

December 11, 2017; Agenda Item No. 19

Resolution No. 17-75

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY AUTHORIZING A GRANT  
OF PROPOSITION 84 AND PROPOSITION 1 FUNDS TO THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND  
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR UPPER LOS ANGELES RIVER PROJECT  
PLANNING AND DESIGN, CITY OF LOS ANGELES

WHEREAS, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is authorized to award grants to government agencies pursuant to Sections 33204.2 and 33204.27 of the Public Resources Code;

WHEREAS, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is authorized to award grants to joint powers authorities pursuant to Section 33204.2(a) and 33204.27(a). of the Public Resources Code;

WHEREAS, the State of California has authorized an expenditure of funds from Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for capital outlay and local assistance multi-benefit grants for ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects;

WHEREAS, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority has requested a grant from Proposition 1, Section 79735(a) of the Water Code in the amount of \$250,000;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 79732(1) of the Water Code, the proposed project meets the purpose of Proposition 1 to protect and increase the economic benefits arising from healthy watersheds, fishery resources, and instream flow;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 79732(1) of the Water Code, the proposed project meets the purpose of Proposition 1 to implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on California's communities and ecosystems;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 79732(1) of the Water Code, the proposed project meets the purpose of Proposition 1 to restore river parkways throughout the state, including, but not limited to, projects pursuant to the California River Parkways Act of 2004 (Chapter 3.8 (commencing with Section 5750) of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code), in the Urban Streams Restoration Program established pursuant to Section 7048, and urban river greenways;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 79732(1) of the Water Code, the proposed project meets the purpose of Proposition 1 to 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;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 79732(1) of the Water Code, the proposed project meets the purpose of Proposition 1 to 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;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 79732(1) of the Water Code, the proposed project meets the purpose of Proposition 1 to 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;

WHEREAS, the proposed project meets an objective of the California Water Action Plan for more reliable water supplies;

WHEREAS, the proposed project meets an objective of the California Water Action Plan for restoration of important species and habitat;

WHEREAS, the proposed project meets an objective of the California Water Action Plan for more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure;

WHEREAS, the proposed project meets the goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with AB 32;

WHEREAS, the State of California has authorized expenditure of funds from Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006, to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for capital outlay and grants for protection and restoration of land and water resources in the watershed of the Upper Los Angeles River and the Santa Monica Bay and its watersheds;

WHEREAS, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority has requested a grant from Proposition 84, Section 75050(g)(2) of the Public Resources Code;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 75005(a) of the Public Resources Code, "Acquisition" means the acquisition of a fee interest or any other interest in real property including easements, leases and development rights;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 75005(f) of the Public Resources Code, "Development" includes, but is not limited to the physical improvement of real property including the construction of facilities or structures;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 75005(g) of the Public Resources Code, “Disadvantaged community” means a community with a median household income less than 80% of the statewide average. “Severely disadvantaged community” means a community with a median household income less than 60% of the statewide average;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 75005(i) of the Public Resources Code, “Interpretation” includes, but is not limited to, a visitor serving amenity that educates and communicates the significance and value of natural, historical, and cultural resources in a way that increases the understanding and enjoyment of these resources and that may utilize the expertise of a naturalist or other specialist skilled at educational interpretation;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 75005(l) of the Public Resources Code, “Preservation” means rehabilitation, stabilization, restoration, development, and reconstruction, or any combination of those activities,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 75005(m) of the Public Resources Code, “Protection” means those actions necessary to prevent harm or damage to persons, property or natural resources or those actions necessary to allow the continued use and enjoyment of property of natural resources and includes acquisition, development, restoration, preservation and interpretation;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 75005(n) of the Public Resources Code, “Restoration” means the improvement of physical structures or facilities and, in the case of natural systems and landscape features includes, but is not limited to , projects of the control of erosion, the control and elimination of exotic species, prescribed burning, fuel hazard reduction, fencing out threats to existing or restored natural resources, road elimination, and other plant and wildlife habitat improvement to increase the natural system value of the property. Restoration projects shall include the planning, monitoring, and reporting necessary to ensure successful implementation of project objectives;

WHEREAS, Section 75003(c) of the Public Resources Code states that the people of California find and declare it necessary and in the public interest to protect the rivers, lakes, and streams of the State from pollution, loss of water quality, and destruction of fish and wildlife habitat;

WHEREAS, Section 75003(d) of the Public Resources Code states that the people of California find and declare it necessary and in the public interest to protect the beaches, bays and coastal waters of the state for future generations;

WHEREAS, Section 75003(e) of the Public Resources Code states that the people of California find and declare it necessary and in the public interest to revitalize our communities and

making them more sustainable and livable by investing in sound land use planning, local parks and urban greening;

WHEREAS, Section 75003.5 of the Public Resources Code states that the growth in population of the state and the impacts of climate change pose significant challenges. These challenges must be addressed through careful planning and through improvements in land use and water management that both reduce contributions to global warming and improvements include better integration of water supply, water quality, flood control and ecosystem protection, as well greater water use efficiency and conservation to reduce energy consumption;

WHEREAS, The proposed project implements the goals stated in Proposition 84, Chapter 5, Section 75050(g)(2);

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 19727 provides for use of funds for the costs of construction or acquisition of capital assets. “Capital assets” includes 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. “Capital assets” also include equipment with an expected useful life span of two years or more;

WHEREAS, the proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy’s Strategic Objectives to implement the *Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan*, implement the *Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan*, implement the *Los Angeles County River Master Plan*, implement the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers Watershed and Open Space Plan*, further cooperation with local governments in the region to secure open space and parkland, expand efforts to integrate nature into the urban environment, expand education, public access, and resource stewardship components in a manner that best serves the public, protects habitat, and provides recreational opportunities, and develop long term capital improvement and maintenance plans;

WHEREAS, the proposed project is consistent with the *Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan*, the *Rim of the Valley Corridor Plan*, and the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan*;

WHEREAS, the proposed action is being taken subject to approval of the grant for compliance with the General Obligation Bond Law;

WHEREAS, the proposed project protects land and water resources; and

WHEREAS, the proposed action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): Now

*Therefore Be It Resolved*, That the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy hereby:

1. FINDS that the proposed action is consistent with the *Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan*, the *Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan*, and the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan* as adopted by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy;
2. FINDS that the proposed action is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives;
3. FINDS that the proposed project implements the goals stated in Proposition 1 and Proposition 84;
4. FINDS that the proposed action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA);
5. ADOPTS the staff report and recommendations dated December 11, 2017 for this item;
6. ADOPTS all of the preceding whereas clauses;
7. AUTHORIZES a grant of Proposition 1 and Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority in the amount of \$500,000 for the Upper Los Angeles River project planning and design, City of Los Angeles; and
8. FURTHER AUTHORIZES the Chairperson to execute the grant agreement and to perform any and all acts necessary to carry out this resolution; without limiting the generality of the foregoing, such authority shall include those provisions that he shall determine in the exclusive exercise of his discretion are necessary to carry out the purposes of this resolution and to comply with the policies of the Conservancy, and to otherwise carry out the provisions of state law and regulations.

~ *End of Resolution* ~

Agenda Item 19  
December 11, 2017  
Page 6

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, duly noticed and held according to law, on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2017 at Beverly Hills, California.

Dated:

---

Executive Director