

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: February 24, 2020

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 12: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 68 funds to Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Vegetation Management, Fire Prevention and Resilience Projects.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 68 funds to Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Vegetation Management, Fire Prevention and Resilience Projects in the amount of \$2,000,000.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204.2(a), 33204.27(a), and Section 80100(a)(1)(A) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has submitted a grant application for vegetation management, fire prevention and resilience projects. Please see the attached Proposition 68 grant application for a detailed description and analysis. The grant is to be used for the reduction of hazardous fuels and drought-damaged vegetation over 400-450 acres to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds, prevent the air quality degradation that would result from wildfire, and promote establishment of resilient native trees and vegetation such as oaks and toyon. Prevention of wildfire on public parklands is a high priority, particularly in wildland-urban interface areas. The increasingly extreme effects of climate change necessitate an ongoing effort to make public lands more resilient, ensuring that these natural resources remain public assets. While fires still occur on land that has been maintained and brushed, proper vegetation management gives firefighters space to defend resources and can reduce fire intensity.

Wildfires release significant amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and as is evident during fires every year, impose huge public safety impacts on residents, fire fighting personnel, and parkland resources. This grant will also fund capital equipment including suppression systems, chainsaws, weedwhips, chippers, personal protection and safety equipment; including contract and staff services. The applicant provided a greenhouse gas analysis using an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change model, showing a potential reduction of over 10,000 metric tons of CO₂.

Scoring - Competitive Grant Program

Under the Conservancy's Proposition 68 grant guidelines for Vegetation Management and Fire Safety Projects, this grant request received sufficient scoring under values for Prioritization, Category, Implementation, Climate Change, and Additional Consideration.

Scoring under the Conservancy's Proposition 68 Guidelines results in the Vegetation Management, Fire Resilience and Prevention project receiving the following:

Prioritization Value: 12 (out of 12)
Category Value: 35 (out of 35)
Implementation Value: 15 (out of 15)
Climate Change Value: 13 (out of 13)
Additional Criteria: 10 (out of 15)
Matching Funds Weighting: 0%

Total points: 85(63 minimum required).

Consideration: The application from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is for \$2,000,000 of Proposition 68 funds.