

## Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: April 26, 2010

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 13: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the City of Los Angeles for acquisition of the 138-acre Cahuenga Peak property located adjacent to Griffith Park.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the City of Los Angeles in an amount not to exceed \$700,000 to acquire the 138-acre Cahuenga Peak property located adjacent to Griffith Park contingent on an equal contribution of funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board.

Legislative Authority: Section 6500 *et seq.* of the Government Code and Sections 33204(c), 33204.2(a), 33204.27(a), and 75050(g)(2) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The City of Los Angeles has submitted the attached application and cover letter for a Proposition 84 grant to contribute to the \$12 million funding package for the 138-acre Cahuenga Peak property that abuts Griffith Park to the east and the Lake Hollywood area to the south. Cahuenga Peak is the first listed of "Phase One Acquisitions Proposed for Immediate State Purchase" in the *Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan* adopted in 1979. An aerial photograph of the subject 138-acre ownership is attached. Development of the property would result in regionally significant viewshed impacts and irreversibly and significantly diminish the ecological capacity of the Griffith Park core habitat area.

The City of Los Angeles' Department of Recreation and Parks has submitted a complete application that outlines the attributes of the property and the nature of the acquisition parameters. The property would be owned and managed by the City as part of Griffith Park.

The staff of the Wildlife Conservation Board has agreed to agendize a grant for the subject acquisition at its May 2010 meeting. The staff recommendation is to match the grant amount of the Wildlife Conservation Board in an amount not to exceed \$700,000 of Proposition 84 funds restricted to the upper Los Angeles River watershed. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority has approved the contribution of \$900,000 towards the project using funds from its Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1.