

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
GRANT APPLICATION**

Agenda Item 14
SMMC
5/22/17

Project Name: Nine Santa Monica Mountains Coastal Subwatershed Protection Plans PP&D	Amount of Request: \$375,000						
Applicant Name: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority	Total Project Cost: \$375,000 Matching Funds: -0- Lat/Long: *see below						
Applicant Address: 570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100 Los Angeles, CA 90065	Project Address: Santa Monica Mountains						
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>County</td> <td>Senate District</td> <td>Assembly District</td> </tr> <tr> <td align="center">Los Angeles</td> <td align="center">27</td> <td align="center">50</td> </tr> </table>	County	Senate District	Assembly District	Los Angeles	27	50
	County	Senate District	Assembly District				
Los Angeles	27	50					
Phone: 310-589-3230, ext. 121 Email: judi.tamasi@mrca.ca.gov	Tax ID: 77-0112367						

Grantee's Authorized Representative:

Amy Lethbridge, Deputy Executive Officer 323-221-9944, ext. 188
Name and Title *Phone*

Overhead Allocation Notice:

- ✓ Any overhead costs will be identified as a separate line item in the budget and invoices.
- ✓ The Conservancy encourages grantees to reduce overhead costs including vehicle and phone expenses.
- ✓ The overhead allocation policy has been submitted prior to or with the grant application.

All check boxes must be checked

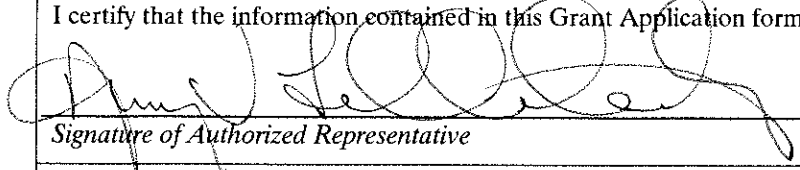
Project Description:
This proposed Proposition 1 Project Planning and Design project will produce parcel-specific wildland-development interface watershed protection plans for portions of nine coastal watersheds. Such plans will identify the most important areas to protect water and riparian resources in the nine subject canyons. Most often those resources are located at lower elevations where development is concentrated and by the proposed coastal slope trail zone. Work strategy includes buffering and expanding existing protected public lands. Plans will provide park and regulatory agencies land protection blueprints to guide entitlements and expenditures.

*Lat/Long of project area perimeter: 34° 3'33.83"N, 118°53'34.58"W; 34° 3'33.83"N, 118°53'34.58"W; 34° 2'49.63"N, 118°52'19.75"W; 34° 2'19.05"N, 118°47'27.26"W; 34° 2'16.70"N, 118°46'31.37"W; 34° 2'27.30"N, 118°46'4.13"W; 34° 2'41.13"N, 118°44'54.45"W; 34° 3'52.26"N, 118°44'48.97"W; 34° 3'54.58"N, 118°44'18.13"W; 34° 2'39.85"N, 118°44'14.39"W; 34° 2'17.39"N, 118°43'13.08"W

Tasks / Milestones:	Budget:	Completion Date
Property Acquisition	-0-	December 2018
Staff Time (Legal and Planning)	\$300,000	
Appraisals, Title Reports, Appraisal Reviews and Survey Work	\$75,000	

For Acquisition Projects: APN(s): See attached maps
Acreage: 3,201

I certify that the information contained in this Grant Application form, including required attachments, is accurate.

 4-19-17
Signature of Authorized Representative *Date*

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NARRATIVE

The requested grant funding from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1) is for project planning and design to protect key water sources, their associated riparian habitats, and buffers within nine coastal watersheds in the Santa Monica Mountains. The project area consists of the lower and middle portions of nine coastal watersheds listed below where key perennial water sources are present. These are all large, ecologically-important regions in close proximity to high development areas in the lower to middle portions of the subject watersheds, including in the City of Malibu. These key water sources are a riparian refuge for mammals of all sizes, birds and raptors, amphibians, and reptiles, especially in times of drought when the upper reaches of these watersheds are dry. Protection of this vital resource requires buffering key water sources from existing and future development through preservation of wildlands surrounding the subject water sources. Land preservation limits further encroachments at the interface between wildland and development, and allows for undisturbed streamflow, which will result in improved water quality and ecosystem health. The project area includes the following coastal watersheds that straddle the City of Malibu and unincorporated County of Los Angeles:

Watershed	Total Linear Feet of Blue Line Streams (ft)	Number of Parcels (all or part)	Total Acreage
1. Decker/Los Alisos Canyon	1,000	30	239
2. Lachusa Canyon	6,149	23	289
3. Encinal Canyon	9,612	33	436
4. Ramirez Canyon	2,900	27	243
5. Escondido Canyon	3,079	55	532
6. Latigo Canyon	15,255	33	590
7. Solstice/Dry Canyon	8,378	25	573
8. Corral Canyon	1,420	17	116
9. Puerco Canyon	4,730	20	212

The project area, described in further detail below and in the attached figures, is focused around development clusters that are in close proximity to a water source. These water sources and their associated riparian habitat exhibit a chokehold as development intensifies towards the shoreline, which has severely impacted the coastal ecosystem and hydrology of each subject watershed. Also, these middle to lower portions of the blue line streams pick up more perennial water (compared with upper portions) and serve as a riparian refuge for wildlife. These lower portions of the streams are jewels in the watersheds – they form the ecologically richest habitat on a per acre basis, particularly in light of drought and climate change. The lands surrounding these streams are the key to providing a protective buffer between water sources and developments as well as a riparian refuge for wildlife. Preservation of the undeveloped lands in the watersheds will prevent further impediments to streamflow, adverse impacts to habitat, and further encroachments into the subject watersheds.

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This proposed Proposition 1 Project Planning and Design project will prepare parcel specific and sub-parcel specific land protection blueprints for the subject coastal watersheds in the Santa Monica Mountains. The proposed baseline product of each plan includes detailed graphics with supportive text to identify the undeveloped lands in the watersheds that must be protected to preserve the blue line streams and maintain an adequate protective buffer between key water sources and existing and future development. Employing as many factors as possible, strategies will be laid out to achieve adequate protection through the entitlement process or by voluntary donations. More specifically, land protection can occur via fee simple acquisition, conservation easements, and deed restrictions in favor of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA). Planners at local jurisdictions can utilize these land protection plans to facilitate the entitlement process. Planners can easily identify in the plans the key undeveloped lands to protect in the subject watersheds when reviewing proposed developments and negotiating with applicants regarding areas and methods for open space protection.

The goal is to protect clusters of key open space lands in the watershed as close as possible to the blue line streams. An additional benefit of this project would be to enhance existing public access, and facilitate new public access, in the watersheds of these ecologically rich streams and riparian habitats with high interpretive value. This includes facilitating the planning and development of the regionally-significant Coastal Slope Trail.

The lower and middle portions of each coastal watershed are demonstratively different, yet they all face similar development threats. In some cases, the water sources are already on protected land, but in several other cases existing development clusters are within several feet of some water sources. The protection plan for each coastal watershed will identify specific parcels or portions of parcels that are conducive to creating an adequate buffer between the subject water source and development. Tools used to prepare the protection plans include: direct communications with property owners, analysis of title reports, application of multiple Geographic Information System (GIS) layers, integration of all available City of Malibu and County of Los Angeles data, and extensive site reconnaissance. The baseline data included for each coastal watershed will show all directly related development impacts on water sources, habitat quality, wildlife movement, and existing and/or potential recreational resources.

