

Agenda Item 15

SMMC

6-26-2017

**MRCA Proposed Budget for
Mulholland Drive Scenic Corridor and Griffith Park Wildlife Corridor
Project Planning and Design
Grant Application, June 26, 2017**

Project Planning and Design – Upper Los Angeles River	\$25,000 total
Staff Time (Legal and Planning)	\$22,500
Title Reports and Closing Costs	\$2,500
Project Planning and Design – Coastal Watersheds of Santa Monica Bay	\$25,000 total
Staff Time (Legal and Planning)	\$22,500
Title Reports and Closing Costs	\$2,500



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-Six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9934

June 20, 2017

Agenda Item 15

SMMC

6-26-2017

Hon. Irma Muñoz
Chairperson
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
570 West Avenue Twenty-Six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065

**Request for Project Planning and Design Grant for
Mulholland Drive Scenic Corridor Project**

Dear Chairperson Muñoz and Conservancy Members:

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) expresses its appreciation to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the opportunity to work collaboratively on project development and completion. The MRCA respectfully submits the attached grant application for project planning and design work within the Mulholland Drive Scenic Corridor, and Griffith Park Wildlife Corridor. This application requests \$50,000 of Proposition 84 funding for the MRCA staff to secure public land and easement interests in this project area that stretches from Woodland Hills to Griffith Park.

The Mulholland Drive Scenic Corridor is the backbone of the eastern Santa Monica Mountains. Complex work is necessary to maintain the remarkable habitat linkage that ties Griffith Park to the 20,000-acre Big Wild habitat area anchored by Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park and Topanga State Park. The numerous parks along the corridor need habitat and trail connections to expand both their ecological and recreational capacity flanked by dense city on two sides. The numerous public overlooks along Mulholland Drive have seen a significant increase in use by the public in the last several years. The Conservancy has made a significant public investment in this area over a 30 year period that it seeks to protect and enhance.

Though the subject grant would encompass projects in the Mulholland Scenic Corridor between the Lake Hollywood area and Woodland Hills areas, the bulk of the work performed under this grant would take place between the 405 and 101 Freeways (Sepulveda Pass to Cahuenga Pass). This is the area encompassed by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's recently approved Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Habitat Linkage Planning Map.

The MRCA staff pursues every possible opportunity in the City of Los Angeles entitlement process to secure deed restrictions, conservation easements, and trail easements to achieve a permanently functioning wildlife corridor, high quality habitat blocks, and the Mulholland Specific Plan mandated core trail. In the past 3 years, work performed under similar grants has allowed the MRCA to recorded an easement or deed restriction on more

Mulholland Scenic Corridor PP&D Grant Application
June 20, 2017
Page 2

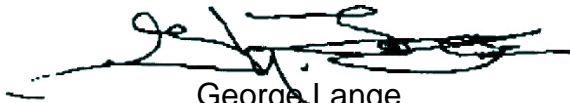
than a dozen projects, with several projects pending. Staff is currently pursuing City conditions of approval for the required recordation of land interests on at least 5 projects at this time.

All of these land interests are achieved at no public cost. The only expense is MRCA staff time to develop the projects and close the transactions. The value of the permanently protected real estate dwarfs this modest amount of public expense.

The MRCA staff per usual continues to diligently look for outright land donations in the project area. The expense of a title report and legal time for otherwise cost free permanent public open space provides incomparable value to the public.

Please direct any questions to Garrett Weinstein, Project Analyst, at (310) 589-3230, ext. 124.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Lange", written over a horizontal line.

George Lange
Chairperson

MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

June 7, 2017 — Agenda Item XII

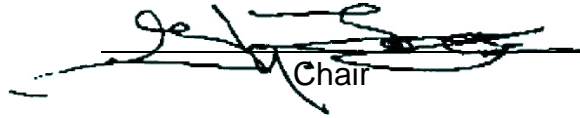
Resolution No. 17-104

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION
AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING A PROPOSITION 84 GRANT
APPLICATION TO THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
FOR MULHOLLAND SCENIC CORRIDOR PROJECT PLANNING
AND DESIGN SERVICES, CITY OF
LOS ANGELES**

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

1. FINDS that the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is authorized to award grants to government agencies pursuant to sections 33204.27 and 33204.2 of the Public Resources Code; and
2. FINDS that the project planning and design for the Mulholland Scenic Corridor will provide significant public benefits; and
3. FINDS that the proposed action is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act; and
4. ADOPTS the staff report and recommendation dated June 7, 2017; and
5. AUTHORIZES a grant application in an amount of not more than \$50,000 from Proposition 84 from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, for Project Planning and Design services in the Mulholland Scenic Corridor; and
6. AUTHORIZES the Chair to sign the grant agreement if the grant application is approved by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy; and
7. AUTHORIZES acceptance of funding to implement said project; and
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: Hasenauer, Daniel, Lange

NOS: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: Peterson

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Governing Board of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, duly noticed and held according to law, on the 7th day of June, 2017.

