

March 30, 2015; Agenda Item No. 13

Resolution No. 15-16

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY AUTHORIZING A GRANT OF PROPOSITION 84 FUNDS TO THE ARROYOS AND FOOTHILLS CONSERVANCY FOR THE PREPARATION OF A CONCEPTUAL AREA PROTECTION PLAN COVERING A PORTION OF THE RIM OF THE VALLEY CORRIDOR FROM BIG TUJUNGA WASH, VERDUGO MOUNTAINS, SAN RAFAEL HILLS, AND UPPER ARROYO SECO

WHEREAS, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is authorized to award grants to non-profit organizations pursuant to Section 33204.2(a) 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 Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy has made a request for a 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 construction of facilities or structures; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 75005(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 of 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 plant 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, pursuant to 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, pursuant to 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, pursuant to 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, pursuant to Section 75003.5 of the Public Resources Code states that the growth in 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 well greater water use efficiency and conservation to reduce energy consumption; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project is consistent with the Rim of the Valley Corridor Plan and the San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan (Common Ground); 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 system, and link key habitat areas strategically to protect species and ecosystems through acquisition and cooperation with other resource management agencies; and

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

WHEREAS, the proposed project implements the goals stated in Proposition 84, Chapters 5 and 7, Sections 75050(g)(2); and

WHEREAS, the proposed action is being taken subject to approval of the grant for compliance with the General Obligation Bond Law; 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 the proposed action is consistent with the *Rim of the Valley Corridor Plan* and the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan (Common Ground)* as adopted by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.
2. FINDS that the proposed action is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
3. FINDS that the proposed action is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives.
4. FINDS that the proposed project implements the goals stated in Proposition 84.
5. ADOPTS the staff report and recommendation dated March 30, 2015.
6. ADOPTS all of the preceding whereas clauses.
7. AUTHORIZES a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy in the amount of \$16,667 for the preparation of an Eastern Rim of the Valley Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP).
8. FURTHER AUTHORIZES the Chairperson to perform any and all acts necessary to carry out this resolution; without limiting the generality of the foregoing, such 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.

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~ End of Resolution ~

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, regularly noticed and held according to law, on the 30th day of March, 2015 at Thousand Oaks, California.

Dated: 3/30/15

Executive Director