

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: October 24, 2016

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 14: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to acquire properties in Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector Chapter 8 Agreements, South Pasadena and east Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds in an amount not to exceed \$120,000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to acquire properties in Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector Chapter 8 Agreements in South Pasadena, Elephant Hill, Glassell Park, and El Pueblo to Griffith Park corridor.

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

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has submitted the attached grant application to acquire a specific set of seven parcels in two Los Angeles County Chapter 8 Agreements. The MRCA has acquired over 1,500 acres through this process. The parcels are located in the South Pasadena and City of Los Angeles portions of the Elephant Hill complex, Glassell Park, and in the El Pueblo to Griffith Park corridor just north of Elysian Park. Maps of the seven parcels are attached. The properties meet the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's objectives of securing open space in the Northeast Los Angeles Hilltops east of Interstate 5 and the Griffith Park to El Pueblo Corridor.

Chapter 8 Agreement 2731 contains two parcels in the City of South Pasadena portion of Elephant Hill. The parcels are both slightly less than a tenth of an acre and contain native woodland, coastal sage scrub, and chaparral vegetation elements. One parcel abuts City-owned open space and the other one helps create a chain of protected parcels from the City land southward to other public land.

Chapter 8 Agreement 2732 contains five parcels. One 0.5-acre parcel is located in the City of Los Angeles southern portion of Elephant Hill that secures a trailhead along Jennings Drive. There are three parcels in Glassell Park that are all approximately 0.12 acres each. Each supports annual grassland and includes a portion of a canyon bottom trail.

The last parcel (0.5 acres) is located just south of the 2 freeway on the south end of the Rosebud Avenue undercrossing. This undercrossing is the only means for larger wildlife to move across the 2 freeway to access Elysian Park from Griffith Park. Bobcats now live in Elysian Park. The property is only 400 feet from Elysian Park. The property is directly within the El Pueblo to Griffith Park Corridor.

The MRCA must have the funding available within 14 days of receiving demand letter from the County. That demand letter is expected in approximately two months. The MRCA cannot pick and choose parcels within an agreement. If the MRCA fails to pay for an agreement its ability to use the Chapter 8 process could be suspended or terminated. The proposed grant budget includes estimated County fees that are not fully determined until the last minute, and it includes \$5,000 to pay for legal and planning staff time to complete the acquisitions as well as any contingencies.

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