

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: September 26, 2011

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 15: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant and advance of deposited mitigation funds (I-405 Sepulveda Pass Widening Project, Corps No. SPL-2008-464-PHT) from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Fund to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for implementation of a riparian habitat restoration and creation project in the Bundy Canyon or Ballona Creek watershed.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant and advance of deposited mitigation funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Fund to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, for habitat restoration within the Bundy Canyon or Ballona Creek watershed.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33215, 33204.2 (a) and 33204.27(a) of the Public Resources Code

Background: A three-way agreement between the Conservancy, Caltrans, and the Army Corps of Engineers was signed in late 2009. In October 2010 the Conservancy received a \$67,410 check from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to fund 0.321 acres of riparian habitat restoration and creation in the Bundy Creek or Ballona Creek watershed. The money was deposited into the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Fund (Conservancy Fund). The funding is an approved appropriation in the State budget.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) sent the attached letter dated September 19, 2011 requesting a grant of the subject funding to conduct a habitat mitigation project in the Bundy Creek or Ballona Creek watershed. The letter also requests an advance of the funding for various reasons. This action would authorize the full amount of the funding to be granted to the MRCA. A total of \$67,410 exists in the fund. This action would authorize the creation of a grant, and an advance of the full \$67,410 to the MRCA.

The MRCA is working with the Army Corps of Engineers to identify potential sites. The MRCA plans to commence work in Spring 2012 if funding and permits are available. The advance is necessary to ensure no interruptions in the MRCA's cash flow. Restorations require attention, steady capital, and labor input on a weekly basis over the course of several consecutive years.