



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Ramirez Canyon Park

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February 13, 2014

Hon. Linda Parks

Chairperson

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

570 West Avenue Twenty-Six, Suite 100

Los Angeles, California 90065

Request for Project Planning and Design Grant for Wildlife Crossing Structures at the 101 Freeway at Liberty Canyon

Dear Chairperson Parks and Conservancy Members:

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) expresses its appreciation to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the opportunity to develop projects throughout the Conservancy's jurisdiction with Project Planning and Design grants. To continue this collaboration, the MRCA respectfully submits the attached grant application to produce a Project Study Report (PSR) with Caltrans that addresses the feasibility of a dedicated wildlife crossing structure across 101 freeway at Liberty Canyon. A PSR is the essential first step in obtaining a freeway crossing. Improved cross-freeway wildlife movement is essential to protect and enhance the viability of wildlife populations in both the Santa Monica Mountains and the Simi Hills. The MRCA owns the subject properties to be connected on both sides of the freeway. This brief application requests \$200,000 to accomplish this first PSR preparation step. Our staff has been coordinating with Caltrans for several months. Time is of the essence to begin this one-year step of a multi-year process. The MRCA is working simultaneously on a Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans to ensure a smooth working relationship.

Sincerely,

George Lange
Chairperson