

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: April 27, 2015

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 20: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Malibu Canyon Tributaries and Adjacent Watersheds project planning and design work.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Malibu Canyon Tributaries and Adjacent Watersheds project planning and design work in the coastal watersheds of Santa Monica Bay in the amount of \$25,000.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204.2(a), 33204.27(a), and 75060(d)(1) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has submitted the attached application for a project planning and design grant in the major portion of the Malibu Canyon watershed with the minor partial inclusion of some adjacent watersheds. A map of the proposed grant area is attached. It includes key, but limited areas north of the 101 freeway and as far west as upper Triunfo Canyon. To the east it includes all of the Cold Creek and Stokes Canyon watersheds. The most prominent adjacent watershed area included is lower Puerco Canyon.

The application makes a strong case to support vital pre-acquisition and acquisition work for the many gaps between existing protected lands in this core watershed. There is such a high concentration of protected lands and viewsheds in this central hub of the Santa Monica Mountains that no opportunity should be missed to accept donations, dedications, trail easements, and bargain sales. Much of the subject area is within the Santa Monica Mountains Coastal Zone boundary. The MRCA has a proven track record of delivering significant real estate interests into the public domain in the subject area.

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