

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: April 29, 2013

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 11(c) - Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for project planning and design for the Little Sycamore to Encinal Canyon Coastal Slope trail zone 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, for project planning and design to implement the Little Sycamore to Encinal Canyon Coastal Slope trail zone 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 Encinal Canyon-Lower Rancho Malibu, Charmlee Park Additions, Los Alisos Canyon-Upper, Leo Carrillo Adjacent, Nicholas Canyon Upper, Little Sycamore Canyon-Skylark, Deer Creek Watershed, and Big Sycamore Canyon-East Ridge projects from the SMMC Workprogram.

The Coastal Slope trail zone between Little Sycamore Canyon in Point Mugu State Park and the Los Angeles County-owned Banyon project dedication in Encinal Canyon contains great potential for rapid and substantial gains on trail implementation. The proposed trail corridor also serves as an important east-west habitat linkage in the Santa Monica Mountains. Maximizing the value of existing and future parklands in this zone requires the implementation of the Coastal Slope Trail.

The proposed project area included under this grant application encompasses approximately 13.5 miles of blue line streams including the creeks of Big Sycamore Canyon, Little Sycamore Canyon, Trancas Canyon, Deer Canyon, Los Alisos Canyon, Nicholas Canyon, Encinal Canyon, and Arroyo Sequit. Within the project area are approximately 80 undeveloped private

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parcels, totaling approximately 3,000 acres along or buffering the planned Coastal Slope Trail.

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