

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: April 23, 2012

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 14: Consideration of resolution authorizing an augmentation of CF-1020 with deposited mitigation funds in the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Fund, and an advance of said funds, for implementation of the Lopez Canyon riparian habitat restoration and creation project, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing an augmentation of CF-1020 with deposited mitigation funds in the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Fund, and an advance of said funds, for implementation of the Lopez Canyon riparian habitat restoration and creation project, unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Legislative Authority: Section 33215, and 33204.27(a) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: In September 2009 the Conservancy received a \$330,000 check from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to fund 2.03 acres of riparian habitat restoration and creation in the Los Angeles River watershed. The money was deposited into the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Fund (Conservancy Fund). The payment arose from work that Caltrans did along the 710 Freeway in 2005.

The most efficient entity to direct the additional funds to is the MRCA. The MRCA staff welcomed the additional funding opportunity and the MRCA Governing Board is expected to formally accept the augmentation in early May of this year.

In May 2010, the Conservancy adopted resolution 10-20, authorizing a \$300,000 grant (CF-1020) and advance of not less than \$175,000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for a habitat mitigation project in Lopez Canyon.

Subsequently, in April 2011 the Conservancy received an additional \$23,940 from Caltrans for the increased impacts associated with their original project. This funding is for an extra 0.114-acre or riparian restoration to be added to the original 2.03-acre project. The MRCA is still in the permitting process for the project, caught in the vast new requirements of the Army Corps of Engineers 2008 mitigation rule.

This action will augment CF-1020 to include the additional \$23,940, and authorize an advance of this specific amount to the MRCA.

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The MRCA owns 125 acres in Lopez Canyon a tributary of the Los Angeles River. The property is adjacent to the Angeles National Forest, on the southern slope of the San Gabriel Mountains.