

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: May 23, 2011

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 15: Consideration of resolution authorizing a budget augmentation and scope revisions for grant SMM-0853 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a program of minor capital outlay to ensure the preservation, protection, and restoration of developed and natural resources within the Los Angeles River and Santa Monica Bay Watersheds.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a budget augmentation and scope revisions for grant SMM-0853 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a program of minor capital outlay to ensure the preservation, protection, and restoration of developed and natural resources within the Los Angeles River and Santa Monica Bay watersheds, in the amount of \$500,000.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204.2(a), 33204.27(a), 75050(g)(2) and 75060(d)(1) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84), allocated funds to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in Chapter 5, 75050(g)(2) of the Public Resources Code, for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water and other natural resources and the implementation of watershed protection activities throughout the watershed of the Upper Los Angeles River pursuant to Section 79508 of the Water Code. Additional funds were allocated to the Conservancy in Chapter 7, 75060(d)(1) of the Public Resources Code, for the protection of beaches, bays and coastal waters and watersheds, including projects to prevent the contamination and degradation of coastal waters and watersheds, projects to protect and restore the natural habitat values of coastal waters and lands, and projects and expenditures to promote the access to and enjoyment of the coastal resources of the state.

As the Conservancy's land management agency, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) must actively care for the land by providing safety, resource protection, access and programs for public use. To continue to provide safe and enjoyable public access and a high quality experience in all the parks that it manages, the MRCA must ensure the facilities in them are not only maintained in good condition, but are actively improved as public use dictates. The funding in place for the ongoing long-term maintenance of MRCA parks is not

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sufficient to include the activities necessary to provide for the enhancement, restoration and improvement of these parks.

On June 23, 2008, the Conservancy granted \$400,000 to the MRCA to undertake site improvements to in multiple parks within both watersheds to continue providing a high quality park experience for park visitors. These improvements have focused on adding and upgrading site amenities including trails, benches, picnic tables, fencing, gates, signage, interpretive elements, drinking fountains, parking areas, irrigation and planting. These projects also increase the useful life of existing amenities, provide resource protection, and improve the visitor experience. At this time, the MRCA is asking for a budget augmentation of \$500,000 to continue to make these kinds of improvements in parks as they become necessary. The scope revisions include adding a number of parks to the list of eligible locations and adding road, parking lot and structure renovation to the types of work.

Consideration: The amount of the augmentation for grant SMM-0853 to the MRCA would be in the amount of \$500,000.