

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: August 26, 2019

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 12: Consideration of resolution of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy authorizing a grant of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds (GGRF) to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program.**

Staff Recommendation: The Conservancy authorize a grant of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds (GGRF) to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program.

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

Background: The California Natural Resources Agency granted the Conservancy \$1.5 million dollars to prioritize, develop, and implement a regional program to strengthen fire resiliency, increase carbon sequestration, and facilitate greenhouse gas reductions in Southern California. This grant from the State Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program is part of \$20 million in block grants for local and regional fire resiliency projects statewide funded by Cap and Trade revenue through California Climate investments. Six regional block grants have been awarded throughout the state to ensure regional implementation.

The proposed grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is \$700,000 for Phase 1 of the project. This phase includes review and analysis of existing fire prevention plans within the Conservancy Zone. Based on the analysis, a draft program will be developed with fire prevention experts and stakeholders within the region to identify best management practices for fire resiliency of different land types. Funding would also support a fire ecologist to work with partners in the identification of priority areas and the development of best management practices and projects including the use of GIS mapping for plan development. Funds would also support the identification of new technologies for fire prevention such as equipment to remotely identify and monitor priority areas. The final deliverable will be a draft program to be presented to the Conservancy Board along with recommended demonstration projects.

Please refer to the Item 11 staff presentation for additional information.