

# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: August 26, 2019

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 20: Consideration of resolution authorizing a Proposition 68 project planning and design grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for visitor facilities on dedicated and acquired open space within the former Verdugo Hills golf course, La Tuna Canyon, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant from Proposition 68 urban creek funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for planning visitor serving facilities on the site of the former World War II Tuna Canyon Detention Station, in the amount of \$25,000.

Legislative Authority: Public Resources Code Sections 33204.2, 33204.27, and 80110(a)(1)(A).

Background: Please see the attached grant application material from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation authority for \$25,000 from the Conservancy's Proposition 68 funds. MRCA will match the grant with \$10,000 of its funds, bringing the total planning costs to \$35,000. The Tuna Canyon Detention Station site lies within the now-closed Verdugo Golf Course, and has been designated by the City of Los Angeles as Historic-Cultural Monument Site No. 1039. The site designation recognizes and memorializes the imprisonment of Japanese, German, and Italian immigrants and extradited Japanese Peruvians during World War II. A nonprofit group, the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition, formed to increase awareness of this sad history and to assist in the preservation of at least part of the site. The property is owned by a development company; its proposed tract map conditions require a dedication of over 30 acres of open space to the MRCA. A Memorandum of Agreement also provides that MRCA can acquire additional sections pending availability of funds. Planning and design of visitor-serving facilities will assist the site memorialization and historic story, and the product may engender additional acquisition funding. The site is within the Verdugo Wash watershed, a tributary of the Upper Los Angeles River.

## General Obligation Bond Law

The General Obligation Bond Law provides that bond funds may be used for the construction and acquisition of "capital assets." Capital assets include major maintenance, reconstruction, demolition for purposes of reconstruction of facilities, and retrofitting work that is ordinarily done no more often than once every 5 to 15 years or expenditures that continue or enhance the useful life of the capital asset (Government code Section 16727 (a)). Capital assets also

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includes equipment with an expected useful life of two years or more, and tangible physical property with an expected useful life of 10 to 15 years. Section 16727 (a) also allows bond funds to be used for costs that are incidentally but directly related to construction or acquisition including costs for planning, engineering and other design work.

Using the Conservancy's Draft Proposition 68 Guidelines for Visitor Serving Development and Improvement Projects, the former Verdugo Golf Course/ Tuna Canyon Detention Station design grant project scores a total of 111 points (out of total possible 145; minimum of 80 to 101), and with a 40% match.

Staff recommends award of a \$25,000 grant.