

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: September 26, 2011

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 14: Consideration of resolution authorizing the addition of the Elyira Canyon Park Expansion project to the Conservancy's Acquisition Workprogram, Mount Washington, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing the addition of the Elyira Canyon Park Expansion project to the Conservancy's Acquisition Workprogram in Mount Washington, City of Los Angeles

Legislative Authority: Sections 33208 and 33211(c) of the Public Resources Code

Background: The subject eight lots located adjacent to Conservancy-owned Elyria Canyon Park in Mount Washington (see attached map) contain an existing trail to the park on a City-owned paper street (Burnell Drive). The sloped lots support rare California black walnut woodland. For over a decade this Burnell Drive area has been the prime location for expansion of Elyria Canyon Park. In order for the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to leverage its grant funds from the Conservancy for acquisition in the northeast Los Angeles hilltops, the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District guidelines require that the subject properties be on the Conservancy's Workprogram. The proposed action would establish a new Workprogram project called Elyira Canyon Park Expansion project and at this stage would just consist of the subject eight lots located closest to the park.

The MRCA has seven of the eight lots under contract and is racing to get the County's Proposition A funding in place to meet the contract deadline. Supervisor Gloria Molina has agreed to use Specified Cities Excess funds to complete this important urban open space acquisition.