

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: May 22, 2017

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 14: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for wildland-development interface watershed protection plans for portions of Decker, Lechuza, Encinal, Ramirez, Escondido, Latigo, Solstice, Corral and Puerco Canyons, incorporated and unincorporated Malibu.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize a grant not to exceed \$375,000 in Proposition 1 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for developing watershed protection plans for portions of coastal sub-watersheds in Decker, Lechuza, Encinal, Ramirez, Escondido, Latigo, Solstice, Corral, and Puerco Canyons in the Malibu area.

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 and maps. The grant request is for \$375,000 to fund planning to protect key water sources, riparian habitat and buffers for over a total of 9 ½ miles of streams within nine coastal watersheds of the Santa Monica Mountains. Land protection planning blueprints are especially needed to guide protection of ecologically important habitat areas that are close to development in the middle to lower portions of the canyon watersheds, notably those within the City of Malibu. The planning will provide information on what lands must be protected from encroachment, impediments to free stream flow and riparian impacts. The grant would fund preparation of parcel-specific mechanisms keep habitat and water sources accessible to wildlife, in addition to access to recreational trails. Protection mechanisms may include recommendations and information for fee acquisition, voluntary donations, conservation easements, deed restrictions, or dedications pursuant to local government land use entitlements. Enhancing existing public lands and access, and facilitating new public access opportunities are also grant goals, particularly for the Coastal Slope Trail.

Scoring under the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Project Planning and Design grant Guidelines results in the coastal watersheds planning protection grant proposal receiving 79 points (out of a possible 86 ; 61 minimum required), plus 2 out of 4 climate change value points, plus 15 out of 25 possible points under Additional Criteria. **Total points: 96** out of a possible 115).