

# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: March 27, 2017

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 17: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Laurel Canyon Watershed Acquisition Project, APN 5562-006-020, Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize a grant not to exceed \$1,010,000 in Proposition 1 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for acquisition of approximately 17.38 acres, APN 5562-006-020, in the Laurel Canyon watershed of the eastern Santa Monica Mountains.

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 for a detailed description, photos, and maps. The grant request is for \$1,010,000 to match \$100,000 in Los Angeles County Proposition A funds and \$520,000 in private funds in order to acquire this 17.38 acre property, which is the anchor parcel for a 50-acre key habitat bloc in the Laurel Canyon watershed, between Lookout Mountain Drive and Stanley Hills Drive. The property is subject of the “Let’s Buy a Mountain” campaign spearheaded by members of the Laurel Canyon Association and the nonprofit Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW). It is the watershed for springs at the intersection of the two roads, in addition to healthy chaparral and mixed oak woodland habitat, a trail, and outstanding scenic views. Preservation of the parcel is essential to permanent protection of the east-west wildlife habitat linkage through the eastern Santa Monica Mountains into Griffith Park (which mountain lion P-22 currently inhabits).

With a zoning designation allowing up to one large home and guest house, preservation of the property would avoid greenhouse gas emissions of at least 148,217.44 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>, or 67 metric tons.

Scoring under the Conservancy’s adopted Proposition 1 Grant Project Land Acquisition Guidelines results in the Laurel Canyon Watershed Acquisition Project receiving 115 points (out of a possible 137; 96 minimum required), plus 18 out of 18 climate change value points, plus 28 out of 33 possible points under Additional Criteria. **Total points: 161**(out of a possible 188). Staff recommends award of \$1,010,000 for this project.