

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 1, 2015

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 14: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Escondido Canyon Public Access project planning and design work, City of Malibu and unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Escondido Canyon Public Access project planning and design work in the amount of \$50,000.

Legislative Authority: Section 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 for Escondido Canyon within the City of Malibu and unincorporated Los Angeles County. A map of the proposed scope area is attached. The area includes the Conservancy and MRCA owned Escondido Canyon Park, the area in the immediate vicinity of the park, the parking lot at Pacific Coast Highway, and a portion of Latigo Canyon Road. The MRCA proposes to study additional public access opportunities to Escondido Canyon Park to relieve the over burdened access at Winding Way.

The application makes a strong case for the need to expand public access to Escondido Canyon Park. Access to the park has become highly challenged due to a high volume of visitors which has resulted in the over burdening of Winding Way. Currently, park access is provided via a small parking lot located at the intersection of Winding Way and Pacific Coast Highway. The parking lot often reaches full capacity which prompts visitors to park along the highway shoulder. Visitors must walk for approximately one mile further inland along Winding Way in order to reach the park.

Additional access routes exist via under-used trail easements along other roadways within the vicinity and especially at Latigo Canyon Road. A new trailhead at Latigo Canyon Road will connect a portion of the Coastal Slope Trail through Escondido Canyon Park to the National Park Service-owned Solstice Canyon Park in the east. Furthermore, the public will benefit from expansion opportunities for the existing parking lot and capitalization of the under-used trail easements. The MRCA will study all such access opportunities and present an action plan

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to expand access to Escondido Canyon Park.