

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: February 23, 2015

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 11: Consideration of resolution authorizing assignment of Third Supervisorial District Proposition A Specified Excess Funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the acquisition of Liberty Canyon wildlife corridor properties, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing assignment of Third Supervisorial District Proposition A Specified Excess Funds for the acquisition of Liberty Canyon wildlife corridor properties.

Background: Although a contiguous chain of land has been protected on both sides of the 101 freeway for the Liberty Canyon inter-mountain range wildlife corridor, additional land remains to be acquired to bolster the efficacy of the habitat linkage. If acquired, some of the remaining private parcels would expand the protected habitat block on the north side of the freeway. The private parcels on the south side of the freeway either augment wildlife use of the existing Liberty Canyon Road freeway underpass or the proposed dedicated freeway overpass.

The Third Supervisorial District has expressed an interest in helping to fund some of these parcels based on opportunity sales. In order to expedite the availability of Proposition A funds for said opportunity purchases by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), the Conservancy must authorize the assignment of Specified Excess Funds to the MRCA. The proposed action would authorize the assignment of up to \$1,100,000 of Proposition A Specified Excess Funds to the MRCA for the potential acquisition of APNs 2052-009-270, 2052-013-040, 2052-013-041 and 042 on the north side of the freeway and APNs 2064-006-019 and 016 and 2064-006-001 on the south side. The final dollar amount and parcels funded by this source must be approved by the Supervisor's office. The above parcels are shown on the attached map.

The Liberty Canyon cross-101-Freeway wildlife corridor is the most ecologically significant habitat linkage between the Santa Monica Mountains and the Simi Hills. No additional fee simple protected land has been added to this regional inter-mountain range wildlife corridor since approximately 2004 with the acquisition of the Abrams property on the south side of Agoura Road. The current extent of public lands in the wildlife corridor on both sides of the 101 Freeway are also shown on the attached figure.