



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Ramirez Canyon Park
5810 Ramirez Canyon Road
Malibu, California 90265
Phone (310) 589-3230 Fax (310) 589-3237

Agenda Item 12(b)
SMMC
4/29/13

April 12, 2013

Irma Muñoz
Chairperson
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
570 West Avenue Twenty-Six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065

**Request for Project Planning and Design Grant
for Browns Canyon Watershed Project**

Dear Chairperson Muñoz and Conservancy Members:

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) expresses its appreciation to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) for the opportunity to work collaboratively on project development through Project Planning and Design grants. To continue this collaboration, the MRCA is submitting the attached grant application for project planning and design services for the Browns Canyon Watershed project. Combining the trajectories of current available capital funding, acquisition momentum, Conservancy staff feedback, and long time priorities, this application requests \$65,000 for work and expenditures to secure public capital resources in this project area.

As the premiere natural area on the south-facing slope of the Santa Susana Mountains, Browns Canyon has the potential for many additional new trail systems and recreation staging areas. There are also many additional parcels necessary to acquire to complete the existing protected core habitat area comprised of Browns, Devil and Mormon Canyons. The Browns Canyon watershed project is geared to continue to fill out the framework put in place by two decades of SMMC and MRCA land acquisition and development in this area. This work shall set the critical stage for many existing funding sources including Los Angeles County Proposition A funds.

The proposed project area included under this grant would encompass over 13 miles of blue line streams including the creeks of Browns, Devil, Ybarra and Mormon Canyons. Approximately 174 undeveloped private parcels, totaling approximately 3,500 acres, exist within this Santa Susana Mountains project area. These include a potential 5-mile east-west segment of the planned Rim of the Valley Trail. There are also numerous trail opportunities leading to and from Michael D. Antonovich Regional Park at Joughin Ranch (MDA) and Rocky Peak Park. The easternmost parcels could potentially be acquired as Irma Muñoz, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

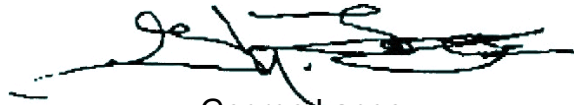
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a buffer to the ongoing larger development in Porter Ranch. The westernmost parcels could serve to bridge the gap between Indian Springs Open Space, Rocky Peak Park, and MDA.

We look forward to your response and continuing to secure land, easements, and public access improvements in the Santa Monica Mountains and Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor zones.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Judi Tamasi at 310-589-3230, ext. 121.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Lange", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

George Lange
Chairperson