

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: July 18, 2016

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 15: Consideration of resolution authorizing augmentation of SMM-40-1267 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Towsley Canyon Acquisition, Santa Clarita Woodlands.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing augmentation of SMM-40-1267 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Towsley Canyon Acquisition, Santa Clarita Woodlands.

Background: The Conservancy authorized a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) on December 3, 2012 for the purchase of the remaining undivided interest in approximately 270 acres in Towsley Canyon (please see attached staff report). The Conservancy authorized an augmentation of the grant on November 4, 2013, to cover unanticipated title issue costs necessary to complete the acquisition.

As stated on these previous occasions, ownership issues of the remaining private interest in the property are complicated with many fractional ownerships. It required MRCA staff to work closely for many hours with counsel for the sellers. Litigation among the various parties and ownership groups caused further delay and unexpected cost increases.

At this time, all title and legal issues are resolved and both parties are ready to enter escrow for the remainder of the property. This final augmentation of \$20,000 will cover the now-established final escrow costs and appropriate MRCA personnel costs necessary to complete this acquisition. Conservancy staff had anticipated this small augmentation from Proposition 40 funds which can be used for projects in the Santa Clarita Woodlands area.