



# Council Agenda Report

To: Mayor Grisanti and the Honorable Members of the City Council

Prepared by: Elizabeth Shavelson, Deputy City Manager

Reviewed by: Joseph D. Toney, Assistant City Manager

Approved by: Steve McClary, City Manager

Date prepared: October 31, 2022 Meeting date: November 14, 2022

Subject: Letter of Support for Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority  
Property Acquisition

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Consider directing the Mayor to send a letter to the City's current and incoming State representatives and the California Wildlife Conservation Board in support of the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority (MRCA) acquiring properties currently available in three locations throughout Malibu and the adjacent Los Angeles County unincorporated area for the purpose of conservation.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action.

**WORK PLAN:** This item was not included in the Adopted Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. This project is part of normal staff operations.

**DISCUSSION:** The City was recently made aware that the owner of several properties in Malibu and the adjacent Los Angeles County unincorporated area may be interested in selling their properties and the MRCA is currently looking into potentially purchasing these properties. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) has prepared a description of the properties being considered for acquisition. The property description is provided as Attachment 1.

According to the document prepared by SMMC, the properties are clustered in three locations throughout Malibu and the surrounding unincorporated area referred to as: 1) Sweetwater Mesa – Carbon Canyon Connector; 2) Latigo Canyon – Pacific Coast Highway Connector; and 3) Latigo – Solstice Canyons Connector and include the following Assessor Parcel Numbers:

1) Sweetwater Mesa – Carbon Canyon Connector

4453-005-013  
4453-005-118  
4453-005-114  
4453-005-117  
4453-005-111  
4453-005-018

2) Latigo Canyon – Pacific Coast Highway Connector

4459-004-004  
4459-004-001  
4459-005-013  
4459-005-003  
4459-005-001

3) Latigo – Solstice Canyons Connector

4459-002-022  
4459-002-024  
4459-002-023  
4459-002-025  
4459-003-007  
4459-003-010  
4459-003-009  
4459-003-008

According to SMMC, the properties total 430 acres and are adjacent to existing state and federal parkland.

MRCA has identified a State grant program administered by the California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) as the potential funding source for the acquisition. If MRCA is able to reach an agreement with the property owner, secure funding from the WCB and successfully complete the proposed land acquisition, MRCA would be the owner of all the acquired properties and responsible for their operations and maintenance.

In an effort to support the City's vision statement and its commitment "to preserve unaltered natural resources and rural characteristics," staff recommends that the Council consider directing the Mayor to write a letter to the City's State elected officials and the WCB in support of the purchase of these properties for the purpose of conservation.

Historically, some residents have voiced concerns about the MRCA's stewardship of its land in Malibu and the surrounding area. The Council may want to consider these potential tradeoffs as it contemplates whether to send a letter of support in favor of MRCA acquiring additional property in Malibu and the surrounding area.

ATTACHMENTS: 1) Property Information Prepared by SMMC

# Three Prime Coastal Santa Monica Mountains Properties Made Available Together for Conservation



# **Three Prime Coastal Santa Monica Mountains Properties Made Available Together for Conservation**

## **Diverse canyon, ridgeline, and coastal bluff habitat within three watersheds**

- 430 acres total
- One owner
- All properties adjacent to State or Federal parkland
- Each property fills in key gaps in regional Coastal Slope Trail
- All parcels contain Deer and Mountain Lion Habitat as part of Malibu Creek State Park Core Ecosystem

## **Known Sensitive animals on the properties:**

- Southern Steelhead Trout
- California Endangered Species Act-protected Mountain lion and Crotch bumble bee
- Golden eagle, peregrine falcon, and monarch butterfly

## **State Objectives Achieved by Acquisition:**

- Contributes to California's goal to conserve at least 30-percent of California's land and coastal waters by 2030 as outlined in Executive Order N-82-20
- Meets WCB 2014 Strategic Plan goal to "fund multi-benefit projects that support species strongholds/refugia, habitat connectivity and corridors, and threatened and endangered species while simultaneously providing additional public use without degradation to the ecosystems."