The proposed budget includes substantial funding to conduct both fee simple and conservation easement appraisals as part of the work scope. The real-time availability of land valuations can be critical information to guide strategies and maximize participation from willing landowners. Each plan will provide an informative foundation to begin (or continue ongoing) negotiations with landowners as potential funding or landowner interest in charitable land donations arise. Every landowner involved will be aware of this protection effort as part of the process. In every respect, implementation

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of the effort begins with the first landowner contact. Effective outreach from this proposed project is essential to the long-term viability of the subject coastal watersheds in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Monitoring and reporting on the progress and effectiveness of the project will occur via written project status reports.

Coastal Watersheds in the Project Area

The subject coastal watersheds straddle the City of Malibu and unincorporated County of Los Angeles in the Santa Monica Mountains. Each watershed is described in more detail as follows.

The Decker/Los Alisos Canyon and Lachusa watersheds span both sides of Decker Road in the western Santa Monica Mountains. These two canyons contain blue line streams. MRCA-owned Carrillo Memorial Park contains a portion of Los Alisos Canyon blue line stream and forms a protected block of land on the western slope of the canyon. Charmlee Wilderness Park, owned by City of Malibu and managed by MRCA, is on the eastern slope of Lachusa Canyon. A small portion of the blue line stream traverses the northwestern corner of the park. National Park Service (NPS)-owned parkland (Malibu Springs), just north of Pacific Coast Highway, contains a portion of the Lachusa Canyon blue line stream and covers part of both watersheds. Public access is currently available on these parklands. The Coastal Slope Trail is proposed to connect Carrillo Memorial Park with Charmlee Wilderness Park at the northern ends of the project area for these two watersheds.

Within the Decker/Los Alisos Canyon and Lachusa watersheds, development is currently scattered along Decker Road, by the northern end of the Decker/Los Alisos Canyon project area, along Decker Edison Road, and along South Fosse Road (north of the Lachusa Canyon project area). Protection of land is warranted over undeveloped portions of the already developed parcels, and over undeveloped parcels within the project area for these two watersheds. Although some of the blue line streams are already protected in parkland, it is critical to permanently protect other key open space lands in the project area in order to maintain the overall ecological integrity of these riparian ecosystems.

The Encinal Canyon Watershed spans both sides of Encinal Canyon Road in the western Santa Monica Mountains. The blue line stream, including a tributary, traverses through Los Angeles County-owned "Banyon" open space. Charmlee Wilderness Park covers part of the western slope of the Encinal Canyon Watershed. The Coastal Slope Trail is proposed to connect these parklands through the project area. Development is clustered along Encinal Canyon Road and Noranda Lane, north of the project area. It is critical to protect much of the open space land in the lower portion of this watershed in

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order to maintain the overall ecological integrity of the riparian ecosystem sandwiched between existing parkland, with development encroaching from the north.

Ramirez Canyon, Escondido Canyon, and Latigo Canyon watersheds extend from Kanan Dume Road to the eastern side of Latigo Canyon Road. Existing developments cover most of the southern portions of these subject watersheds while several other residential developments are clustered along major north-south oriented arterial roadways such as Kanan Dume Road, Ramirez Canyon Road, Murphy Way (DeButts Terrace), and Latigo Canyon Road. Blue line streams and their tributaries run closely to these roadways and bisect the development clusters in some places. These streams are choked by development in their southern reaches near the ocean. Yet, more developments are anticipated on the remaining undeveloped lands containing vital habitat and perennial water sources. Ramirez Canyon Park and Escondido Canyon Park are nestled among the undeveloped lands and existing development clusters. The Coastal Slope Trail is proposed to connect these parklands and MRCA-owned property adjacent to Latigo Canyon Road through the project area.

The Solstice/Dry Canyon and Corral Canyon watersheds consist of the areas surrounding and including NPS-owned Solstice Canyon Park, and MRCA-owned Corral Canyon Park and adjacent lands. The Coastal Slope Trail is proposed in the southern portion of Solstice/Dry Canyon to connect Solstice Canyon Park and Corral Canyon Park through the project area. The lower and middle portions of these two canyons contain a couple of development clusters along Corral Canyon Road and other developments located sparsely throughout the lower and middle portions of Solstice/Dry Canyon. Corral Canyon Park covers the majority of the Corral Canyon watershed. Streams in Corral Canyon are afforded protection within Corral Canyon Park. Within Solstice/Dry Canyon, blue line streams and their tributaries run through Solstice Canyon Park and portions of unprotected open space. A blue line stream that runs along the southwestern flank of Solstice/Dry Canyon is at high risk of adverse impacts as several paved and unpaved roads in this area indicate development potential. In addition, protection is warranted around the existing development clusters along Corral Canyon Road to maintain the existing natural buffers between water sources in the area and the development clusters.

Puerco Canyon is a smaller but almost completely protected watershed. The headwaters of blue line streams and tributaries are almost entirely under public ownership. The vulnerable area is situated between the MRCA-owned Cameron Nature Preserve and Pacific Coast Highway. The most extensive oak-sycamore riparian woodland is found on this more level coastal shelf area. Fortunately the ownerships are large and few. The watershed is situated in the southeast corner of the 23.1 square-mile Central Santa Monica Mountains Core Habitat that is not bisected by a single paved road.

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BUDGET

The proposed Proposition 1 grant request and total project budget is \$375,000. All work will be performed by MRCA staff with the exception of real estate appraisers.

TIMELINE

The proposed grant expenditure to prepare a land protection blueprint for the subject coastal watersheds will be completed by the end of December 2018.

RESPONSE TO EVALUATION CRITERIA

Project achieves the purposes of Proposition 1 per Water Code Section 79732(a).

The proposed acquisition project involves the protection and restoration of California streams and watersheds. The proposed acquisition project achieves seven (7) Proposition 1 purposes:

1) Protect and increase the economic benefits arising from healthy watersheds, fishery resources, and instream flow.

The proposed project will directly contribute to the protection of land that contain or are in proximity to key perennial water sources in the lower and middle portions of the nine subject coastal watersheds in the Santa Monica Mountains. That land protection will secure several sensitive watershed areas directly adjacent to streams, and maintain the natural buffer between water sources and both existing and future development. In addition, this land protection will ensure undisturbed streamflow, unimpeded rainfall infiltration, and unpolluted surface runoff from the surrounding wildlands, all of which benefit downstream water quality and increase watershed health. Furthermore, the subject coastal watersheds contain regionally significant biological, scenic, and recreational resources. Land preservation within the subject watersheds, especially in proximity to key perennial water sources, can positively contribute to the economic values of these resources.

4) Protect and restore aquatic, wetland, and migratory bird ecosystems, including fish and wildlife corridors and the acquisition of water rights for instream flow.

The proposed project will directly contribute to the protection of land that contain or are in proximity to key perennial water sources and their associated riparian habitat. Land preservation will maintain the natural protective buffer between the subject water sources and both existing and future development in each subject watershed. Opportunities for habitat restoration and streamflow enhancement on these lands will benefit wildlife and streamflow by allowing for a habitat refuge away from nearby

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development, wildlife movement across canyons, and reduced human impacts on both water quality and impediments to streamflow.

8) Implement fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds tributary to water storage facilities, and promote watershed health.

The proposed project actions are all directly related to long-term watershed health and improved water quality as the protection of land will maintain rainwater infiltration and groundwater recharge over a cumulatively large expanse of land, thereby helping to sustain water storage capacity of each subject watershed. In addition, land preservation will prevent development from encroaching further into the subject watersheds, which will allow natural hydrological and ecological processes to function without disturbance.

