

# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 27, 2016

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 15: Consideration of resolution authorizing a Proposition 1 grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for acquisition of three or more Carbon Canyon Creek parcels, unincorporated Malibu area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize a grant not to exceed \$275,000 in Proposition 1 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for acquisition of three or more Carbon Canyon Creek parcels, each approximately 4.5 acres.

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 minimum of three 4.5-acre parcels out of ten potential parcels, all of which include a section of USGS blueline stream in the Carbon Canyon watershed. All of the potential parcels, offered by a willing seller(s), lie within the Los Angeles County-designated Santa Monica Mountains Significant Ecological Area (SEA). The canyon's coastal riparian woodland habitat and year-round water source are exceptional natural values to be conserved. MRCA owns 27 acres of protected land in the vicinity. Acquisition of three or more parcels would also assist implementation of a superior Coastal Slope Trail alignment, which could be accessed from an MTA bus stop on Pacific Coast Highway.

At present, at least 45 homes and 1.5 miles of paved streets upstream of the subject parcels drain into lower Carbon Canyon and out to Santa Monica Bay; 1000 feet of the blueline stream would be protected by the proposed grant project, filtering runoff from the developed areas above.

If this one parcel were to remain private and be developed, projected greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for a single-family residence could produce up to 159 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year. Acquisition for conservation will eliminate that GHG source.

Scoring under the Conservancy's adopted Proposition 1 Grant Project Land Acquisition Guidelines results in the Carbon Canyon Creek acquisition project receiving 126 points (out

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of a possible 137; 96 minimum required), plus 16 out of 18 climate change value points, plus 23 out of 33 possible points under Additional Criteria. **Total points: 165** (out of possible 188).

Staff recommends award of \$275,000 for this project.