

# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: April 29, 2013

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 12(d) - Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for project planning and design for the Alamos Canyon habitat and trail linkage project in the coastal watersheds of Santa Monica Bay, Calleguas Creek watershed, Santa Susana Mountains, Ventura 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 Alamos Canyon habitat and trail linkage project in the coastal watersheds of Santa Monica Bay, Calleguas Creek watershed, Santa Susana Mountains, 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 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 Big Sky Ranch, Moorpark-Hidden Creek Ranch, Alamos Canyon-Lower, Big Mountain-Happy Camp Additions, and Tierra Rejada Road to Alamos Canyon projects from the SMMC Workprogram.

Alamos Canyon and adjoining buffer habitat is the most regionally important area on the south-facing slopes of the Santa Susana Mountains in the Calleguas Creek watershed. The canyon is critical to the Santa Susana Mountains - Simi Hills inter-mountain range habitat linkage. The proposed Alamos Canyon habitat and trail linkage project includes a key spur of the Rim of the Valley Trail and unparalleled recreation opportunities from Simi Valley. The area is well positioned for Wildlife Conservation Board funding with an approved CAPP submitted by The Nature Conservancy.

The proposed project area included under this grant application encompasses approximately 58 miles of blue line streams, including the confluence of Alamos Canyon Creek and Arroyo Simi, and approximately 66 undeveloped private parcels, totaling approximately 12,000 acres.

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These potentially include approximately 13 miles of contiguous Rim of the Valley Trail segments, which, if acquired, would form both an east-west linkage and a north-south linkage.

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