

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: December 10, 2018

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 13: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 68 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the North-Central Topanga Canyon Watershed Connectivity Project, Topanga Canyon watershed, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 68 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for the North-Central Topanga Canyon Watershed Connectivity Project.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204.2(a), 33204.27(a) and 80110(b)(8) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) submitted the attached application pertaining to the acquisition of a 15-acre ownership comprised of two parcels along the Garapito-Santa Maria Canyon divide in the upper Topanga Canyon watershed for the November 30, 2018 Proposition 68 grant round. Please see the attached application for detailed description and analysis. The grant fund request is for \$138,502 to be combined with \$245,900 of Proposition A matching funds. The MRCA contacted staff requesting that a grant of \$150,000 be considered because of an error in the amount of Proposition A funds available was made in the application. The urgency of this grant application is that the MRCA's 2012 Los Angeles County Proposition A competitive trails grant has received its last and final short term extension from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District. The consequence of not completing the acquisition is the loss of the grant funds and a requirement to reimburse the District for costs to date.

The 15-acre ownership provides a central stepping stone in the public lands gap between Topanga State Park, Edmund D. Edelman - Summit Valley Park, and Marvin Braude - Mulholland Gateway Park. The ownership also contains an informally used section of the County-designated Santa Maria Canyon Trail that connects dirt Mulholland to Edmund D. Edelman - Summit Valley Park. The property has an access easement to Santa Maria Road. Under the Conservancy's Proposition 68 grant guidelines for Resource Protection and Restoration, this application received 152 points, sufficient scoring under the values for Prioritization, Category, Implementation, Climate Change, and Additional Consideration, plus

points for matching funds to total 304 points.