

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: July 22, 2013

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 14: 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 the Carbon Canyon riparian habitat mitigation project in the Carbon Canyon watershed, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a \$116,00 grant of deposited mitigation funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Fund to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), and authorizing an immediate partial advance of said funds, for implementation of the Carbon Canyon riparian habitat mitigation project in the Carbon Canyon watershed.

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

Background: In June 2012, the Conservancy received a \$116,000 from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to fund 0.40-acre of riparian habitat mitigation in the Santa Monica Mountains. 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 \$116,000 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 two parcels in the Carbon Canyon watershed on which the mitigation project will take place. APNS 4453-016-008 and 4453-020-008 contain a tributary and main channel portion of Carbon Canyon Creek.

The MRCA request also includes an immediate advance of \$58,000 because the permitting complexity of the project warrants a start on the permit process as soon as possible.

This item was previously agendized at the June 3, 2013 Conservancy meeting, but was postponed to allow representatives from Ventura County to look for appropriate alternative sites in Ventura County.