9) Protect and restore rural and urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, forest health, protection of life and property, stormwater resource management, and greenhouse gas reduction.

The project area consists of rural and urban development envelopes that are increasingly expanding further into the subject coastal watersheds. The proposed project will directly contribute to the long-term health of these watersheds through protection of land that contain or are in proximity to key perennial water sources and their associated riparian habitat, which can serve as a habitat refuge for wildlife away from development. This protection will maintain rainwater infiltration and groundwater recharge over a cumulatively large expanse of land, thereby helping to sustain water storage capacity of each subject watershed. In addition, maintaining the natural buffer between water sources and development through land preservation ensures undisturbed streamflow and unpolluted surface runoff from the surrounding wildlands, both of which benefit downstream water quality. Furthermore, the protection of these lands ensures the presence of a carbon sink (sequestration) in an increasingly urban area to help with greenhouse gas reduction.

10) Protect and restore coastal watersheds, including, but not limited to, bays, marine estuaries, and nearshore ecosystems.

The project area includes the lower and middle portions of nine coastal watersheds in the Santa Monica Mountains. The middle to lower portions of the blue line streams within the subject watersheds pick up more perennial water (compared with upper portions). However, nearshore development has created a chokehold for the subject watersheds' outlets, severely impacting the nearshore ecosystem and streamflow dynamics. The proposed project will protect the subject watersheds by maintaining a natural buffer between key perennial water sources and both existing and future development. Preservation of lands that contain or are in proximity to key perennial water sources and their associated riparian habitat will provide a refuge for wildlife away from development. In addition, the natural buffer will prevent further development into

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the watershed, allow for unimpeded streamflow, improved water quality, and improved long-term nearshore ecosystem health.

11) Reduce pollution or contamination of rivers, lakes, streams, or coastal waters, prevent and remediate mercury contamination from legacy mines, and protect or restore natural system functions that contribute to water supply, water quality, or flood management.

Nearshore development has created a chokehold for the subject coastal watersheds' outlets, severely impacting the nearshore ecosystem and streamflow dynamics. The proposed project will protect the lower and middle portions of the subject coastal watersheds by maintaining a natural buffer between key perennial water sources and both existing and future development. Maintaining this natural buffer through land preservation allows natural hydrological and ecological processes to function without disturbance. In addition, the buffer ensures undisturbed streamflow and unpolluted surface runoff from the surrounding wildlands, both of which benefit downstream water quality.

Protection of these lands will prevent development from encroaching further into the watershed. This allows opportunities for habitat restoration and streamflow enhancement on these lands, and limits the need for flood protection structures. Furthermore, land preservation provides a habitat refuge for wildlife away from nearby development, wildlife movement across canyons, and reduced human impacts on both water quality and impediments to streamflow.

12) Assist in the recovery of endangered, threatened, or migratory species by improving watershed health, instream flows, fish passage, coastal or inland wetland restoration, or other means, such as natural community conservation plan and habitat conservation plan implementation.

The proposed project will directly facilitate the permanent protection of key perennial water sources and their associated riparian habitats. Preservation of the lands that make up the natural buffer between water sources and development will benefit key upland habitat adjacent to the water sources with opportunities for habitat and drainage restoration to improve watershed and ecosystem health.

The federally endangered Lyon's pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta lyonii*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), and the coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) have the potential to occur in the project area. In addition, the NPS and the United States Geological Survey have successfully reintroduced the federally threatened red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) into one or more of the subject watersheds, the locations of which are not public information. These special status species and other mammals of all sizes, birds and raptors, amphibians, and reptiles will benefit from a habitat refuge away from development with protection of the natural buffer between key perennial water sources and both existing and future development.

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In addition, the proposed project is directly related to the implementation of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's (SMMC) Acquisition Work Program. The project area covers several high priority acquisition targets identified in the Work Program for their ecological, conservational, and recreational resources.

The project will provide multiple benefits related to water quality, water supply, and/or watershed protection and restoration.

The proposed project will directly facilitate the permanent protection of key perennial water sources and their associated riparian habitat in all of the nine subject coastal watersheds. Preservation of the surrounding lands serving as a natural buffer between key water sources and development will provide ample opportunity for habitat and drainage restoration to improve watershed and ecosystem health. Protection of this natural buffer prevents further development into the watershed, allows for undisturbed streamflow and unpolluted surface runoff, and maintains rainfall infiltration and groundwater recharge, all of which benefit downstream water quality and water storage capacity. In addition, the natural buffer provides a habitat refuge for wildlife away from nearby development and helps facilitate wildlife movement across canyons.

The project results in more reliable water supplies pursuant to the California Water Action Plan.

Through the facilitation of permanent protection of lands that contain or are in close proximity to key perennial water sources in each subject watershed, the project has the potential to infiltrate a substantial amount of storm water into the natural landscape, which will incrementally augment groundwater storage and overall natural watershed storage capacity. Additionally, protection of lands that serve as a natural buffer between water sources and development prevents further encroachments into the watershed, which allows for improved habitat, undisturbed streamflow, and unpolluted surface runoff, creating a more reliable water supply for a healthier watershed and improved water quality.

The project results in restoration or protection of important species and habitat pursuant to the California Water Action Plan.

The project area includes Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHAs) as designated in the City of Malibu Local Coastal Program and Sensitive Environmental Resource Areas (SERAs) as designated in the Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program. A number of special status species such as the federally endangered Lyon's pentachaeta, least Bell's vireo, and coastal California gnatcatcher, the federally threatened red-legged frog, and other sensitive species have the potential to occur throughout the subject coastal watersheds. In addition, the lands proposed for protection contain habitat integral to the health of the coastal ecosystem including

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riparian corridors, oak woodlands, and chaparral communities. Protection of these lands provides ample opportunities for habitat and drainage restoration, undisturbed streamflow, and unpolluted runoff, all of which contribute to long-term watershed and ecosystem health. In addition, land preservation maintains a natural buffer between key perennial water sources and both existing and future development, which provides a habitat refuge among the development clusters in the subject watersheds for multiple species, including mammals of all sizes, birds and raptors, amphibians, and reptiles.

The project results in more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure pursuant to the California Water Action Plan.

Through the incremental prevention of impermeable development near key water sources, the project will result in more natural water infrastructure in the form of infiltration, enhanced and undisturbed stream flow, and improved water quality. New developments would likely result in increased runoff and a greater need for flood protection structures. By eliminating the potential accumulation of these new impacts throughout the subject watersheds, the proposed project meets this objective of the California Water Action Plan.

The project employs new or innovative technology or practices, including decision support tools that support the integration of multiple jurisdictions, including, but not limited to, water supply, flood control, land use, and sanitation.

The project employs the innovative and proactive practice of developing adaptive, comprehensive watershed protection plans. This practice involves highly detail-oriented, interdisciplinary work with a well-defined land protection objective focused on buffering key perennial water sources from development to maintain watershed and ecosystem health as well as preventing development from encroaching further into the watershed. This protection provides a habitat refuge for wildlife away from nearby development, and allows for undisturbed hydrological and ecological functions.

Applicant has proven that implementation of the project is feasible.

The expanse of unprotected open space identified in the subject watersheds that contains or are in proximity to key perennial water sources and their associated riparian habitats warrants permanent protection that can be achieved with this project. The existing MRCA staff biologists, project analysts, and GIS specialist have the expertise to undertake this project in a timely manner.

Applicant has financial capacity to perform project on a reimbursable basis.

