

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: April 27, 2015

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 21: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Eastern Santa Susana Mountains - Western San Gabriel Mountains Watersheds project planning and design work, Los Angeles River watershed.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Eastern Santa Susana Mountains - Western San Gabriel Mountains Watersheds project planning and design work in the Upper Los Angeles River watershed in the amount of \$85,000.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204.2(a), 33204.27(a) 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 covering a section of the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor zone from Rocky Peak Park in the Santa Susana Mountains to the eastern flank of Big Tujunga Canyon in the San Gabriel Mountains. A map of the proposed grant area is attached. Many miles of the proposed and existing Rim of the Valley Trail are located in this project boundary. The proposed grant work area includes all undeveloped parcels between the developed edge of the San Fernando Valley northward to the Los Angeles River watershed divide.

The application makes a strong case to support vital pre-acquisition and acquisition work within a complex set of remaining private properties that abut many different valley communities. The subject band of Upper Los Angeles River watershed tributaries provides critical airshed, watershed, viewshed, and recreational resources to hundreds of thousands of people. By the I5 State Route 14 split and along the 118 freeway the project area is part of inter-mountain range-cross freeway habitat linkage areas.

Through Los Angeles County Proposition A, Proposition 1, and potentially state cap and trade funding, there is a high likelihood of significant capital funding being available over the next two years to acquire natural lands in this project area. This grant should leverage significant acquisition funding within the proposed two year project timeline. The MRCA has a proven track record of delivering significant real estate interests, including trail rights, into the public domain in the subject area.