



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
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Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9933

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: April 14, 2010

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(g): Consideration of resolution authorizing a request for in-lieu fee mitigation funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for riparian habitat restoration on Authority property in Lopez Canyon, San Gabriel Mountains, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a request for in-lieu fee mitigation funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for riparian habitat restoration in Lopez Canyon.

Background: In September of 2009, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) received funding from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), as mitigation for impacts associated with Interstate 710. The Agreement between the Conservancy and Caltrans states that the mitigation shall occur within the Los Angeles River watershed. Lopez Canyon, in the San Gabriel Mountains north of the City of San Fernando is the target site for implementation of this project.

The subject MRCA-owned property in Lopez Canyon contains a stretch of streambed that has been filled and dammed over decades. This is a major job that will require extensive permitting and excavation work. MRCA would like to commence the permitting work immediately and begin excavation in October 2010.

In order for the MRCA to initiate the project, the funds must be granted by the Conservancy to the MRCA. This item would authorize the application to the Conservancy for the total amount of \$330,000 from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Fund, and authorize the acceptance of said funds. The attached draft letter would accompany the grant request. The letter asks for an advance of \$175,000.

A map of the subject area is attached, as well as the draft letter to the Conservancy officially requesting a grant of said funds.

MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

April 14, 2010 — Agenda Item V(g)

Resolution No. 10-43

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING A REQUEST FOR IN-LIEU FEE MITIGATION FUNDS FROM THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY FOR RIPARIAN HABITAT RESTORATION ON AUTHORITY PROPERTY IN LOPEZ CANYON

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority hereby:

1. FINDS that the proposed restoration site is important for a combination of ecological, viewshed, and watershed values.
2. FINDS that the proposed actions are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.
3. ADOPTS the staff report and recommendation dated April 14, 2010.
4. AUTHORIZES application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for \$330,000 in funds from the Conservancy Fund to restore habitat in Lopez Canyon in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County in the San Gabriel Mountains.
5. AUTHORIZES acceptance of said funds.
6. AUTHORIZES the Executive Officer to do any and all acts necessary to carry out this resolution and any recommendations made by the Governing Board.
7. REQUESTS and advance of funds to be able to install plantings in late 2010.

Chair

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March 3, 2010
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AYES:

NOS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a special meeting of the Governing Board of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, duly noticed and held according to law, on the 14th day of April, 2010.

Date:

Executive Officer