

April 27, 2015; Agenda Item No. 17

Resolution No. 15-26

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY AUTHORIZING A GRANT OF PROPOSITION 40 FUNDS TO THE CITY PROJECT TO RESEARCH AND COMPLETE ANALYSIS OF CONSERVANCY FUNDED EDUCATION AND INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMMING SERVING DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES.

WHEREAS, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is authorized to award grants to non profit organizations pursuant to Sections 33204.2 of the Public Resources Code; and

WHEREAS, The State of California has authorized and expenditure of funds from Proposition 40, the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for capital outlay and grants; and

WHEREAS, section 5096.605(c) of the Public Resources Code provides that "development" includes but is not limited to , improvement, rehabilitation, restoration, enhancement, preservation, protection, and interpretation; and

WHEREAS, section 5096.605(j) of the Public Resources Code provides that "preservation" means identification, evaluation, recordation, documentation, interpretation, protection, rehabilitation, restoration, stabilization, development, and reconstruction, or any combination of those activities; and

WHEREAS, section 5096.605(j) of the Public Resources Code provides funding to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for grants related to the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration, and protection of land, air, and water resources; and

WHEREAS, The City Project has requested a grant from Proposition 40 for evaluation and analysis of state funded education and interpretive programming for disadvantaged communities;

WHEREAS, Section 33204.5 of the Public Resources Code states that the Conservancy shall implement a program to provide recreational access from downtown Los Angeles and the inner city in order to provide recreational opportunities for all income and ethnic groups wishing to enjoy the Santa Monica Mountains; and

WHEREAS ,the interpretation of land, air, and water resources is critical to the park visitor experience; and

WHEREAS, The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives to expand the agency's efforts to integrate nature into the urban environment and expand education, public access, and resource stewardship in a manner that best serves the public, protects habitats and provides recreational opportunities; 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 protects land, air, and water resources; 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 that the proposed action is consistent with the *Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan* and the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan* as adopted by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.
2. FINDS that the proposed action is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives.
3. FINDS that the proposed action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
5. ADOPTS the staff report and recommendations dated April 27, 2015 for this item.
6. ADOPTS all of the preceding whereas clauses.
7. AUTHORIZES a grant of Proposition 40 funds to the City Project in the amount of \$75,000.
8. FURTHER AUTHORIZES the Chairperson to execute the grant agreement and 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, duly noticed and held according to law, on the 27th day of April, 2015 at Los Angeles, California.

Dated:

Executive Director

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: April 27, 2015

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 17: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 40 funds to the City Project to research and complete an analysis of Conservancy funded education and interpretation programs serving disadvantaged communities.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 40 funds to the City Project to research and complete an analysis of Conservancy funded education and interpretation programs serving disadvantaged communities.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204.2 of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (the Conservancy) has funded the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to develop and operate programs to increase public access to public parkland and serve disadvantaged communities, through programming at both urban and open space parks. The MRCA has developed such programming using best practices of interpretation and environmental education found in current social science research to strategically address the barriers to park and program use that face urban, under represented and disadvantaged communities.

While the MRCA staff does regular internal program evaluation, that evaluation has primarily focused on goals, objectives and outcomes of education and interpretation. This grant proposes that the City Project act as an external evaluator which will review and analyze MRCA programs through an environmental justice lens. The City Project is a leading advocate for environmental justice in Los Angeles and is uniquely qualified for this work as it has extensive knowledge of issues facing urban people of color in regards to access and equity issues related to parks.

The deliverables for this project include a literature review of current academic and practitioner research on barriers to parks and nature for urban, under represented people of color; a memorandum advancing best practices based on that research; an analysis of MRCA state funded programs and recommendations regarding changes or additions to programming based on that research; and a presentation at a national conference on findings.

Analysis–Proposition 40

The “California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002” (Proposition 40) allocated \$40 million to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration, and protection of land and water resources in accordance with the Conservancy Act. The California Attorney General has previously advised the Conservancy that Proposition 40 bond proceeds may be used for preservation which, as defined in the bond act, includes interpretation, protection, rehabilitation, restoration, evaluation, documentation, stabilization, development or reconstruction or any combination of those activities. Proposition 40 also defines “development” to include “improvement, rehabilitation, restoration, enhancement, preservation, protection, and interpretation.”

In the General Provisions of the Proposition, the Legislature declares that “to maintain a high quality of life for California’s growing population requires a continuing investment in parks, recreation facilities, and in the protection of the state’s natural and historical resources.”

