

## Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: April 29, 2013

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 12(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 San Gabriel Mountains Rim of the Valley Trail implementation and Angeles National Forest trail and habitat connections project in the upper Los Angeles River watershed.**

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 San Gabriel Mountains Rim of the Valley Trail implementation and Angeles National Forest trail and habitat connections project in the upper Los Angeles River watershed, in the amount of \$95,000.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204.2(a), 33204.27(a), and 75050(g)(2) 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 upper Los Angeles River watershed. 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 Kagel Mountain and Canyon, La Canada Flintridge-Coutin Property, La Canada Flintridge-Janssen, Lower Kagel Canyon, and Mount Lukens Trail Connector projects from the SMMC Workprogram.

The Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Zone complements the trail and habitat resources of the Angeles National Forest. Key areas of work remain to secure the best access ways from population areas into the National Forest and the south-facing slope of the San Gabriel Mountains. This work must recognize the limited County and mitigation funding sources available. The proposed San Gabriel Mountains Rim of the Valley Trail implementation and Angeles National Forest trail and habitat connections project is designed to fill this need for the Conservancy's objectives which are shared by many other public and private entities. Many great recreation resources are at stake. Key areas include an east cluster with Altadena and La Canada, a central section with Little and Big Tujunga Canyons, and a west section with Kagel, Lopez, and Pacoima Canyons.

Agenda Item 12(c)

April 3, 2013

Page 2

Public Resources Code Section 75050(g)(2) allocated the sum of \$36,000,000 to the Conservancy for implementation of watershed protection activities throughout the Upper Los Angeles River pursuant to Section 79508 of the Water Code. The subject study area is within the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed. Section 79508 provides that watershed protection activities shall be consistent with the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan (Common Ground)*. The proposed project would provide opportunities to implement planning principles in *Common Ground* including: *Improve habitat quality, quantity and connectivity*, and *Establish riverfront greenways to cleanse water, hold floodwaters and extend open space*. This project is also consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives: Further Cooperation with Local Governments in the Region to Secure Open Space and Parkland and Expand Efforts to Integrate Nature into the Urban Environment.

The proposed grant would allocate \$95,000 under Section 75050(g)(2) of Proposition 84 for the Upper Los Angeles River.