

# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: September 25, 2017

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 18: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Propositions 12 and 50 funds to Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a survey of physical and structural barriers and development of an accessibility improvement plan for multiple parks, Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Propositions 12 and 50 funds in the amount of \$100,000 to Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a survey of physical and structural barriers and development of an accessibility improvement plan for multiple parks, Los Angeles County.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204.2 and 33204.27 of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has submitted the attached application for a grant for an Accessibility Improvement Plan and Survey for multiple parks. The proposed grant would fund the work necessary to create a comprehensive plan for accessibility improvements to properties managed by MRCA.

The project proposes to survey physical and structural barriers to park facilities, including primarily parking, restrooms, public meeting areas, and the paths of travel between these areas. The focus will be those sites that frequently host public meetings or events, and parks that accommodate a variety of experiences, such as Franklin Canyon Park, King Gillette Ranch, and the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens. The reports will identify architectural barriers that may need modification or complete reconstruction, such as sidewalks, parking, curb ramps, handrails, ramps, stairs, accessible entrances, door hardware and widths, drinking fountains, signage, lifts, and seating.

Once the survey is complete, an overall prioritization will be conducted to ensure that the greatest public benefit will result from subsequent capital improvements. Prioritization will include a cost/benefit analysis so that low-cost projects that create new access to programs, services, and activities for a large number of users can be highlighted. Once the survey and prioritization are complete, the remainder of the grant will be used for improvements to correct the conditions. It is expected that these initial improvements will be relatively simple and inexpensive items such as signage and pavement markings, and that additional funding will be

needed to correct structural conditions.

### **Analysis - Proposition 12**

The Safe Neighborhoods Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 (Proposition 12), Public Resources Code Section 5096.353, allocated funding to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for capital outlay and grants for the acquisition from a willing seller, enhancement, and restoration of natural lands, improvements of public recreation facilities, and for grants to local agencies and nonprofit organizations to increase access to parks and recreational opportunities for underserved urban communities. All of the properties that will be surveyed are public recreation facilities that provide recreational opportunities for underserved urban communities. The proposed grant would fund planning for capital improvements at the parks, consistent with the purposes of the funding.

### **Analysis–Proposition 50**

The State of California has authorized expenditure of funds from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50) to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, in Chapter 10, Section 79570(c), for purpose of protecting coastal watersheds, including but not limited to, acquisition, protection and restoration of land and water resources and associated planning, permitting, and administrative costs, and for the acquisition and development of facilities to promote public access to and participation in conservation of land, water, and wildlife resources.

Multiple park sites are included in the proposed grant, including several within the Santa Monica Bay coastal watershed, including Franklin Canyon Park and King Gillette Ranch. All of these facilities are resources for public recreational use and provide access to coastal resources. As outlined in the application, the proposed project is consistent with Proposition 50's goal to promote public access to land, water and wildlife resources.

### **Analysis - General Obligation Bond Law**

The General Obligation Bond Law provides that bond funds may be used for the construction and acquisition of "capital assets." Capital assets include major maintenance, reconstruction, demolition for purposes of reconstruction of facilities, and retrofitting work that is ordinarily done no more often than once every 5 to 15 years or expenditures that continue or enhance the useful life of the capital asset (Government code Section 16727 (a)). Capital assets also includes equipment with an expected useful life of two years or more, and tangible physical property with an expected useful life of 10 to 15 years. Section 16727 (a) also allows bond funds to be used for costs that are incidentally but directly related to construction or acquisition

including costs for planning, engineering and other design work.

The activities that the MRCA proposes to fund with this grant constitute planning of a land improvement project to protect land and water resources, protect and restore rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water and other natural resources. Thus, the proposed activities fall within the definition of “capital assets” or are incidentally but directly related to acquisition or construction, and therefore are proper under the General Obligation Bond Law.

Consideration: The application from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is for \$100,000 of Proposition 12 and 50 funds.