

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: December 11, 2017

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 24: Consideration of resolution authorizing the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to establish an agreement with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for the implementation of Chapter 452, Statutes of 2017 (Assembly Bill 1558).**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to establish an agreement with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for the implementation of Chapter 452, Statutes of 2017 (Assembly Bill 1558).

Legislative Authority: Section 33211(c) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: Since the 1940s, the County of Los Angeles and Army Corps of Engineers have managed the Los Angeles River (River) as a concrete flood channel. The communities through which the River passes have had limited contact with or responsibility for the River. In the last several decades, the River has received greater public attention and support for its restoration and availability as an environmental and recreational resource.

Assembly Bill 1558 (AB 1558), Chapter 452, Statutes of 2017, was authored by Assemblymember Cristina Garcia and signed by the Governor on October 3, 2017. AB 1558 requires the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) and the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers Conservancy (RMC) to collaborate with the Department of Parks and Recreation, the California Conservation Corps, and the State Lands Commission to develop a river ranger program to provide a network of river rangers who assist the public at sites along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries, as prescribed. The legislation requires the Conservancies, no later than June 30, 2018, to develop a plan for the design and implementation of the program, containing specified components and information.

In addition to the entities mentioned above, AB 1558 directs the Conservancies to develop the river ranger program in coordination with the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group, which is administered by RMC. AB 1558 will therefore require extensive coordination between the Conservancies and this agreement will establish how the Conservancies will work together on implementation, planning, design and delivery of the AB 1558 River Rangers program.