The MRCA has the financial capacity to perform this project on a reimbursable basis, and maintains a line of credit that can be drawn upon in the event of an extended delay.

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Furthermore, the MRCA has been implementing land planning and protection projects on a reimbursable basis for decades.

Applicant, or active project partner, has successfully completed multiple projects of similar size and scope.

The MRCA, founded in 1985, is a local public agency exercising joint powers of the SMMC, the Conejo Recreation and Park District, and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. The mission of the MRCA is to complement the work of these and other agencies in protecting land and public access to natural lands in southern California mountains. Since its inception, the MRCA has acquired fee title to over 75,000 acres for natural resources conservation and manages over 55,000 acres of parkland.

The MRCA has been involved in the Santa Monica Mountains' planning, land protection actions, and land interest acquisitions continuously for the last approximately thirty years.

The project is a partnership between two or more organizations and each organization has committed to contributing toward project implementation.

The project does not involve a partnership with other organizations. However, the MRCA has worked and will continue to work with several entities from local to federal agencies and non-profit organizations to protect, conserve, and sustainably manage open space in the coastal watersheds of the Santa Monica Mountains for over three decades. Such entities include the NPS, the SMMC, County of Los Angeles, the Mountains Restoration Trust, and many others. The MRCA will collaborate with these entities, where appropriate and necessary, to efficiently and successfully implement the project.

Completion of the project would assist a government agency in fulfilling a water resources protection, watershed ecosystem restoration or multi-benefit river parkway plan.

The project area is within the *Greater Los Angeles County Region Integrated Regional Water Management Plan* (GLACR IRWMP)¹. The Greater Los Angeles County Region Integrated Regional Water Management (GLACR IRWM) group finalized the GLACR IRWM Plan in 2014. The Santa Monica Mountains is included in the North Santa Monica Bay Subregion.

¹ [http://www.ladpw.org/wmd/irwmp/index.cfm?fuseaction=TopDocListing&directory=RMC12-10Submittal-FinalPlan&ttl=2014 Public IRWMP Update](http://www.ladpw.org/wmd/irwmp/index.cfm?fuseaction=TopDocListing&directory=RMC12-10Submittal-FinalPlan&ttl=2014%20Public%20IRWMP%20Update)

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The permanent protection of properties within the project area will contribute to four of the subregion's five objectives²:

- Improve Water Supply – through capturing storm water via infiltration and groundwater recharge over the long term.
- Improve Water Quality – the prevention of development onsite would allow unpolluted surface water runoff from the property to dilute the downstream concentrations of pollutants found in all downstream portions of the subject watersheds.
- Enhance Habitat – by preventing development and protecting natural resources in perpetuity, allowing for habitat conservation and water quality enhancement opportunities.
- Enhance Open Space and Recreation – by converting some property to public ownership, which will allow for passive recreation opportunities.

In addition, Section 303 of the Federal Clean Water Act requires that each State identify waters where the quality is impaired for applicable standards. The list of impaired waters, called the §303(d) list, evaluates water bodies in terms of pollution levels, the severity of pollution, and the beneficial uses. Where quality is impaired, a total maximum daily load (TMDL) is required to be established for each pollutant.

In 2010, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan). This amendment established a TMDL for debris in Nearshore and Offshore Santa Monica Bay.³ The Santa Monica Bay Nearshore and Offshore is listed as an impaired water body for debris (i.e., trash and plastic pellets) pursuant to the Clean Water Act. Ramirez, Escondido, Latigo, Solstice/Dry, Corral, and Puerco Canyons drain into Santa Monica Bay. Permanent protection of key land in these watersheds would assist in preventing the worsening of this impaired condition in Santa Monica Bay.

In 2012, there was an Amendment to the Basin Plan to revise the TMDLs for bacteria at Santa Monica Bay Beaches.^{4,5} There is required monitoring for bacteria at drains at creeks at the wave wash for waters originating from several watersheds in the project area, including Decker/Los Alisos, Encinal, Ramirez, Escondido, Latigo, Solstice/Dry, and Corral Canyons.^{6,7} Permanent protection of key lands within these watersheds would assist in preventing the worsening of this impaired condition in Santa Monica Bay.

² <http://www.ladpw.org/wmd/irwmp/docs/RMC12-10Submittal-FinalPlan/21.%20App-J%20NSMB%20Subregional%20Plan%20FINAL.pdf>

³ https://iaspub.epa.gov/waters10/attains_impaired_waters.tmdl_report?p_tmdl_id=41754&p_report_type=

⁴ http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/tmdl/tmdl_list.shtml

⁵ http://63.199.216.6/bpa/docs/R12-007_RB_RSL.pdf

⁶ http://63.199.216.6/bpa/docs/R12-007_RB_BPA1.pdf

⁷ The geographic area covered under Santa Monica Bay is defined differently for the debris TMDL and the bacteria TMDL.

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The project provides a plan or feasibility study that enhances cooperative watershed health protection and restoration important to two or more organizations.

The proposed permanent protection of land both around, and leading to, blue line streams will result in open space protection, habitat enhancement, and improved water quality. The property is within the *Greater Los Angeles County IRWMP*, which involves the cooperation of multiple local and municipal agencies within Los Angeles County. All nine subject watersheds in the project are included in the North Santa Monica Bay subregion. The project benefits water quality for all Santa Monica Bay-associated organizations.

Applicant, or project partner, has 1+ years experience maintaining and operating projects of similar size and scope.

The MRCA has acquired fee simple properties and managed those lands since the agency's inception in 1985. The MRCA has acquired conservation easements and deed restrictions for over twenty years, and continue to manage fee simple properties and monitors its conservation easements and deed restrictions. The MRCA has the in-house legal capacity to pursue violations. Additionally, MRCA has assisted several other public agencies in managing their lands, such as the NPS and the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The MRCA, along with numerous other agencies, own a multitude of parklands adjacent to the project area within the nine subject watersheds.

The project implements a major component of an existing relevant plan related to a major recreational public use facility or watershed ecosystem restoration plan.

As noted above, the project contributes to implementation of IRWMP objectives and Santa Monica Bay water quality objectives, through the Basin Plan.

The project also contributes to implementation of several other relevant plans including: Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Interagency Trail Management Plan⁸, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area General Management Plan, Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan, and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Land Protection Plan.

The project provides a high quality access point for nearby open space, parkland, regional multi-modal trails, or water-based recreation.

⁸ SMMNRA Interagency Trail Management Plan is being development by National Park Service and is not yet finalized. Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement under preparation.

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The primary objective of the proposed watershed protection blueprints is to permanently protect natural perennial water sources in nine coastal watersheds in the Santa Monica Mountains. This includes protecting key land in the watersheds to adequately buffer those water sources. An additional benefit of protecting land within the project area would be to provide high quality access points for nearby open space, parkland, and a regional multi-modal trail, i.e., the Coastal Slope Trail, in all nine watersheds.

Protecting key parcels and implementing the Coastal Slope Trail corridor in the Decker/Los Alisos Canyon Watershed would provide a high quality access point to MRCA-owned Carrillo Memorial Park.

Protecting key parcels and implementing the Coastal Slope Trail corridor in Lachusa Canyon Watershed would provide high quality access points to City of Malibu-owned and MRCA-managed Charmlee Wilderness Park and NPS-owned parkland at the lower end of the watershed (“Malibu Springs”; just north of Pacific Coast Highway).

