

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: March 25, 2019

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 11: Consideration of resolution authorizing a Proposition 68 project planning and design grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Santa Clara River projects.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize a grant in the amount of \$150,000 in Proposition 68 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for project planning and design work in the Santa Clara River watershed.

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 would fund work in up to three critical habitat linkages within the Santa Clara River watershed and Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor, as further defined in the South Coast Wildlands Missing Linkages Report. The project area encompasses the upper Santa Clara River from Angeles National Forest, downstream into Ventura County, near Fillmore. The scope includes project analyses and preparation for securing other funding sources for land acquisition and improvements, potential property donations and land dedications through local government development entitlements. The project area includes many sensitive or otherwise listed animal and plant species, and sensitive habitat.

Scoring under the Conservancy's Proposition 68 grant guidelines for Resource Protection and Restoration received sufficient scoring under values for Prioritization (18 out of 18); Category (111 out of 126); Implementation (15 out of 16); Climate Change (15 out of 15); and Additional Consideration (5 out of 25).