

## Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: January 11, 2016

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 13: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Fund to Community Partners for the benefit of the VerdeXchange Institute, Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant from the Conservancy Fund to Community Partners for the benefit of the VerdeXchange Institute.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204.2(a) of the Public Resources Code states:

The conservancy may award grants to nonprofit organizations qualified as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3)), . . . , to carry out improvements, maintenance, acquisitions, or educational interpretation programs that directly relate to a project that the conservancy is otherwise authorized to undertake pursuant to this division.

Background: Please see the attached grant application and supporting materials, including budget information, from Community Partners for the benefit of VerdeXchange Institute. The proposed grant from the Conservancy Fund is to be matched from other sources, including private donations, corporate sponsorships, and other agencies' support. VerdeXchange will hold a series of panels, videos and interviews covering: carbon trading and pricing, energy efficiency, project integration of solar, wind and water technologies, alternative powered transport, sustainable built environment case studies, waste to energy and more. The Conservancy is specifically funding the audio-visual recording of the sessions so as to make them available online. As a result, the public will gain a better understanding of the office holders and candidates plans for the urban landscape and the built environment, as well as be educated on bold and feasible solutions for environmental planning issues. The Conservancy Fund is the repository for a number of private donations and bequests, and is an appropriate source for the matching grant.