

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 3, 2013

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 10(c): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of deposited mitigation funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Fund to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, and authorizing an advance of said funds, for implementation of a mitigation project in the Malibu Creek watershed.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a \$77,000 grant of deposited mitigation funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Fund to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, and authorizing an immediate partial advance of said funds, for implementation of a mitigation project in the Malibu Creek watershed.

Legislative Authority: Section 33215, 33204.2 (a), and 33204.27(a) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: In March of 2012 the Conservancy received \$77,000 from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to fund 0.38-acre of riparian habitat mitigation in the Malibu Creek watershed. The money was deposited into the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Fund (Conservancy Fund). The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) required the mitigation.

On September 18, 2012 the MRCA Governing Board adopted a resolution authorizing application to the Conservancy for a grant of the full \$77,000 to conduct the mitigation per the scope of the mitigation agreement with Caltrans. The MRCA submitted the attached application and cover letter dated May 8, 2013 for a habitat mitigation project on MRCA managed land.

The MRCA owns numerous properties in the Malibu Creek watershed, and is actively seeking additional parcels. The MRCA staff is narrowing potential project sites within the Malibu Creek watershed for this project. The MRCA has promised to include Conservancy staff in the site selection process.

The MRCA request also includes an immediate advance of \$38,500 because the permitting complexity of the project warrants a start on the permit process as soon as possible.