

# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: February 25, 2019

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 Robin's Nest habitat and site restoration on the upper Santa Clara River, Soledad Canyon.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize a grant not to exceed \$170,000 in Proposition 68 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for habitat restoration and site remediation at the 51-acre Robin's Nest property in Soledad Canyon.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204.2(a) and 33204.27(a) of the Public Resources Code; and Proposition 68, Section 80000 of the Public Resources Code.

Background: Please see the attached Proposition 68 grant application from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a detailed description and analysis. The grant request is for \$172,000. The San Fernando Valley Audubon Society recently provided an additional \$100,000 donation to MRCA to assist with riparian habitat restoration for enhancement of bird life. The state Wildlife Conservation Board also awarded \$300,000 to MRCA for the restoration project. This recently acquired 51-acre site is a former recreational vehicle campground located along the upper Santa Clara River adjacent to the Pacific Crest Trail and Angeles National Forest. It has great recreational access potential, but requires removal of years of material dumping and clean up from deleterious use. The project proposes restoration of the riparian woodland and riparian buffer vegetation, in addition to basic site remediation. The property has a perennial flow section of the river, and supports several state and federally-listed fish species, including the unarmored three-spine stickleback and Santa Ana sucker, and potentially the arroyo chub.

Scoring under the Conservancy's Proposition 68 grant guidelines for Resource Protection and Restoration exceeded scoring under values for Prioritization (18 out of 18); Category (120 out of 126); Implementation (16 out of 16); Climate Change (15 out of 15); and Additional Consideration (10 out of 25); plus double points for matching funds.