

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: April 29, 2013

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 12(j): Consideration of resolution authorizing a budget modification for SMM-0754 to Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for project planning and design services in the upper Los Angeles River watershed and coastal watersheds of Santa Monica Bay.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a budget modification for SMM-0754 to Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for project planning and design services in the upper Los Angeles River watershed and coastal watersheds of Santa Monica Bay, in order to move up to \$35,000 from the upper Los Angeles River jurisdiction to the coastal watersheds of Santa Monica Bay section.

Legislative Authority: Section 6500 *et seq.* of the Government Code and Sections 33204(c), 33204.2(a), 33204.27(a), 75060(d)(1), and 75050(g)(2) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: SMM-0754 is a primary project planning and design grant awarded to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy). The Conservancy's Proposition 84 funding is divided between the upper Los Angeles River watershed and the coastal watersheds of Santa Monica Bay, including Calleguas Creek. SMM-0754 contains separate budgets for each category. The proposed request is to move funding from one category to the other. In this case, a reduction of Los Angeles River watershed funding and increase in Coastal watershed funding would require the Conservancy to adjust its overall allocation of available funding in these two categories.

A greater than expected concentration of staff work, appraisals, and appraisal reviews on projects in the coastal watersheds of Santa Monica Bay make the subject request essential for the MRCA to complete several pending projects and to continue ongoing work on many others. This ongoing work is principally in the coastal canyons of the Santa Monica Bay, but it also covers the Calleguas Creek watershed. No additional funding is requested.

This request for a budget modification is based on the latest billing for the grant. The total grant amount is \$1,675,000 since passage of Proposition 84 (including augmentations previously approved by the Conservancy). Of this total, \$995,000 was allocated to upper Los Angeles River watershed and \$680,000 was allocated to coastal watersheds of Santa Monica Bay, including Calleguas Creek. The subject action would authorize a shift of no more than \$35,000 from upper Los Angeles River Watershed to coastal watersheds of Santa Monica Bay.