Protecting key parcels and implementing the Coastal Slope Trail corridor in the Encinal Canyon Watershed would provide high quality access points to City of Malibu-owned and MRCA-managed Charmlee Wilderness Park (to the west) and Los Angeles County-owned “Banyon” open space (to the east) and the NPS-owned Zuma/Trancas Canyons unit of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA).

Protecting key parcels and implementing the Coastal Slope Trail corridor in the Ramirez Canyon Watershed would provide high quality access points to MRCA-owned property adjacent to Kanan Dume Road, SMMC-owned Ramirez Canyon Park, and NPS-owned Zuma/Trancas Canyons unit of the SMMNRA (west of Kanan Dume Road).

Protecting key parcels and implementing the Coastal Slope Trail corridor in the Latigo Canyon and Escondido Canyon watersheds would provide high quality access points to SMMC and MRCA-owned Escondido Canyon Park and a MRCA-owned parcel adjacent to Latigo Canyon Road.

Protecting key parcels and implementing the Coastal Slope Trail corridor in the Solstice/Dry Canyon watersheds would provide a high quality access point to NPS-owned Solstice Canyon Park.

Protecting key parcels and implementing the Coastal Slope Trail corridor in the Corral Canyon Watershed would provide high quality access points to SMMC and MRCA-owned Corral Canyon Park, California Department of Parks and Recreation-owned Malibu Creek State Park (in upper Corral Canyon), and NPS-owned parkland (in upper Corral Canyon).

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Protecting key parcels and implementing the Coastal Slope Trail corridor in the Puerco Canyon Watershed would provide a high quality access point to MRCA-owned Cameron Nature Preserve.

Due to the close proximity of parkland to the project area in all nine subject watersheds, any land protection in the project area would enhance public views from existing public lands.

Applicant has conducted outreach to the affected communities.

The MRCA has not conducted direct recent affected-community outreach for this project. However, the affected community is partially constituted by the private landowners within the project area for the subject watersheds. The MRCA has done a substantial amount of public outreach over the course of many years with many landowners and affected neighbors.

The project includes interpretive programming or personal interpretation, and a plan to reach community audiences with meaningful information about a watershed resource.

The project does not include interpretive programming or personal interpretation. However, the project will generate detailed site-specific information that will be exceptionally meaningful about the nine subject coastal watersheds at the wildland-development interface in the Santa Monica Mountains.

The project adds visitor-serving amenities, accessibility, and public safety improvements to public parkland with multiple ecosystem benefits.

The project does not add visitor-serving amenities, accessibility, and public safety improvements to public parkland with multiple ecosystem benefits.

The project provides non-personal interpretive elements that will significantly enhance appreciation and enjoyment of a watershed resource.

The project does not provide any non-personal interpretive elements.

The project creates a new venue for education and/or interpretation activities that promote water conservation and stewardship, or enhances an existing venue.

The project does not create any new venues for education and/or interpretive activities.

The project results in new public access to a watershed resource with high interpretive and/or education value, or enhances existing access.

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Protection of some or all of the parcels identified in the nine subject watersheds in the Santa Monica Mountains would facilitate opportunities to enhance existing access. All of these watersheds have resources of high interpretive and education value. Protection of certain key parcels in the project area would help implement the Coastal Slope Trail and enhance existing access, and in some cases result in new public access, to the watershed resources. All nine watersheds contain large-scale watershed resources with both high interpretive and education value.

Protecting key parcels and implementing the Coastal Slope Trail corridor in the Decker/Los Alisos Canyon Watershed would enhance existing access to MRCA-owned Carrillo Memorial Park.

Protecting key parcels and implementing the Coastal Slope Trail corridor in Lachusa Canyon Watershed would enhance existing access to City of Malibu-owned and MRCA-managed Charmlee Wilderness Park and NPS-owned parkland at the lower end of the watershed (“Malibu Springs”; just north of Pacific Coast Highway).

Protecting key parcels and implementing the Coastal Slope Trail corridor in the Encinal Canyon Watershed would enhance existing access to City of Malibu Malibu-owned and MRCA-managed Charmlee Wilderness Park (to the west) and Los Angeles County-owned “Banyon” open space (to the east) and the NPS-owned Zuma/Trancas Canyons unit of the SMMNRA.

Protecting key parcels and implementing the Coastal Slope Trail corridor in the Ramirez Canyon Watershed would provide new access to MRCA-owned property adjacent to Kanan Dume Road and SMMC-owned Ramirez Canyon Park. This would also enhance existing access to NPS-owned Zuma/Trancas Canyons unit of the SMMNRA (west of Kanan Dume Road).

Protecting key parcels and implementing the Coastal Slope Trail corridor in the Latigo Canyon and Escondido Canyon watersheds would enhance existing access to SMMC and MRCA-owned Escondido Canyon Park and MRCA-owned parcel adjacent to Latigo Canyon Road.

Protecting key parcels and implementing the Coastal Slope Trail corridor in the Solstice Canyon/Dry Canyon watersheds would enhance existing access to NPS-owned Solstice Canyon Park.

Protecting key parcels and implementing the Coastal Slope Trail corridor in the Corral Canyon Watershed would enhance existing access to SMMC and MRCA-owned Corral Canyon Park, California Department of Parks and Recreation-owned Malibu Creek State Park (in upper Corral Canyon), and NPS-owned parkland (in upper Corral Canyon).

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Protecting key parcels and implementing the Coastal Slope Trail corridor in the Puerco Canyon Watershed would enhance existing access to MRCA-owned Cameron Nature Preserve.

Project will benefit specially protected species pursuant to the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990.

Protection of parcels within the project area will preserve habitat and movement for wildlife, especially larger mammals that require large expanses of territory to survive in the Santa Monica Mountains. By preventing development of the parcels in the project area, the project will benefit the local mountain lion population, which has been documented crossing various regions of the Santa Monica Mountains south of Highway 101 from Point Mugu to Griffith Park. All of the subject watersheds are readily accessible by mountain lions. By directly facilitating the permanent protection of land around key natural water sources, protection of wildlife corridors that lead to the water sources, and maintenance of connections of core habitat in the Santa Monica Mountains, the proposed project will benefit the local mountain lion population.

Land acquisitions in the project area will not only permanently protect the property from development, but it will also allow for habitat restoration opportunities to improve watershed and ecosystem health.

Extra Consideration Points

Quantifiable Carbon Reduction Points

The project develops or maintains multi-use trails that connect communities, provides access to public resources and reduces vehicle miles traveled.

The project does not directly develop or maintain any multi-use trails. However, preservation of certain parcels included in the project area would facilitate the development of the regionally-significant Coastal Slope Trail, providing access to public resources. This would allow trail users to travel from canyon to canyon, without driving.

The project engages local communities through outreach, education, and interpretation regarding long-term stewardship and climate change awareness.

The project does not engage broader local communities through outreach, education, and interpretation regarding long-term stewardship and climate change awareness. The project does, however, engage a community of many landowners within the subject watersheds that have property necessary to meet the project objectives.

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Additional Criteria

Completion of the project would assist in fulfilling a Federal water resources protection or watershed ecosystem restoration plan.

Section 303 of the Federal Clean Water Act requires that each State identify waters where the quality is impaired for applicable standards. The list of impaired waters, called the §303(d) list, evaluates water bodies in terms of pollution levels, the severity of pollution, and the beneficial uses. Where quality is impaired, a total maximum daily load (TMDL) is required to be established for each pollutant.

