonprofit  
4 organizations pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section  
5 33204.2.

6 (b) Grants awarded to school districts pursuant to  
7 subdivision (a) shall be subject to both of the following  
8 conditions:

9 (1) The grants shall not include cash grants of state  
10 funds.

11 (2) Grants permitting the use of facilities shall be  
12 limited to facilities that are owned by the conservancy.

