

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: December 12, 2016

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 9: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 funds to the Trust for Public Land to acquire a conservation easement between Runyon Canyon Park and Trebek Open Space, approximately 10.2 acres (APN 5571-025-042), Curson Canyon tributary to Ballona Creek watershed, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize a grant not to exceed \$700,000 in Proposition 1 funds to the Trust for Public Land (TPL) for acquisition of the approximately 10 acre conservation easement over APN 5571-025-042 in the Curson Canyon tributary to the Ballona Creek watershed.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204.2(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 Trust for Public Land. The grant request is for funding a portion of the approximately total \$2,473,000 acquisition cost of the conservation easement over 10 + acres in the Hollywood Hills between Runyon Canyon Park and the Trebek Open Space. An easement will eliminate development of up to four residential lots that would otherwise have significant impacts on this popular open space area and chaparral habitat, including loss of viewshed, park buffer, wildlife movement, and creation of impermeable surfaces with runoff and sedimentation impacts. The adjacent City of Los Angeles Runyon Canyon Park receives up to 2 million hikers and visitors annually. The property has for 30 years been listed as a priority for protection in the Runyon Canyon Master Plan. TPL has secured matching funding from Los Angeles County Proposition A funds and private fund-raising.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority has tentatively agreed to assume the easement once the property is acquired by TPL. Assuming the potential of four dwelling units, preservation of the property would avoid up to 1,340,653 pounds of CO₂, or 608 metric tons.

Scoring under the Conservancy's adopted Proposition 1 Grant Project Land Acquisition Guidelines results in the Runyon Canyon-adjacent easement project receiving 96 points (out of a possible 137; 96 minimum required), plus 15 out of 18 climate change value points, plus 23 out of 33 possible points under Additional Criteria. **Total points: 132** (out of possible 188). Staff recommends award of \$700,000 for this project.