In 2010, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan). This amendment established a TMDL for debris in Nearshore and Offshore Santa Monica Bay.⁹ The Santa Monica Bay Nearshore and Offshore is listed as an impaired water body for debris (i.e., trash and plastic pellets) pursuant to the Clean Water Act. Ramirez, Escondido, Latigo, Solstice/Dry, Corral, and Puerco canyons drain into Santa Monica Bay. Permanent protection of key land in these watersheds would assist in preventing the worsening of this impaired condition in Santa Monica Bay.

In 2012, there was an Amendment to the Basin Plan to revise the TMDLs for bacteria at Santa Monica Bay Beaches.^{10, 11} There is required monitoring for bacteria at drains at creeks at the wave wash for waters originating from several watersheds in the project area, including Decker/Los Alisos, Encinal, Ramirez, Escondido, Latigo, Solstice/Dry, and Corral canyons.^{12, 13} Permanent protection of key land within these watersheds would assist in preventing the worsening of this impaired condition in Santa Monica Bay.

Project utilizes a local job training entity for a portion of the work.

The project does not include the use of a local job training entity. The tasks needed to complete the proposed acquisition are not entry-level skills.

Project has secured matching funds of at least 25 percent of total project costs.

The project has not secured at least 25 percent in matching funds.

Project is within 1 mile of public transportation.

⁹ https://iaspub.epa.gov/waters10/attains_impaired_waters.tmdl_report?p_tmdl_id=41754&p_report_type=

¹⁰ http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/tmdl/tmdl_list.shtml

¹¹ http://63.199.216.6/bpa/docs/R12-007_RB_RSL.pdf

¹² http://63.199.216.6/bpa/docs/R12-007_RB_BPA1.pdf

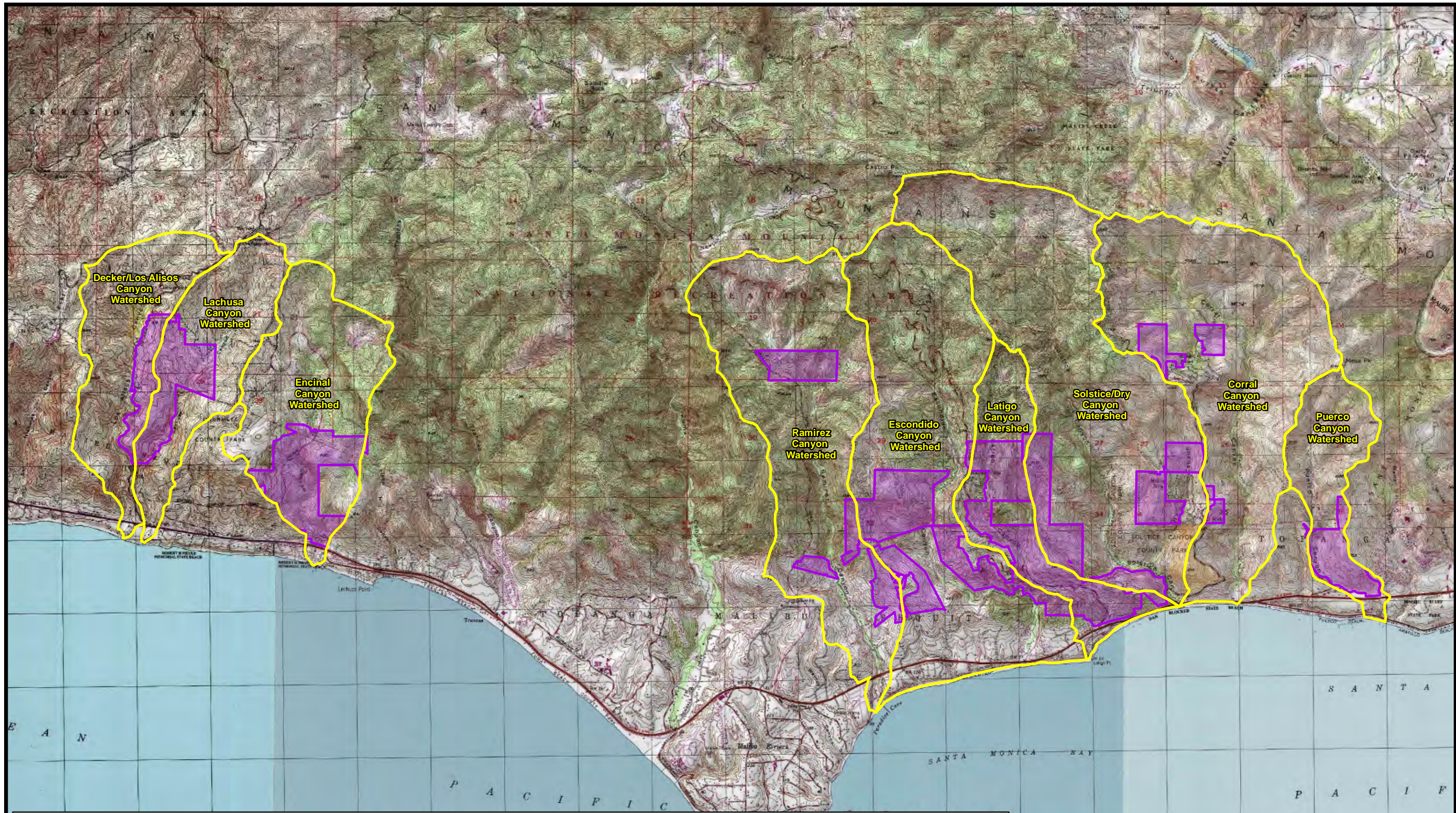
¹³ The geographic area covered under Santa Monica Bay is defined differently for the debris TMDL and the bacteria TMDL.

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The 534 MTA (Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority) bus line runs along the Pacific Coast Highway as far west as Trancas Canyon. Project parcels within the following watersheds are within one mile of Line 534 on PCH: Ramirez, Escondido, Latigo, Solstice/Dry, Corral, and Puerco canyons.

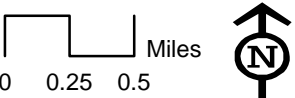
Project results in additional uses for users of a wide range of ability levels.