Date: 6/7/17



Executive Officer

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY GRANT APPLICATION									
Project Name: Mulholland Drive Scenic Corridor and Griffith Park Wildlife Corridor Project Planning and Design	Amount of Request: \$ 50,000 Total Project Cost: \$ 50,000								
Applicant Name: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority	Amount of Match: \$ 0 Source of Match:								
Applicant Address: 5810 Ramirez Canyon Road Malibu, CA 90265 Phone: 310-589-3230, ext. 124 Fax: 310-589-2408	Project Address: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">County</th> <th style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Senate District</th> <th style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Assembly District</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Los Angeles</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18, 26, 27</td> <td style="text-align: center;">43, 45, 46, 50</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> Email: garrett.weinstein@mrca.ca.gov			County	Senate District	Assembly District	Los Angeles	18, 26, 27	43, 45, 46, 50
County	Senate District	Assembly District							
Los Angeles	18, 26, 27	43, 45, 46, 50							
Grantee's Authorized Representative:									
<u>Amy Lethbridge, Deputy Executive Officer</u> <i>Name and Title</i>			<u>323-221-9944, ext. 188</u> <i>Phone</i>						
Person with day-to-day responsibility for project:									
<u>Garrett Weinstein, Project Analyst</u> <i>Name and Title</i>			<u>310-589-3230, ext. 124</u> <i>Phone</i>						
Brief Scope of Work (60 words maximum): Project planning and design work and expenses for the Mulholland Drive Scenic Corridor and Griffith Park Wildlife Corridor projects in the City of Los Angeles, Santa Monica Mountains.									
Funding Source Applied for: Proposition 84 Coastal Watersheds and Upper Los Angeles River									
Narrative/Project Description: The Mulholland Drive Scenic Corridor and Griffith Park Wildlife Corridor are the backbone of the eastern Santa Monica Mountains. The open space protection and development needs along the corridor between Griffith Park and Woodland Hills are varied and unique. Complex work is necessary to maintain the remarkable habitat linkage that ties Griffith Park to the 20,000-acre Big Wild habitat area anchored by Topanga State Park and Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park. The numerous parks along the corridor need habitat and trail connections to expand both their ecological and recreational capacity flanked by dense city on two sides. The numerous public overlooks along Mulholland Drive have seen a significant increase in use by the public in the last several years. The Conservancy has made a significant public investment in this area over a 30 year period that it seeks to protect and enhance. The proposed project area included under this grant application includes the officially designated City Scenic Corridor which is one-half-mile from the roadway. That area encompasses approximately 12,700 acres in headwaters of both the Los Angeles River and Santa Monica Bay watersheds. The proposed project area is expanded beyond that to include undeveloped habitat at risk of development. The subject grant would serve to complement the work MRCA staff performs in those areas using other funding sources.									

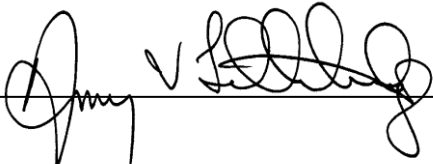
Within the proposed project area are approximately 1,597 undeveloped, privately-owned acres. These potential open space and easement acquisitions include approximately 20 miles of a contiguous Rim of the Valley Trail segment along Mulholland Drive (also Mulholland Core Trail). Public parklands along this route, beginning with the western terminus at Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park, include Westridge-Canyonback Wilderness Park, Wilacre Park, Fryman Canyon Park, Franklin Canyon Park and Griffith Park. Major trailheads exist all along this portion of paved and unpaved Mulholland Drive leading into the Big Wild.

The MRCA staff pursues every possible opportunity in the City of Los Angeles entitlement process to secure deed restrictions, conservation easements, and trail easements to achieve a permanently functioning wildlife corridor, high quality habitat blocks, and the Mulholland Specific Plan mandated core trail. In the past 3 years, work performed under similar grants has allowed the MRCA to record an easement or deed restriction on more than a dozen projects, with several projects pending. MRCA staff is currently pursuing City conditions of approval for the required recordation of land interests on at least 5 projects at this time. All of these land interests are achieved at no public cost. The only expense is MRCA staff time to develop the projects and close the transactions. The value of the permanently protected real estate dwarfs this modest amount of public expense. The MRCA staff per usual continues to diligently look for outright land donations in the project area. The expense of a title report and legal time for otherwise cost free permanent public open space provides incomparable value to the public.

The attached project area map shows the parcel specific boundaries of the proposed project area. The MRCA proposes to conduct planning and design work to acquire trail easements, conservation easements, deed restrictions via recordable covenants, and fee simple parcels in this defined project area.

Tasks / Milestones:	Budget:	Completion Date
1. Project Planning & Design – Upper Los Angeles River	\$ 25,000	December 2019
2. Project Planning & Design – Coastal Watersheds of Santa Monica Bay	\$25,000	December 2019

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


6/20/2017

Signature of Authorized Representative *Date*

Form SMM-001