

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: April 29, 2013

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 11(b) - Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for project planning and design for the Escondido to Ramirez Canyon habitat and trail linkage project in the coastal watersheds of Santa Monica Bay, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for project planning and design to implement the Escondido to Ramirez Canyon habitat and trail linkage project in the coastal watersheds of Santa Monica Bay, in the amount of \$15,000.

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

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority has submitted the attached grant application for project planning and design services in a discrete section of the coastal watersheds of Santa Monica Bay. Staff has worked collaboratively with the MRCA staff to identify key project areas where project planning and design services are needed. The application includes extensive background, mapping, and justification. The project area overlaps the Escondido Creek Headwaters, Ramirez Canyon-West, and Ramirez-Escondido Canyons projects from the SMMC Workprogram.

The Escondido to Ramirez Canyon habitat and trail linkage project builds on recent MRCA acquisitions in upper Escondido and central Ramirez canyons. This important east-west open space band lies more interior than the Coastal Slope Trail corridor. The project area provides the opportunity to connect otherwise mostly isolated public open space areas with new trails and to maintain a key east-west habitat linkage between the Zuma-Trancas National Park Service Unit and the upper Solstice and Latigo Canyon areas. These are key coastal canyons with moderate terrain and close proximity to population.

The proposed project area included under this grant would encompass approximately four miles of blue line streams including Ramirez Canyon and Escondido Creeks. This area includes approximately 31 undeveloped private parcels, totaling approximately 650 acres in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Agenda Item 11(b)
April 29, 2013
Page 2

The proposed grant would allocate \$15,000 under Section 75060(d)(1) of Proposition 84 for the coastal watersheds of Santa Monica Bay.