

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 18, 2018

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 14: Consideration of resolution authorizing a Proposition 1 grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Vegetation Management projects, Counties of Los Angeles and Ventura.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a Proposition 1 grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Vegetation Management projects in the amount of \$850,000, Counties of Los Angeles and Ventura.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204.2 and 33204.27 of the Public Resources Code, and Section 79731(h) of the Water Code.

Background: Please see the attached Proposition 1 grant application from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA). The grant is to be used for the reduction of hazardous fuels and drought-damaged vegetation over more than 1000 acres, in order to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds, prevent the air quality degradation that would result from wildfire, and promote establishment of resilient native trees and vegetation such as oaks and toyon. Prevention of wildfire on public parklands is a high priority. Years of drought and climate change impacts necessitate an ongoing effort to remove dead or diseased trees, as they present a safety risk and are more susceptible to invasive pests. Fuel management also benefits water resources through the prevention of erosion that typically occurs after wildfires. Preservation of healthy tree canopy and greenways also ameliorates heat island effects.

Wildfires release significant amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and as is evident during fires every year, impose huge public safety impacts on residents, fire fighting personnel, and parkland resources. This grant will also fund capital suppression equipment including chainsaws, weedwhips, chippers, personal protection and safety equipment; capital improvements to the MRCA's fire division headquarters; and contract and staff services. The applicant provided a greenhouse gases analysis using an EPA model, showing a potential reduction of over 72,500 metric tons of CO₂.

Scoring under the Conservancy's adopted Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines for Vegetation Management results in the application receiving 97 points out of a possible 104 (minimum required is 75); 16 out of a total 18 climate change value points, and 10 out of 20 possible

Agenda Item 14

June 18, 2018

Page 2

Additional Criteria points. Total points 123 out of possible 142.