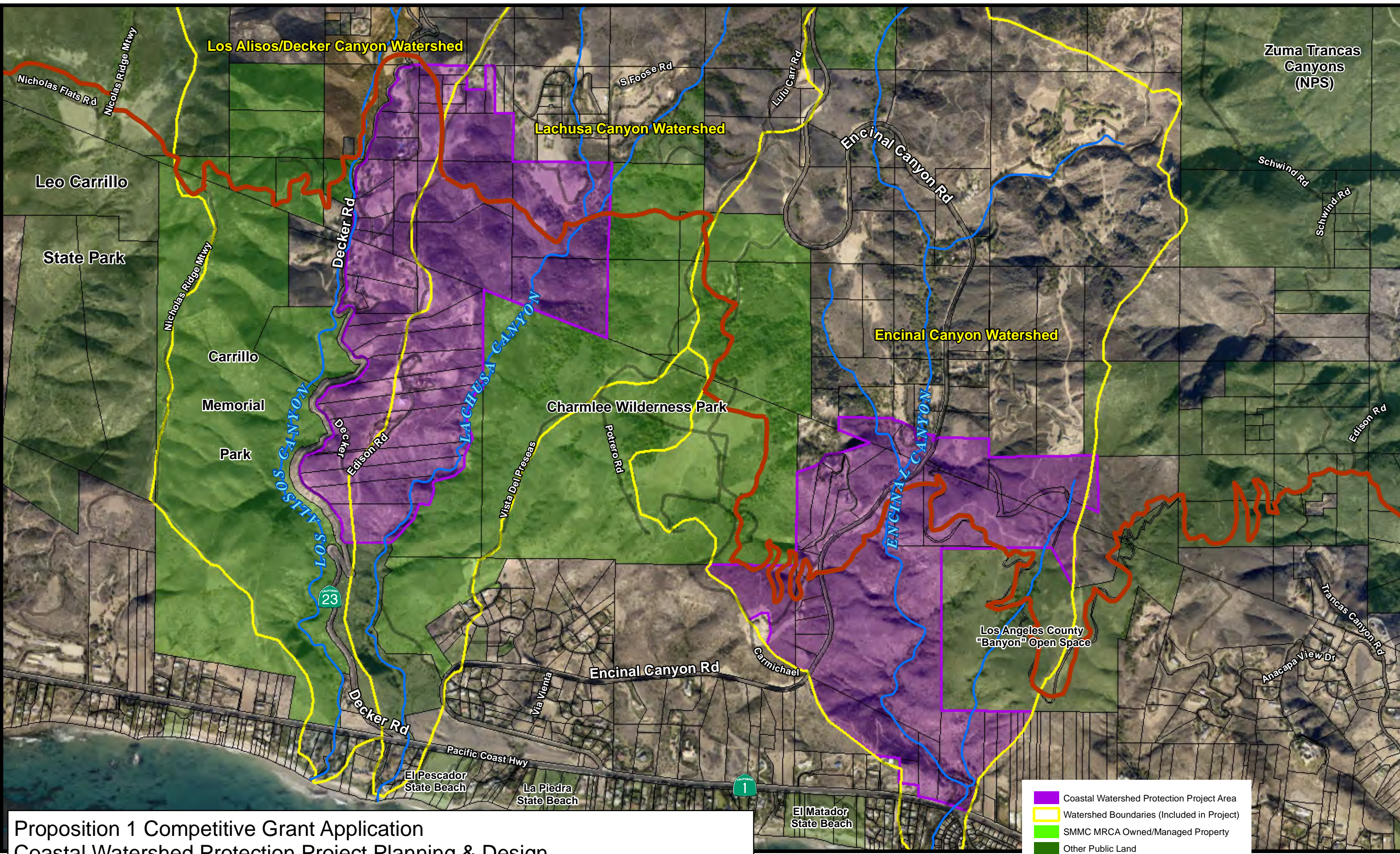
The project does not result in additional uses for users of a wide range of ability levels.



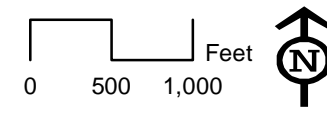
Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application
Coastal Watershed Protection Project Planning & Design
Decker/Los Alisos Canyon, Lachusa Canyon, Encinal Canyon, Ramirez Canyon, Escondido Canyon,
Latigo Canyon, Solstice/Dry Canyon, Corral Canyon and Puerco Canyon Watersheds

Coastal Watershed Protection Project Area
Watershed Boundaries (Included in Project)

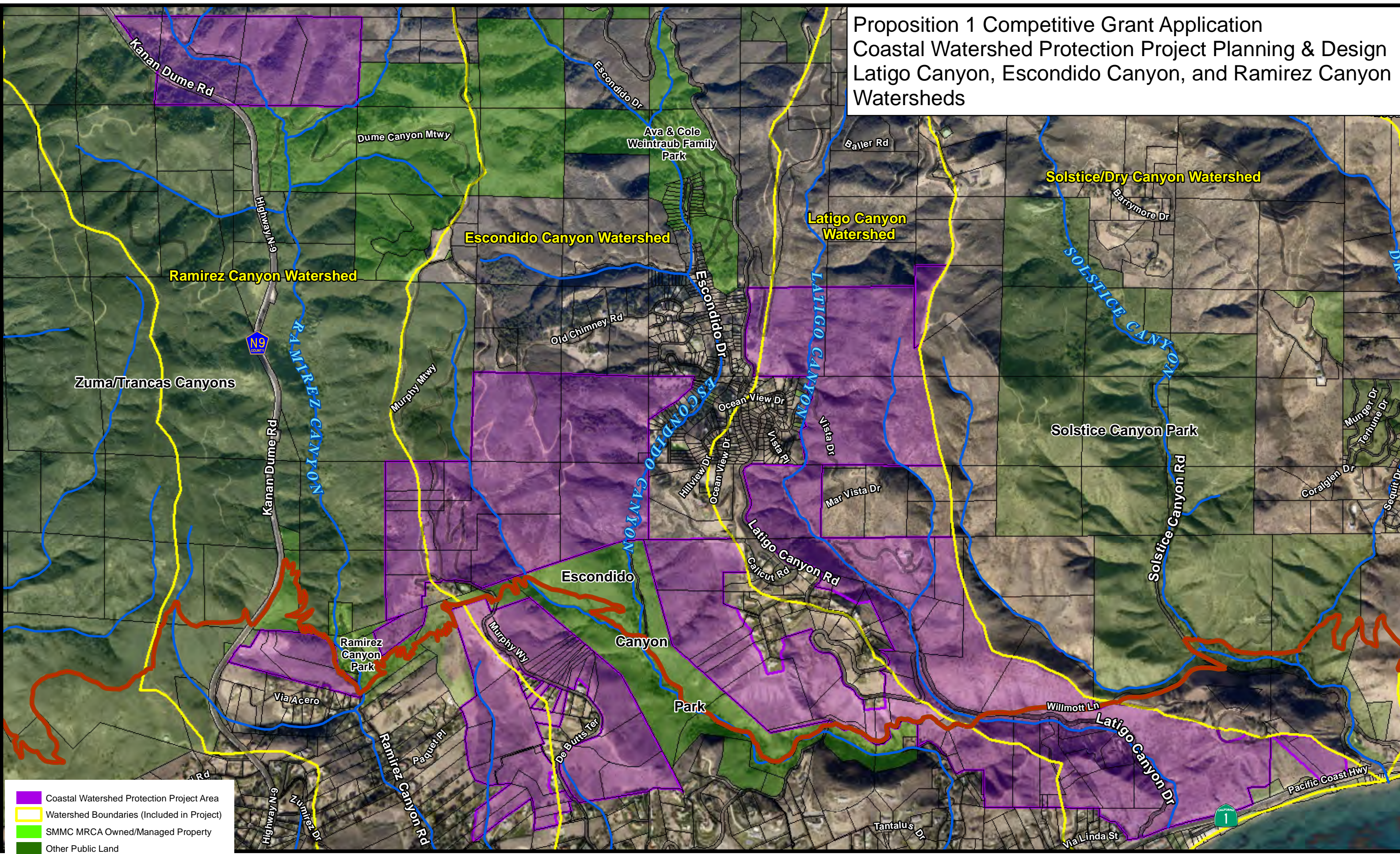




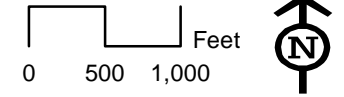
Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application
 Coastal Watershed Protection Project Planning & Design
 Decker/Los Alisos Canyon, Lachusa Canyon and Encinal Canyon Watersheds