## **1. Sweetwater Mesa – Carbon Canyon Connector**

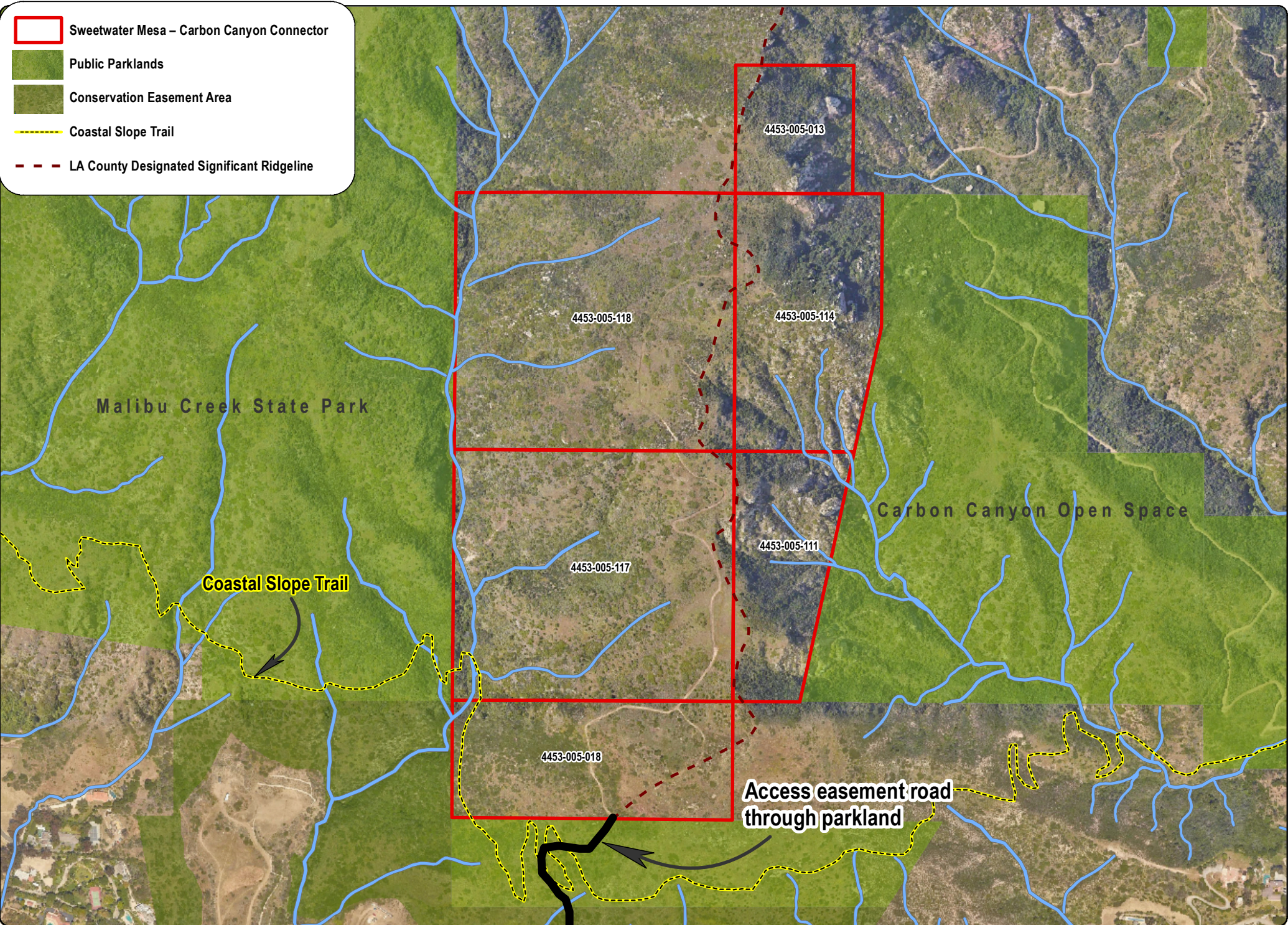
- 152 acres
- 100 percent ESHA
- Connects Malibu Creek State Park to MRCA Carbon Canyon Open Space
- 6,914-linear feet of USGS blue line stream
- 31 acres of Riparian Buffer
- County-designated Significant Ridgeline separating the Malibu Creek and Carbon Canyon watersheds

## **2. Latigo Canyon – Pacific Coast Highway Connector**

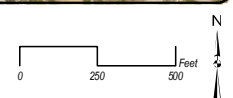
- 128 acres
- 90 percent ESHA
- Connects NPS Solstice Canyon Park across PCH to Dan Blocker Beach
- 3,000-linear feet of frontage along Pacific Coast Highway
- 3,430-linear feet of USGS blue line stream
- 16 acres of riparian buffer habitat
- North slope woodland abuts Solstice Creek with Southern Steelhead habitat

