

November 4, 2013; Agenda Item No. 13

Resolution No. 13-25

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY AUTHORIZING A
MATCHING GRANT OF PROPOSITION 84 FUNDS TO THE CITY OF SANTA CLARITA
FOR ACQUISITION OF APPROXIMATELY 232 ACRES, VALLEY VISTA PROJECT
(FORMER LAS LOMAS), NEWHALL PASS WILDLIFE HABITAT LINKAGE,
APNS 2827-030-011,-012, -013; 2827-029-008;
and 2827-031-002, -007, SANTA CLARITA

WHEREAS, The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is authorized to award grants to cities pursuant to Section 33204(c) of the Public Resources Code; and

WHEREAS, The State of California has authorized expenditure of funds from Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for capital outlay and grants for protection and restoration of land and water resources in the watershed of the Upper Los Angeles River and the Santa Monica Bay and its watersheds; and

WHEREAS, The City of Santa Clarita has made a request for a matching grant from Proposition 84, Section 75050(g)(2) of the Public Resources Code; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 75005(f), "Development" includes, but is not limited to the physical improvement of real property including the construction of facilities or structures; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 75005(i), "Interpretation" includes, but is not limited to, a visitor-serving amenity that educates and communicates the significance and value of natural, historical, and cultural resources in a way that increases the understanding and enjoyment of these resources and that may utilize the expertise of a naturalist or other specialist skilled at educational interpretation; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 75005(l) "Preservation" means rehabilitation, stabilization, restoration, development, and reconstruction, or any combination of those activities; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 75995(m), "Protection" means those actions necessary to prevent harm or damage to persons, property, or natural resources or those actions necessary to allow the continued use and enjoyment of property or natural resources and includes acquisition, development, restoration, preservation, and interpretation; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 75005(n) "Restoration" means the improvement of physical structures or facilities, and in the case of natural systems and landscape features includes, but is not limited to, projects of the control of erosion, the control and elimination of exotic

species, prescribed burning, fuel hazard reduction, fencing out threats to existing or restored natural resources, road elimination, and other plan and wildlife habitat improvement to increase the natural system value of the property. Restoration projects shall include the planning, monitoring, and reporting necessary to ensure successful implementation of project objectives; and

WHEREAS, Section 75003(c) of the Public Resources Code states that the people of California find and declare it necessary and in the public interest to protect the rivers, lakes, and streams of the State from pollution, loss of water quality, and destruction of fish and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, Section 75003(d) of the Public Resources Code states that the people of California find and declare it necessary and in the public interest to protect the beaches, bays, and coastal waters of the state for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Section 75003(e) of the Public Resources Code states that the people of California find and declare it necessary and in the public interest to revitalize our communities and making them more sustainable and livable by investing in sound land use planning, local parks and urban greening; and

WHEREAS, Section 75003.5 of the Public Resources Code states that the growth in the population of the state and the impacts of climate change pose significant challenges. These challenges must be addressed through careful planning and through improvements in land use and water management that both reduce contributions to global warming and improvements include better integration of water supply, water quality, flood control and ecosystem protection, and greater water use efficiency and conservation to reduce energy consumption; and

WHEREAS, The proposed project is consistent with the *Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan* and the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan*; and

WHEREAS, The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives to implement the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan, ensure that the Conservancy land acquisition expertise is made available where needed, link and integrate new natural parks into existing park systems, and link key habitat areas strategically to protect species and ecosystems through acquisition and cooperation with other resource management agencies; and

WHEREAS, The proposed project is being taken subject to approval of the grant for compliance with General Obligation Bond Law; and

WHEREAS, The proposed project protects land and water resources; and

WHEREAS, The proposed project implements the goals stated in Proposition 84, Chapter 5, Section 75050(g)(2); and

WHEREAS, The proposed action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); Now

Therefore Be It Resolved, That the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy hereby:

1. FINDS that the proposed action is consistent with the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan and the San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan as adopted by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.
2. FINDS that the proposed action is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives.
3. FINDS that the proposed project implements the goals stated in Proposition 84.
4. FINDS that the proposed action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
5. ADOPTS the staff report and recommendations dated November 4, 2013 for this item.
6. ADOPTS all the preceding *whereas* clauses.
7. AUTHORIZES a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the City of Santa Clarita in the amount not to exceed \$650,000.00 to match other funds for the acquisition of APNS 2827-030-011, -012, -013; 2827-029-008; and 2827-031-002, -007 in Santa Clarita.
8. FURTHER AUTHORIZES the Executive Director to execute the grant agreement and to perform any and all acts necessary to carry out this resolution; without limiting the generality of the foregoing, such a authority shall include those provisions that he shall determine in the exclusive exercise of his discretion are necessary to carry out the purposes of this resolution and to comply with the policies of the Conservancy, and to otherwise carry out the provisions of state law and regulations.

~ *End of Resolution* ~

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, duly noticed and held according to law, on the 4th day of November, 2013 at Calabasas, California.

Dated:

Executive Director