

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: April 29, 2013

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 12(a) - Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for project planning and design for the upper Malibu Canyon tributaries project in the coastal watersheds of Santa Monica Bay, unincorporated Los Angeles County and cities of Calabasas and Agoura Hills.**

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 upper Malibu Canyon tributaries 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 Cold Creek Goshen, Cold Creek Stokes Connector, Liberty Canyon Northeast Wildlife Corridor, Liberty Canyon Northwest Wildlife Corridor, SEA#6 Las Virgenes Southeast Ridge, Stokes Canyon-Core Habitat, Stokes Canyon-Lower, Stokes Canyon King Gillette Connector, and Triunfo Canyon-East Watershed projects from the SMMC Workprogram.

The upper Malibu Canyon watershed with its far ranging tributaries ties together the whole central north-facing slope area of the Santa Monica Mountains. This ecologically unique and parklands rich area requires key acquisitions to complete habitat linkages between major blocks of public open space. Many longstanding Conservancy acquisition priorities are in this proposed upper Malibu Canyon tributaries project. Other agency, county and municipal interests warrants critical cross-boundary project planning and design work.

The proposed project area included in this grant application encompasses more than 10 miles of blue line streams and approximately 140 undeveloped private parcels, totaling approximately 3,200 acres in the Santa Monica Mountains. The project area would be contiguous with King

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Gillette Ranch, Las Virgenes View Park, Ladyface Mountain Open Space, Paramount Ranch, Malibu Creek State Park, and Liberty Canyon Open Space. It would also encompass the north-south Liberty Canyon wildlife corridor across the 101 freeway.

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