As outlined in the application, the proposed project is consistent with Proposition 40. The activity proposed is both evaluation and documentation which is found in the preservation definition.. This project will ensure that the MRCA continues to provide interpretive programming that is relevant and meaningful to under served and under represented disadvantaged communities throughout Los Angeles.

Analysis–Consistency with Plans

The proposed grant is consistent with all applicable plans, including the *Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Strategic Plan* and the *Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan*.

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Strategic Plan

The *Santa Monica Mountains Strategic Plan*, adopted in 1997, identifies the Conservancy's goals. The requested grant meets the following goals of the *Strategic Plan*.

Implement the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan: The project is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan as described below.

Expand Efforts to Integrate Nature into the Urban Environment by linking and integrating new natural parks into existing park system—literally via transportation and physical linkages, thematically via programs and events. The deliverables from this grant will ensure that such efforts utilize best practice in reaching disadvantaged communities.

Expand Education, Public Access, and Resource Stewardship Components by increasing resource stewardship and educational/interpretative capabilities within the Zone. The best practices document that is a deliverable from this report will aide grantees in ensuring that programming is addressing barriers to access and participation from disadvantaged communities.

Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan, 1979

The project achieves the following Plan objectives:

- Provide for public parks and facilities in the Santa Monica Mountains that offer a variety of recreation opportunities accessible to all income groups;
- Emphasize the value of open space, conservation, and recreation compatible with the resources of the Santa Monica Mountains;
- Develop innovative public transportation alternatives within the frame-work of existing roadways for access to the Santa Monica Mountains in ways that will protect the environment, maintain air quality, efficiently deliver public services, and assure maximum access to the recreation areas for all the public.

Consideration: The application from the City Project is for \$75, 000 of Proposition 40 funds.

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
GRANT APPLICATION**

Project Name: City Project Interpretation Research and Evaluation	Amount of Request: \$ 75,000 Total Project Cost: \$ 75,000						
Applicant Name: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority	Amount of Match: \$ 0 Source of Match:						
Applicant Address: 1055 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1660 Los Angeles, CA 90017	Project Address:						
Phone: 213) 977-1035 Fax: (213) 977-5457	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">County</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Senate District</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Assembly District</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Los Angeles</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Multiple</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Multiple</td> </tr> </table>	County	Senate District	Assembly District	Los Angeles	Multiple	Multiple
County	Senate District	Assembly District					
Los Angeles	Multiple	Multiple					
Email: Amy.Lethbridge@mrca.ca.gov							
Grantee's Authorized Representative:							
Robert Garcia, Executive Director _____	(213) 977-1035 _____						
<i>Name and Title</i>	<i>Phone</i>						
Person with day-to-day responsibility for project:							
Amy Lethbridge, Deputy Executive Officer _____	323-221-9944 xt 188 _____						
<i>Name and Title</i>	<i>Phone</i>						
Funding Source Applied for: Proposition 84 – Santa Monica Bay Watershed							
Narrative/Project Description:							
<p>As the demographics of Southern California change, parks need to change to meet the needs of the people. California's Latino population is projected to grow from 38% in 2010 to 45% in 2040. "Millennials" born between 1980 and 2000 constituted 29% of California's population in 2010, and represent the single largest generation in human history. Latinos are more heavily represented of younger people. Among millennials, 46% were Latinos in 2010, while 51% of 12 year olds were Latinos. In addition, Californians increasingly live in cities. In 2010, 61% of Californians were clustered in three urban areas; by 2050, that number is projected to grow to 76%.</p> <p>This grant will provided evaluation and documentation regarding Conservancy funded interpretive programming designed to increase public access and enjoyment to public parkland and address the barriers to natural areas experienced by urban, people of color. The deliverables for this project includes a literature review of current academic and practitioner research on barriers to parks and nature for urban, under represented people of color; a memorandum advancing best practices based on that research; an analysis of MRCA state funded programs and recommendations regarding changes or additions to programming based on that research; and a presentation at a national conference on findings.</p>							
Tasks / Milestones:	Budget:	Completion Date					
1 Literature review	\$20,000	June 30, 2016					
2 Best Practices Memorandum	\$ 8,500	June 30, 2016					
3 Analysis of MRCA state funded programming	\$30,000	June 30, 2016					
4 Recommendations	\$ 8,500	June 30, 2016					
5 Presentation of findings	\$ 8,000	June 30, 2016					

Acquisition Projects:

Acreage:

I certify that the information contained in this Grant Application form, including required attachments, is accurate.



Signature of Authorized Representative

April 21, 2015

Date

Interim Form SMM-001