

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 24, 2019

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 18: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 68 funds to Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for pre-improvement planning for the Coastal Slope Trail Public Works Plan, Unincorporated Los Angeles County and City of Malibu.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 68 funds to Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for pre-improvement planning for the Coastal Slope Trail Public Works Plan in the amount of \$500,000, Unincorporated Los Angeles County and City of Malibu.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204.2 and 33204.27 of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Coastal Slope Trail is a part of both the Los Angeles County and City of Malibu General Plans. The proposed trail extends from just beyond the Ventura County line to Topanga State Park (Will Rogers). A major objective of the trail is to provide a means to connect the series of existing coastal canyon parks north of Pacific Coast Highway. The Conservancy has taken numerous actions since 2007 to support implementation of the Coastal Slope Trail by adding segments to the Workprogram, adopting Project Plans, and funding many planning, environmental analysis, acquisition and improvement activities.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is proposing a new Public Works Plan (PWP) to authorize implementation of the central segment of the Coastal Slope Trail from Kanan Dume Road through Tuna Canyon Park. The PWP includes development of amenities to complement the trail such as trailheads, public parking, picnic areas, and restroom facilities. The proposed conceptual alignment of the Coastal Slope Trail is shown in the attached map exhibit, and it traverses several canyons, slopes, and ridges along the Santa Monica Mountains within the City of Malibu and the unincorporated areas of the County of Los Angeles. The exact alignment of the trail may be subject to change, and the locations of amenities will be determined during the technical analysis.

Section 30605 of the Coastal Act provides that as an alternative to project by project review, plans for public works may be submitted to the Coastal Commission for review in the same manner prescribed for review of local coastal programs. Section 30114 of the Coastal Act

defines “public works” as including “all publicly financed recreational facilities, all projects of the State Coastal Conservancy, and any development by a special district.” Since the Coastal Slope Trail traverses multiple jurisdictions, and must be implemented through a series of acquisitions and improvement projects over time, a PWP is the appropriate means to evaluate consistency with the Coastal Act and the adopted Local Coastal Programs of the City of Malibu and County of Los Angeles. The proposed PWP is subject to environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. The proposed PWP will be submitted to the California Coastal Commission for certification pursuant to Sections 30321, 30515, and 30605 of the Coastal Act.

The project is consistent with several Conservancy Strategic Objectives:

- Implement the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan;
- Create a comprehensive, regional, and integrated trails plan;
- Develop a comprehensive plan for areas not covered by initial Conservancy Comprehensive Plan and incorporate and link those areas to protect species and ecosystems;
- Further cooperation with local governments in the region to secure open space and parkland;
- Expand efforts to integrate nature into the urban environment;
- Expand education, public access, and resource stewardship components in a manner that best serves the public, protects habitat, and provides recreational opportunities; and
- Develop long term capital improvement and maintenance plans.

A draft grant application was submitted for review, and will be finalized after the MRCA’s Governing Board approval.

Scoring - Competitive Grant Program

Under the Conservancy’s Proposition 68 grant guidelines for Visitor Serving Development and Improvement Projects, this grant request received more sufficient scoring totalling 132 under values for Prioritization, Category, Implementation, Climate Change, and Additional Consideration, plus points for matching funds.

Scoring under the Conservancy’s Proposition 68 Guidelines results in the Coastal Slope Trail Public Works Plan pre-improvement planning project receiving the following:

Prioritization Value: 16 (out of 21)
Category Value: 65 (out of 70)
Implementation Value: 16 (out of 16)

Agenda Item 18
June 24, 2019
Page 3

Climate Change Value: 10 (out of 13)
Additional Criteria: 25 (out of 25)

Consideration: The grant to Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is for \$500,000 of Proposition 68 funds.