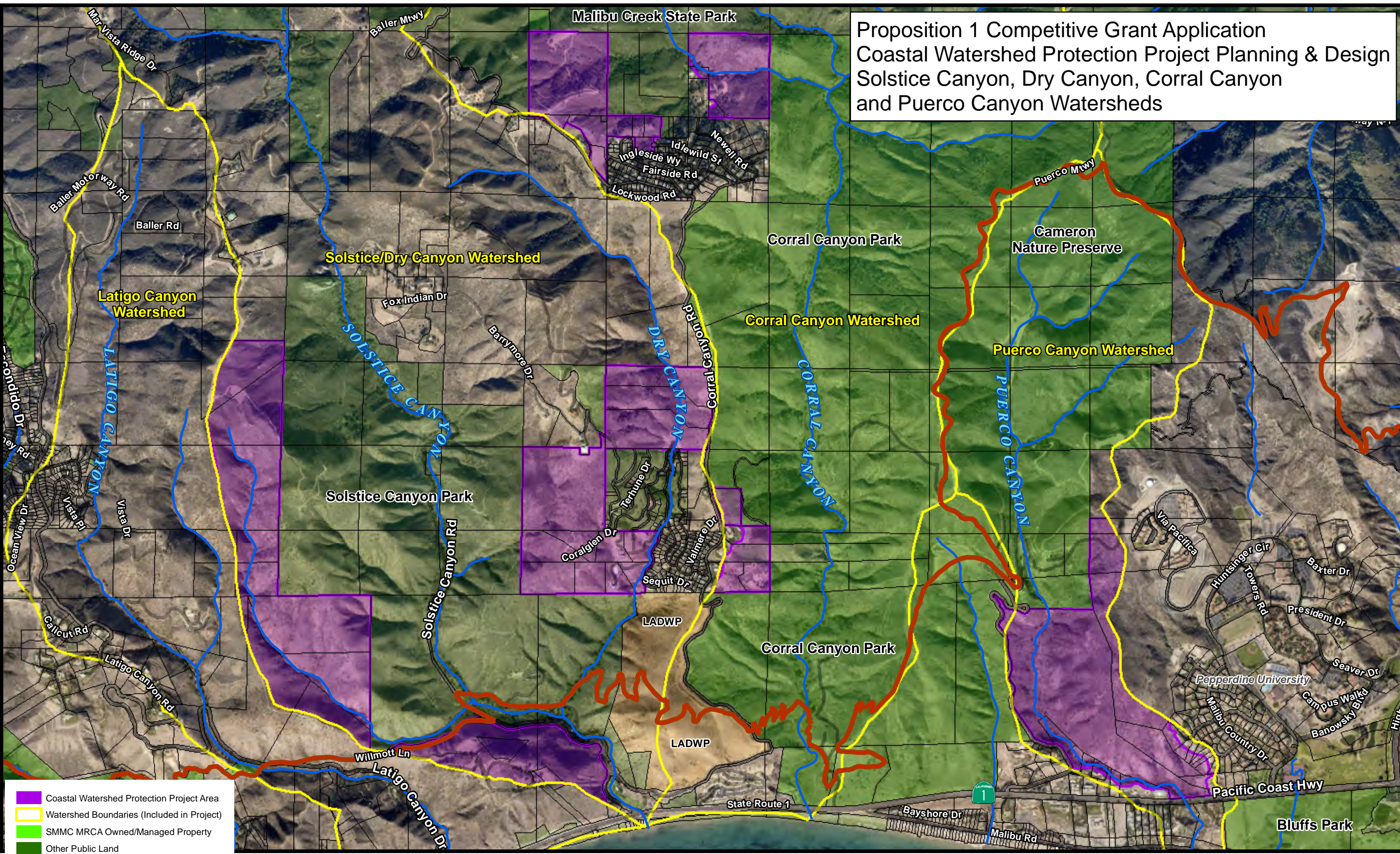
Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application
 Coastal Watershed Protection Project Planning & Design
 Latigo Canyon, Escondido Canyon, and Ramirez Canyon
 Watersheds



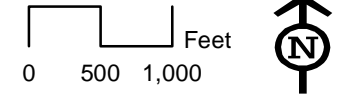
- Coastal Watershed Protection Project Area
- Watershed Boundaries (Included in Project)
- SMMC MRCA Owned/Managed Property
- Other Public Land
- Coastal Slope Trail (concept)
- USGS Blue-Line Stream



Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Application
 Coastal Watershed Protection Project Planning & Design
 Solstice Canyon, Dry Canyon, Corral Canyon
 and Puerco Canyon Watersheds



- Coastal Watershed Protection Project Area
- Watershed Boundaries (Included in Project)
- SMMC MRCA Owned/Managed Property
- Other Public Land
- Coastal Slope Trail (concept)
- USGS Blue-Line Stream






MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-8900

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM: 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: April 5, 2017

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(i): Consideration of resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a Proposition 1 Project Planning and Design grant to produce wildland-development interface watershed protection plans for portions of Decker, Lachusa, Encinal, Ramirez, Escondido, Latigo, Solstice, Corral, and Puerco Canyons, incorporated and unincorporated Malibu.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a Proposition 1 Project Planning and Design grant to produce wildland-development interface watershed protection plans for portions of Decker, Lechuza, Encinal, Ramirez, Escondido, Latigo, Solstice, Corral, and Puerco Canyons, incorporated and unincorporated Malibu, in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) develops and implements a wide range of projects for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) including through project planning and design grants. The MRCA intends to continue this effort by securing and developing land interests in a manner that is protective of key watersheds in the coastal Santa Monica Mountains.

The watershed interface area between wildlands and development within the coastal zone of the Santa Monica Mountains contain both important natural resources and recreational resources unique to the Santa Monica Mountains. A watershed protection plan in this wildland-development interface would maximize recreational resources while protecting natural resources. Thus, staff is seeking authorization to submit a grant application to the Conservancy for project planning and design of Decker, Lachusa, Encinal, Ramireze, Escondido, Latigo, Solstice, Corral, and Puerco Canyons in unincorporated and incorporated Malibu. These canyons are all bisected by the Coastal Slope Trail.

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The fiscal impact will be a net positive for the agency in the near term should the grant be awarded to the MRCA, as it will provide funding to develop and implement projects in the Santa Monica Mountains watersheds.

MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

April 5, 2017 — Agenda Item VI(i)

Resolution No. 17-59

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY FOR A PROPOSITION 1 PROJECT PLANNING AND DESIGN GRANT TO PRODUCE WILDLAND-DEVELOPMENT INTERFACE WATERSHED PROTECTION PLANS FOR PORTIONS OF DECKER, LACHUSA, ENCINAL, RAMIREZ, ESCONDIDO, LATIGO, SOLSTICE, CORRAL, AND PUERCO CANYONS, INCORPORATED AND UNINCORPORATED MALIBU

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) hereby:

1. FINDS that Decker, Lachusa, Encinal, Ramirez, Escondido, Latigo, Solstice, Corral, and Puerco Canyons have significant ecological values and will provide significant public benefits.
2. FINDS that the subject action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.
3. ADOPTS the staff report and recommendation dated April 5, 2017.
4. AUTHORIZES submission of a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 1 funds for project planning and design for portions of Decker, Lechuza, Encinal, Ramirez, Escondido, Latigo, Solstice, Corral, and Puerco Canyons in an amount not exceed \$400,000.
5. AUTHORIZES entering into a grant agreement with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.
6. AUTHORIZES the Chair to sign the grant agreement if the grant application is approved by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.
7. AUTHORIZES any budget amendments as necessary.
8. AUTHORIZES the Executive Officer or his designee to do any and all acts necessary to carry out this resolution and any recommendations made by the Governing Board.

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Chair

AYES: Peterson, Hasenauer, Lange

NOS: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: Daniel

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a special meeting of the Governing Board of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, duly noticed and held according to law, on the 5th day of April, 2017.

Date: 4/5/17



Executive Officer