

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 29, 2015

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 9(a): Consideration of resolution authorizing an amendment to Resolution No. 15-26 to the City Project, changing the funding sources from Proposition 40 to Proposition 84.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing an amendment to Resolution No. 15-26.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204.2 of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (the Conservancy) Resolution No. 15-26 dated April 27, 2015 authorized a grant of Proposition 40 funds to the City Project to 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.

Upon further analysis, Proposition 84 is a more appropriate funding source for this grant.

Prop 84 Analysis: Proposition 84 defines “protection” as “those actions necessary to all the continued use and enjoyment of property or natural resources” and includes interpretation as a means of doing so (Section 75005(m)).

Interpretation, as defined in the measure, 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” (Public Resources Code Section 75005(i)).

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Programs specifically designed for urban communities is an important part of the Conservancy's mission. The Conservancy statute, Section 33204.5 of the Public Resources code, says "The Conservancy shall implement a program to provide recreational opportunities for all income and ethnic groups wishing to enjoy the Santa Monica Mountains."

This grant will provide the Conservancy with an outside evaluation of interpretive programs.