

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: September 28, 2015

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 9(c): Consideration of resolution authorizing an amendment to scope of work for grant SMM-40-1517 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority from Proposition 40 for Puerco Canyon Project Planning and Design, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing an amendment to scope of work for grant SMM-40-1517 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority from Proposition 40 for Puerco Canyon Project Planning and Design, unincorporated Los Angeles.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204.2 and 33204.27 of the Public Resources Code.

Background: On March 30, 2015, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy approved a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for project planning and design activities for the Cameron Nature Preserve at Puerco Canyon. The work funded by that grant is specifically for the planning of an overnight camping facility for underserved and disadvantaged communities, including children in the Los Angeles County Foster Care system.

MRCA has made a request to amend the scope of work to include low-impact capital improvements to the property. Community engagement for the project began in summer 2015 with weekend tent camping trips on the site with disadvantaged and foster youth. Additional programs and events for community outreach related to the project are planned for the coming year. A primary operational concern for use of this location is the ability to quickly and safely react in case of an emergency, such as wildfire or mudslides. Currently, vehicular access from the park is provided via a narrow, unimproved dirt road that leads southward to Pacific Coast Highway. This road had little maintenance in the years before acquisition. There are a number of hiking trails that lead to neighboring parkland, but these too could use rehabilitation.

By most accounts, the 2015-16 season for precipitation is predicted to be worse than normal. To provide more public safety on the property staff proposes to make immediate low-impact capital improvements to the road and trails so that they may better weather the storms. In addition, the property's well and water tanks need to be upgraded to serve as a water supply in case of fire. Due to the rapidly-approaching winter, MRCA has requested that this work be

added to the scope of the existing grant.