



## Topanga Canyon Boulevard Partners

California Department of  
Transportation (Caltrans)  
District 7 - Los Angeles and  
Ventura counties

State Senator Fran Pavley,  
SD 27

State Assembly Member  
Richard Bloom, AD 50

Los Angeles County Supervisor  
Zev Yaroslavsky, Third District

Los Angeles County Fire  
Department

Topanga Town Council

Topanga Creek Watershed  
Committee

Topanga Association for a  
Scenic Community

North Topanga Canyon Fire  
Safe Council

Topanga Chamber of  
Commerce

Topanga Coalition for  
Emergency Preparedness

Resource Conservation District  
of Santa Monica Mountains

National Park Service/Santa  
Monica Mountains National  
Recreation Area

Topanga Arson Watch

# News Release

Today's Date: May 21, 2013  
Contact: Patrick Chandler  
Phone: 213-897-3630

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Residents and Caltrans Partner Up to Preserve and Protect Topanga Canyon

**Topanga** – Through a collaborative partnership, the Topanga Canyon Boulevard partners has been working since June 2012 identifying the goals within the Topanga Creek Watershed Plan of 2002 that will promote public safety, fire safety, address and manage invasive plants, and protect the natural environment of the Topanga Creek Watershed along Topanga Canyon Boulevard (SR-27).

“There is never a one-size-fits-all approach to the management of California’s transportation system,” said Caltrans District 7 Director Michael Miles. “Caltrans staff has painstakingly put months of effort into developing and customizing a corridor management plan that addresses the enhancement of public safety, the protection of the environment along the roadside, and the concerns of the community.”

The corridor management plan includes best management practices for vegetation management: active participation from the community and property owners with parcels that abut SR-27; planting non-invasive vegetation; and using mowers and other mechanical tools instead of herbicides to remove brush and other vegetation along the highway. Occasional closures will occur during May and June as Caltrans maintenance crews clear brush along the roadside.

#### *Quotes from Topanga Canyon Boulevard Partners:*

“With the involvement of state and local agencies, members of the community and support from my office and the Office of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, the Topanga Canyon Boulevard Roadside Committee has collaborated to establish a long-term framework for addressing vegetation management, fire safety and maintaining the natural, scenic environment without the use of herbicides that endanger the delicate environmental balance in the Topanga Creek Watershed,” said Senator Fran Pavley. “The aim is to continue the efforts of maintaining a beautiful and safe highway in Topanga through engagement of the Topanga Canyon Boulevard Partners to preserve and protect this California resource.”

“The template of cooperative action created here is a potential model for use in communities across California,” said Assembly Member Richard Bloom.

“To successfully collaborate, you need to genuinely cooperate. That’s how the best ideas become ‘best practices.’ This extraordinary partnership between our public agencies and the Topanga community has produced a plan to clear roadside brush along State Route 27, without using herbicides, that both meets fire safety requirements and protects and preserves the natural environment,” said Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. “We owe a debt of thanks to all the participating stakeholders: your knowledge and passion will benefit visitors and Topanga residents as well as the workers who protect public safety on this beautiful Santa Monica Mountains roadway.”

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“The mission of the Topanga Canyon Boulevard Roadside Committee, an ad hoc advisory group, working collaboratively with related public agencies and community organizations, is to plan and execute sustainable solutions by April 2013 to manage roadside brush clearance along TCB/State Route 27 that promote public safety and best management practices for fire safety, invasive plant management, and protection of the natural environment of the Topanga Creek Watershed, by using methods, other than herbicides, consistent with the goals and policies of the Topanga Creek Watershed Plan of 2002.”