

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: November 4, 2013

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 10 (b) : Consideration of resolution authorizing augmentation of SMM-40-1267 for additional closing costs to settle Towsley Canyon purchase, Santa Clairita Woodlands, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing augmentation of SMM-40-1267 an amount not to exceed \$23,500 to complete the Towsley Canyon acquisition and related closing costs for remaining interest in APN's 2826-018-900 and 066; -901 and 067; -902 and 068; 2826-019-901 and 040, and -902 and 041 in Towsley Canyon in the Santa Clarita Woodlands Park.

Background: Please see attached Conservancy Staff Report dated December 3, 2012 for the original grant award to purchase the remaining undivided interest in approximately 270 acres in Towsley Canyon, and the report from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) dated October 2, 2013, requesting an augmentation in the amount of \$23,500 to cover unanticipated title issue costs necessary to complete the acquisition.

The ownership issues of the remaining private interest in the property have been very complicated, and unraveling fractional interests that have come to light over the last year has been staff-time intensive. This increment of additional consideration is needed in order to proceed with completing the acquisition, to quiet title, and release all parties from any claims subsequent to acquisition.

There are sufficient appropriated Proposition 40 funds to consider a \$23,500 augmentation of the grant to MRCA for the acquisition and related costs to close. Proposition 40 funds are not limited to any specific watershed, and can be used for projects in the Santa Clarita Woodlands.