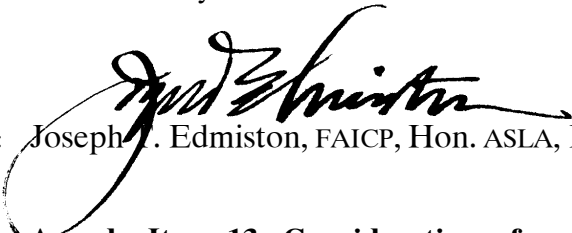


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 27, 2016

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 13: Consideration of resolution authorizing a Proposition 1 grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for acquisition of a Liberty Canyon tributary, APN 2064-006-001, Agoura Hills.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize a grant not to exceed \$50,000 in Proposition 1 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for acquisition of a .27-acre parcel, APN 2064-006-001 in the Liberty Canyon tributary of the Malibu Creek Watershed, south of the 101 Freeway in Agoura Hills.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204.2(a) and 33204.27(a) of the Public Resources Code; and Section 79731(h) of the Water Code.

Background: Please see the attached Proposition 1 grant application from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. The grant request is for funding the fee acquisition of a key .27 acre triangle-shaped parcel for implementation of the proposed Caltrans 101 Freeway wildlife overpass project for the Liberty Canyon inter-mountain range wildlife corridor. The parcel is near the headwaters of Liberty Canyon with 100 feet of USGS blueline stream, located between US 101, Vendell Road, and Agoura Road. A parcel to the east is owned by the Conservancy, and has been substantially restored by the MRCA. The subject parcel is valley oak riparian woodland, with one heritage-sized valley oak. Although small, the parcel is essential for the design and construction of the overpass. Also made possible by acquiring the parcel would be a multi-use trail that connects to Agoura Road, an existing MRCA trailhead, and into Malibu Creek State Park.

This small parcel collects stormwater runoff from 75 homes, 3500 feet of paved Agoura Road, 2800 feet of the eight-lane freeway, 75 acres of open space, and an office complex. Liberty Canyon is a tributary of Malibu Creek, which downstream of Rindge Dam supports a steelhead trout population, a Federally-listed endangered species.

Assuming the development potential of even one single-family home on the parcel, preservation of the lot would avoid up to 78 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year.

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Scoring under the Conservancy's adopted Proposition 1 Grant Project Land Acquisition Guidelines results in the Liberty Canyon Tributary project receiving 126 points (out of a possible 137; 96 minimum required), plus 18 out of 18 climate change value points, plus 23 out of 33 possible points under Additional Criteria. **Total points: 167** (out of possible 188).

Staff recommends award of \$50,000 for this project.