

December 14, 2015; Agenda Item No. 12

Resolution No. 15-70

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY AUTHORIZING A GRANT OF PROPOSITION 1 FUNDS TO THE ARROYOS AND FOOTHILLS CONSERVANCY FOR ACQUISITION OF COTTONWOOD CANYON PARCELS, APPROXIMATELY 11 ACRES, CITY OF PASADENA

WHEREAS, The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is authorized to award grants to nonprofit organizations pursuant to Section 33204.2(a) of the Public Resources Code; and

WHEREAS, The State of California has authorized an expenditure of funds from Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for capital outlay and local assistance multi-benefit grants for ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects; and

WHEREAS, The Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy has requested a grant from Proposition 1, Section 79731(h) of the Water Code in the amount not to exceed \$688,482; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 79732(1) the proposed project meets the purpose of Proposition 1 to protect and increase the economic benefits arising from healthy watersheds, fishery resources, and instream flow; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 79732(1) the proposed project meets the purpose of Proposition 1 to implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on California's communities and ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 79732(1) the proposed project meets the purpose of Proposition 1 to protect and restore aquatic, wetland, and migratory bird ecosystems, including fish and wildlife corridors and the acquisition of water rights for instream flow.

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 79732(1) the proposed project meets the purpose of Proposition 1 to protect and restore rural and urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, forest health, protection of life and property, stormwater resource management, and greenhouse gas reduction; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 79732(1) the proposed project meets the purpose of Proposition 1 to reduce pollution or contamination of rivers, lakes, streams, or coastal waters, prevent and remediate mercury contamination from legacy mines, and protect or restore natural system functions that contribute to water supply, water quality, or flood management; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 79732(1) the proposed project meets the purpose of Proposition 1 to implement fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds tributary to water storage facilities, and promote watershed health; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 79732(1) the proposed project meets the purpose of Proposition 1 to assist in the recovery of endangered, threatened, or migratory species by improving watershed health, instream flows, fish passage, coastal or inland wetland restoration, or other means, such as natural community conservation plan and habitat conservation plan implementation; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project meets an objective of the California Water Action Plan for restoration of important species and habitat; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project meets the goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with AB 32; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project is consistent with the *Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan*, the *Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Plan*; and the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan*; and

WHEREAS, The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives to Implement the *Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan*, and *Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan*, and the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan*; and Expand efforts to integrate nature into the urban environment, Link and integrate new natural parks into existing park system, Create comprehensive, regional, and integrated trails plan, Develop long term capital improvement and maintenance plans, and Increase resource stewardship; 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 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 the proposed project meets at least one of the purposes of Proposition 1.

2. FINDS the proposed project meets at least one of the three objectives of the California Water Action Plan.
3. FINDS that the proposed action is consistent with the *Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan*, the *Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan*, and the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan* as adopted by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.
4. FINDS that the proposed action is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives.
5. FINDS that the proposed project implements the goals stated in Proposition 1.
6. FINDS that the proposed action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
7. ADOPTS the staff report and recommendations dated December 14, 2015 for this item.
8. ADOPTS all of the preceding whereas clauses.
9. AUTHORIZES a grant of Proposition 1 funds to the Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy in the amount of \$345,000 for the acquisition of Cottonwood Canyon parcels, approximately 11 acres in Pasadena.
10. 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 or she shall determine in the exclusive exercise of his or her 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.

~ End of Resolution ~

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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 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2015 at Los Angeles, California.

Dated:

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Executive Director