

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
GRANT APPLICATION**

Project Name: Elephant Hill Open Space Acquisition and Improvements	Amount of Request: \$ 636,500 (up to) Total Project Cost: \$ 1,446,500						
Applicant Name: Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority	Amount of Match: \$ 810,000 - pending Source of Match: Urban Greening for Sustainable Communities Program (Prop 84)						
Applicant Address: 570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100 Los Angeles, CA 90065 Phone: 323-221-9944 Fax: 323-221-9934	Project Address: Elephant Hill, El Sereno, Los Angeles						
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th style="width: 33%;">County</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Senate District</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Assembly District</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Los Angeles</td> <td style="text-align: center;">24</td> <td style="text-align: center;">45</td> </tr> </table>	County	Senate District	Assembly District	Los Angeles	24	45
	County	Senate District	Assembly District				
Los Angeles	24	45					
Email: barbara.romero@mrca.ca.gov							

Grantee's Authorized Representative:
 Cara Meyer, Contracts Officer 323-221-9944 x117

Name and Title *Phone*

Person with day-to-day responsibility for project:
 Barbara Romero, Chief of Urban and Watershed Projects 323-221-9944 x188

Name and Title *Phone*

Brief Scope of Work (60 words maximum):
 MRCA proposes to acquire and provide public access to 5 acres of Elephant Hill in order to preserve scarce open space and natural resources in the dense, underserved community of El Sereno. Depending on available funding, MRCA would restore up to 2 acres of woodland or riparian habitat and remedy drainage problems on the site using best management practices.

Funding Source Applied for: Proposition 84

Narrative/Project Description:
 MRCA proposes an urban greening project that will provide public access to five acres of previously unprotected hillside open space, construct a new system of walking trails in an underserved community, and correct longstanding drainage problems with natural best management practices. The project will include restoration of native vegetation, trail construction, installation of interpretive signage, and other park amenities. Vegetated swales and other best management practices for drainage that maximize infiltration and habitat benefits will detain storm water and local artesian well water while providing riparian habitat benefits. Well-placed trees and other native vegetation will serve as a natural sponge for water and aide in infiltration. These drainage improvements will all but eliminate the existing condition of regular flooding on Pullman Street and alleviate pressure on the City's storm drain system.

The proposed project is located in El Sereno, a dense, economically disadvantaged Los Angeles community. The project will permanently protect a strategic portion of 110-acre Elephant Hill, one of the largest undeveloped natural areas remaining in Northeast Los Angeles. The trail system will be accessible via public transportation (Metro Route 257) and provide public access from both sides of the hill, via Pullman Avenue and Lathrop Street. Hundreds of local residents regularly use adjacent Collins Avenue as an informal walking/running track, demonstrating a strong demand for outdoor walking opportunities in the community. Partnerships with local charter schools and environmental

education programs will facilitate on-site restoration, interpretation and fitness activities, and encourage stewardship by local residents and students.

The project would directly address multiple environmental and environmental justice issues in the community. By precluding development on the site in perpetuity, the community will be spared the severe grading impacts that would have occurred in conjunction with residential development. The proposed large single-family homes were out of scale with the rest of the community and would have required stripping Elephant Hill down to the bedrock—a tremendous expense of energy and natural resources for a small number of residential units. The grading would have eliminated the on-site artesian well and exacerbated air and water quality issues with dust and erosion. Instead, the proposed park project will provide a community asset that reduces air and water pollution through enhancement of natural systems. Capturing and detaining both the local well water and stormwater will reduce volumes discharged into the Los Angeles River and increase local water supplies through infiltration. Increasing tree cover and protecting open space reduces the urban heat island effect, thereby increasing the community's resilience against the effects of climate change. Fixing the drainage problems with best management practices for stormwater will protect the neighborhood from future less predictable precipitation patterns. Restoring and enhancing native habitat also reduces the stresses on local ecosystems coping with climate change.

The appraised value of 16 parcels (5 acres) proposed for acquisition is \$495,000. This grant includes a request for an additional 2 parcels which would only be acquired if necessary for drainage improvements. This grant further includes \$50,000 for minimal improvements needed to provide public access to the new parkland. This amount will serve as a local match for a pending application for state Urban Greening funding. MRCA acquisition of the site is a prerequisite for applying for outside funding.

The MRCA requests that the term of the agreement end no earlier than June 30, 2015.

Tasks / Milestones:	Budget:	Completion Date
1 Site acquisition	\$ 586,500	6/30/12
2 Conservancy-funded improvements	\$ 50,000	6/30/15
3 Urban Greening-funded improvements	\$ 810,00	6/30/15
See attached project budget		

Acquisition Projects: APN(s): 5306-006-906, 907, 908, 909, 910; 5306-017-905, 906, 907, 908, 909; 5307-023-901, 906, 907, 916, 917, 918; Optional: 5306-006-912, 5306-007-900

Acreage: 5.0

I certify that the information contained in this Grant Application form, including required attachments, is accurate.

Cara Meyer

7/19/2011

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date

Form SMM-001

STATE OF CALIFORNIA ♦ THE RESOURCES AGENCY