

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: March 30, 2020

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 8: Consideration of resolution authorizing use of funds from the Conservancy Fund for payment to the SoCal Water\$mart Public Agency Landscape Rebates program.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing use of funds from the Conservancy Fund for payment to the SoCal Water\$mart Public Agency Landscape Rebates program in the amount of \$12,033.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33215 and 33211(c) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Metropolitan Water District's SoCal Water\$mart Public Agency Landscape program provided rebates to public agencies to encourage installation of more water-efficient equipment. Ramirez Canyon Park is operated by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA). In 2016 portions of the irrigation system at Ramirez Canyon Park were upgraded. The MRCA contracted with a vendor to do the installation, and the vendor applied for the rebates on the Conservancy's behalf, as the property owner. The funds were provided up-front as an incentive, and the rebates were deposited into the Conservancy Fund, in a total amount of \$14,880.

The Water\$mart program was audited in 2019, and sent an inspector to Ramirez Canyon. At that time, the irrigation system was not functioning due to damage from the Woolsey Fire. Per the inspection, two of the irrigation controllers were not functioning as they did not have working electrical connections. The inspector also counted sprinkler nozzles, and found fewer than was expected. In addition to losing some to fire damage, the rebate applications, prepared by the vendor, overestimated the number of valves/stations and sprinkler nozzles that would be required. Staff for the rebate program have been informed that the property suffered significant damage during the Woolsey Fire, and that among all the repairs needed at the property, irrigation has not been prioritized above safety concerns and functioning building and utility systems. Nevertheless, they are requesting that a portion of the rebate funds be returned.

Consideration: The amount of rebate requested to be refunded is \$12,033.