



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Ramirez Canyon Park
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May 20, 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
Mulholland Drive Scenic Corridor Project**

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 work collaboratively on project development and completion. The MRCA respectfully submits the attached grant application for project planning and design work in the Los Angeles River watershed portion of the Mulholland Drive Scenic Corridor. This application requests \$65,000 of Proposition 84 funding for the MRCA staff to secure public land and easement interests in this project area that stretches from Woodland Hills to Griffith Park.

The Mulholland Drive Scenic Corridor is the backbone of the eastern Santa Monica Mountains. Complex work is necessary to maintain the remarkable habitat linkage that ties Griffith Park to the 20,000-acre Big Wild habitat area anchored by Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park and Topanga State Park. The numerous parks along the corridor require expanded habitat and trail connections to maintain their ecological and recreational capacity. The Conservancy has made a significant public investment in this area over a 30 year period that it seeks to protect and enhance.

The MRCA staff pursues every possible opportunity in the City of Los Angeles entitlement process to secure deed restrictions, conservation easements, and trail easements to achieve a permanently functioning wildlife corridor, high quality habitat blocks, and the Mulholland Specific Plan mandated core trail. In the past 12 months the MRCA has commented on 21 projects, has recorded an easement or deed restriction on 6 projects, and has achieved City conditions of approval for the required recordation of land interests on an additional 5 projects.

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All of these land interests are achieved at no public cost. The only expense is MRCA staff time to develop the projects and close the transactions. The value of the permanently protected real estate dwarfs this modest amount of public expense.

The MRCA staff will also continue to seek out outright land donations in the project area. The expense of a title report and legal time for otherwise cost free permanent public open space provides incomparable value to the public.

Please direct any questions to Garrett Weinstein, Project Analyst, at (310) 589-3230, ext. 124.

Sincerely,

George Lange
Chairperson