

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: September 24, 2018

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 15: Consideration of resolution authorizing a Proposition 1 grant to Turning Point Foundation for Growing Works native plant nursery project, unincorporated Ventura County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize a matching grant of \$200,000 in Proposition 1 funds to the nonprofit Turning Point Foundation for implementation of a multi-benefit wholesale native/drought tolerant species plant nursery.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204.2(a) of the Public Resources Code; and Section 79735(a) of the Water Code.

Background: Please see the attached Proposition 1 grant application and materials from the Turning Point Foundation for a description of the Growing Works project. The grant request is for \$200,000 in Proposition 1 funds to be matched with at least \$387,000 from other funding sources. The project would expand on a pilot native plant nursery and job training concept on a 10-acre site near the Casa Pacifica children and families center and California State University at Channel Island under a ten year lease from the County of Ventura, including a 6000-sq. ft. building. It would create growing grounds for plant propagation of native drought tolerant landscape and restoration species, including rainwater harvesting, irrigation design using reclaimed water, solar panels, and a demonstration garden for public information interpreting local native ecosystems and education on desirable drought-tolerant plants for home and institutional landscapes. The project plans to eventually provide appropriate plant materials for restoration projects, and home, institutional, and commercial landscapes.

Scoring under the Conservancy's revised Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines for "All Other Improvement Projects" results in the project receiving 71 points (out of a possible 94; 66 minimum required), plus 11 out of 18 climate change value points, plus 15 out of 20 possible points under Additional Criteria. **Total points: 97**(out of a possible 132). Staff recommends award of \$200,000 for this project.