## **3. Latigo – Solstice Canyons Connector**

- 149 acres
- 100 percent ESHA
- Connects NPS Solstice Canyon Park and MRCA Escondido Canyon Park
- 8,705-linear feet of USGS blue line stream
- 40 acres of riparian buffer habitat

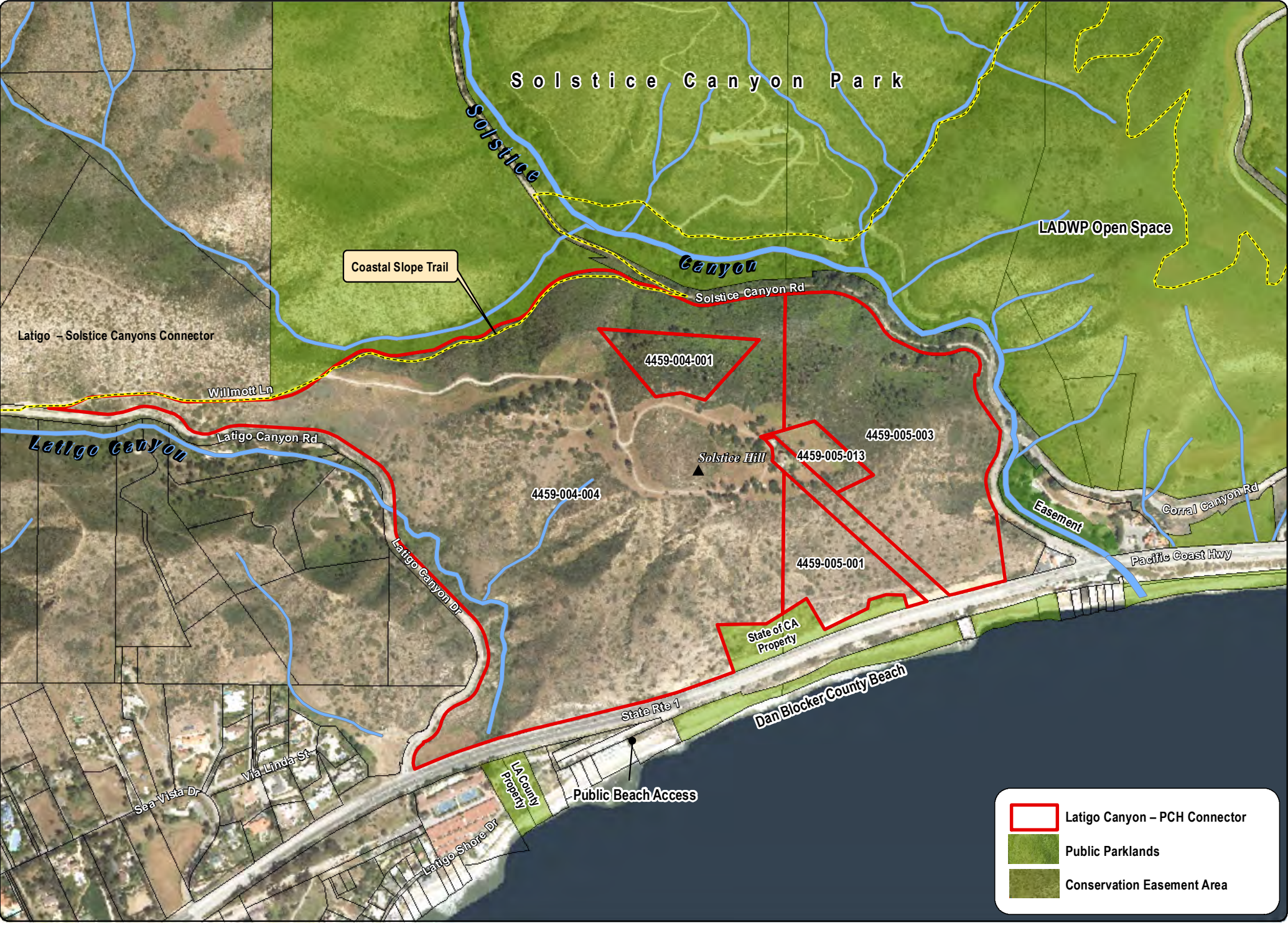


