

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: January 24, 2011

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 18: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 and/or Proposition 50 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Project Planning and Design services for the Lechuza Beach Public Access Improvements Project, City of Malibu.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds in an amount not to exceed \$83,000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Project Planning and Design services for the Lechuza Beach Public Access Improvements Project in Malibu.

Legislative Authority: Public Resources Code 33204.2(a) and 33204.27(a) and Water Code Section 79570.

Background: The State of California has authorized expenditure of funds from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50) to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, in Chapter 10, Section 79570(c), for purpose of protecting coastal watersheds, including but not limited to, acquisition, protection, and restoration of land and water resources and associated planning, permitting, and administrative costs, and for the acquisition and development of facilities to promote public access to and participation in the conservation of land, water, and wildlife resources. Staff finds that the proposed grant application project to be consistent with Proposition 50 policy to promote public access to and participation in the conservation of land, water, and wildlife resources.

The background and status of the Lechuza Beach Public Access Improvements Project on Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA)-owned beach (and adjacent easements) in Malibu is provided in the attached application from the MRCA. On January 5, 2011, the MRCA authorized application to the Conservancy for a grant of Proposition 84 and/or Proposition 50 funds for Project Planning and Design services for the Lechuza Beach Public Access Improvements Project in Malibu.

The acquisition of, and initial planning for public access improvements at, Lechuza Beach have been funded by an approximately \$9 million investment by the State Coastal Conservancy. The development of a public access project at Lechuza Beach has been a contentious battle over many years. MRCA and consultants have been working on the final project design and providing

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requested information to the City of Malibu to complete the filing of the coastal development permit application. MRCA has almost finalized the complete coastal development permit application.

Most of the project planning and design work to date on the subject project was funded by two grants from the State Coastal Conservancy. Those funds ran out almost six months ago. Project changes due both to potential settlement discussions and decisions to use additional access easements owned by the MRCA have necessitated both new California Environmental Quality Act work and a revised application to the City of Malibu for a coastal development permit. The proposed grant would allow the MRCA to complete the City of Malibu permitting process.