Agenda Item 12 SMMC 4-26-10



## MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Ramirez Canyon Park 5810 Ramirez Canyon Road Malibu, California 90265 Phone (310) 589-3230 Fax (310) 589-3237

April 16, 2010

Mr. Ronald P. Schafer Chairperson Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy 5750 Ramirez Canyon Road Malibu, California 90265

## Amendment to Grant SMM-0754, Project Planning and Design

Dear Chairperson Schafer and Conservancy Members:

The subject grant was awarded to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for Project Planning and Design activities in the upper Los Angeles River watershed and the coastal watersheds of the Santa Monica Bay. The grant was funded from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84).

The MRCA has submitted the attached application for a \$375,000 augmentation to the existing \$750,000 Proposition 84 Project Planning and Design grant (SMM-0754). The Conservancy last augmented this grant for \$100,000 in October 2008, bringing to the total to \$750,000. The application budget calls for \$225,000 to be spent in the upper Los Angeles River watershed, and \$150,000 to be spent in coastal watersheds of the Santa Monica Bay, including the Calleguas Creek watershed. An expenditure plan for each of these geographic areas is included in the MRCA application.

It is anticipated that the current grant funds will be exhausted by the end of the summer of 2010. Due to uncertainties with the State budget and availability of bond funds, it would be prudent to assure that key elements of the MRCA legal, design services, and natural resources and planning programs have a level of funding certainty through the third quarter of 2012. A delayed 2010-2011 State budget could potentially require trimming staff and halting work on numerous key projects. The request is to authorize the adequate amount of additional planning funds to prevent any unnecessary delays detrimental to the implementation of projects on the approved project list.

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If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Barbara Romero at 310-589-320, ext. 188.

Sincerely,

George Lange Chairperson

Attachments: A - Subject Grant Application

B - Proposed MRCA Budget Augmentation of SMM-0754