**Sweetwater Mesa – Carbon Canyon Connector**



View of Sweetwater Mesa Property Looking South

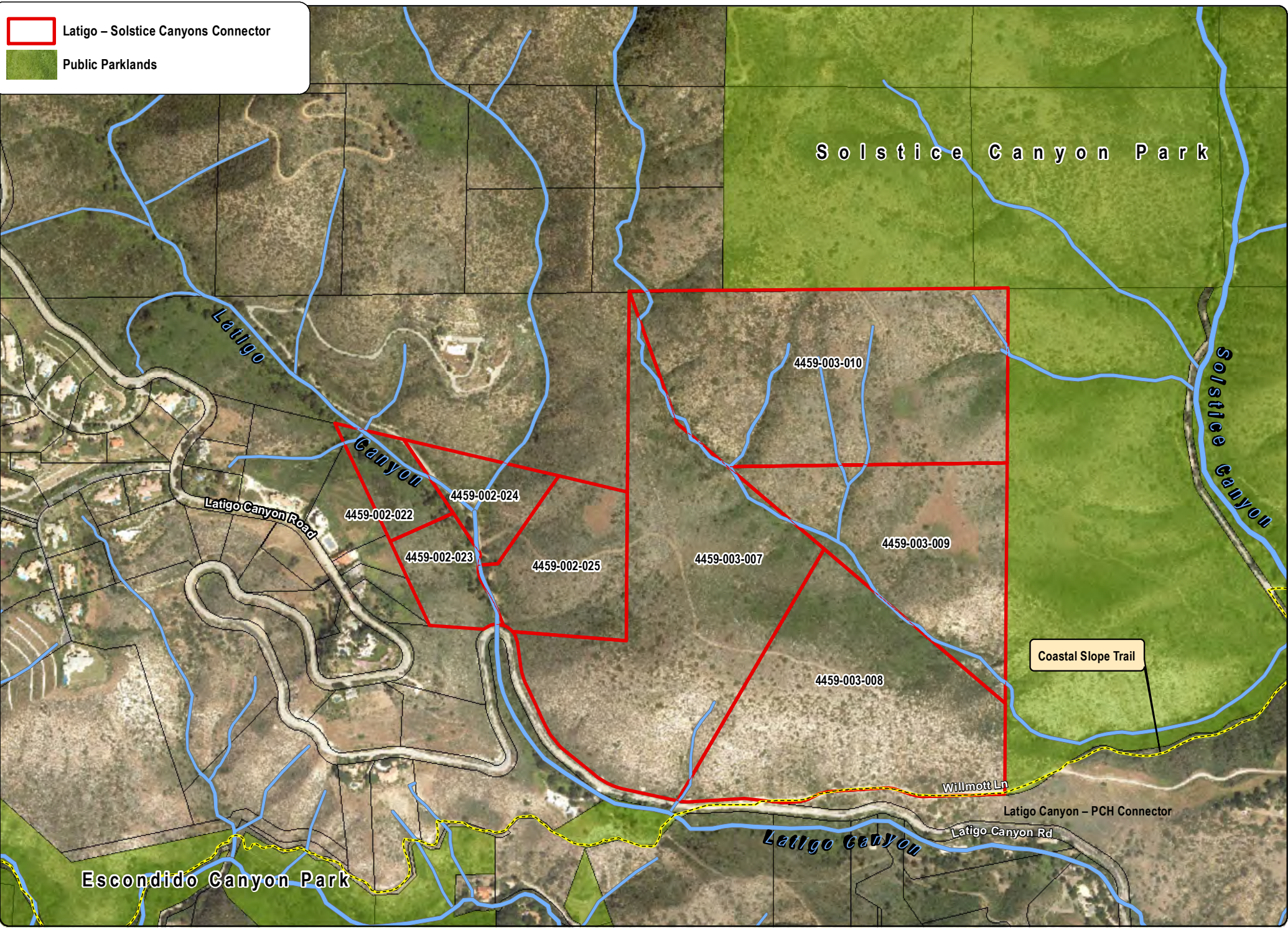




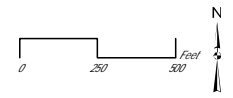
Latigo Canyon - PCH Connector

Latigo – Solstice Canyons Connector

Public Parklands



Latigo – Solstice Canyons Connector



View of Latigo Canyon Properties Looking South

