

# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: September 25, 2017

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 12: Consideration of resolution authorizing an amendment to the Conservancy's Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution adopting the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Program Guidelines.

Legislative Authority: Section 79706(a) of the Water Code which states:

Prior to disbursing grants or loans pursuant to this division, each state agency that receives an appropriation from the funding made available by this division to administer a competitive grant or loan program under this division shall develop and adopt project solicitation and evaluation guidelines. The guidelines shall include monitoring and reporting requirements and may include a limitation on the dollar amount of grants or loans to be awarded.

Background: The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1) is codified as Division 26.7 of the Water Code. Proposition 1 authorizes \$7.545 billion in general obligation bonds for state water projects, including surface and groundwater storage, ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration, and drinking water protection. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's ("Conservancy") Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Program Guidelines ("Guidelines") specifically pertain to competitive grants for multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects pursuant to Water Code Section 79731(h), and for projects to protect and enhance an urban creek pursuant to Water Code Section 79735(a).

In August of 2015, the Conservancy adopted the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Proposition 1 Competitive Grant Program Guidelines. These guidelines were verified by the Natural Resources Agency and at the time of adoption, the only funds appropriated to the Conservancy were pursuant to Water Code Section 79731(h) for watershed protection and restoration projects.

On July 10, 2017, Senate Bill No. 108, Chapter 54, appropriated Water Code Section 79735(a) funds to the Conservancy for projects to protect and enhance an urban creek. Conservancy

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staff drafted an amendment to the existing Proposition 1 Guidelines and released them for public comment on September 5, 2017. All eligible project categories and project scoring criterion remain the same. The purpose of this amendment is to incorporate the budget language into the existing Proposition 1 guidelines.

The current SMMC Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines, Grant Application Form and other important information regarding SMMC grant programs is available at: [www.smmc.ca.gov](http://www.smmc.ca.gov). Upon approval, all information on the Conservancy website will be updated.

As several potential projects and applications for these funds have been on hold for several years, the Conservancy is making every effort to expedite the encumbrance of these funds.