

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 27, 2016

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 17: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 12 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for project planning and design services for inland and coastal trail and access projects, unincorporated Los Angeles County and City of Malibu.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 12 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for project planning and design services for inland and coastal trail and access projects in the amount of \$120,000, unincorporated Los Angeles County and City of Malibu.

Legislative Authority: Public Resources Code 33204.2(a) and 33204.27(a) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has submitted the attached comprehensive grant application for project planning and design services for inland and coastal trail and access projects, unincorporated Los Angeles County and City of Malibu. A map of the proposed grant area is attached. The proposed projects would meet the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's objectives. The MRCA has a proven track record of delivering significant real estate interests and public access improvements into the public domain in the subject area.

There are currently many opportunities on several fronts to promote access to and enjoyment of the coastal resources of the state in this portion of the Santa Monica Mountains in unincorporated Los Angeles County and Malibu areas. This grant would include tasks such as acquiring trail easements and fee simple parcels, designing public access improvements such as trails, and obtaining permits for such access projects.

A key way to maximize the potential connectivity of the north-south running canyons and parklands in this portion of the Santa Monica Mountains is by implementing the primary east-west trail connection via the Coastal Slope Trail. This grant would also enhance trail connections from the beach, to the Coastal Slope Trail and to the recently completed Backbone Trail. This grant could also include implementing portions of the Malibu Pacific Trail and other proposed trails shown on the City's draft trail maps for the City of Malibu Local Coastal Program. Some of these proposed trails within the grant area connect to the beach,

various beach access points, and the California Coastal Trail.

The grant could include planning for trails as well as other public access improvements (e.g., trailheads, restrooms, stairs, parking areas, signage, etc.). These potential projects not only would provide key recreational connections and opportunities, but also would maintain world-class views of the coast and mountains for the public.

Analysis - Proposition 12

The Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 (Proposition 12), Public Resources Code Section 5096.353, allocated funding to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for capital outlay and grants for the acquisition from a willing seller, enhancement, and restoration of natural lands, improvements of public recreation facilities, and for grants to local agencies and nonprofit organizations to increase access to parks and recreational opportunities for underserved urban communities. The proposed grant would fund project planning and design services for inland and coastal trail and access projects in a portion of the Santa Monica Mountains, unincorporated Los Angeles County and City of Malibu. This includes planning for acquisition of land and/or recreational easements and for improvements of public recreation facilities, and increasing access to parks and recreational opportunities for underserved urban communities.

Analysis - General Obligation Bond Law

The General Obligation Bond Law provides that bond funds may be used for the construction and acquisition of “capital assets.” Capital assets include major maintenance, reconstruction, demolition for purposes of reconstruction of facilities, and retrofitting work that is ordinarily done no more often than once every 5 to 15 years or expenditures that continue or enhance the useful life of the capital asset (Government Code Section 16727 [a]). Capital assets also includes equipment with an expected useful life of two years or more, and tangible physical property with an expected useful life of 10 to 15 years. Section 16727 (a) also allows bond funds to be used for costs that are incidentally but directly related to construction or acquisition including costs for planning, engineering, and other design work.

The proposed activities fall within the definition of “capital assets” or are incidentally but directly related to acquisition or construction, and therefore are proper under the General Obligation Bond Law.

Consideration: The application from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is for \$120,000 of Proposition 12 funds.