

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: August 31, 2020

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 13: Consideration of resolution authorizing the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to establish an agreement with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to jointly consider and fund the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, Trails LA County Expansion for Equity, Inclusion and Watershed Education Project, County of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to establish an agreement with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to jointly consider and fund the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, Trails LA County Expansion for Equity, Inclusion and Watershed Education Project.

Legislative Authority: Section 33211(c) of the Public Resources Code and Section 79508 of the Water Code.

Background: The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation developed and inaugurated the Trails LA County platform, a highly comprehensive and engaging website and mobile application featuring information on more than 600 miles of public trails spread across diverse landscapes throughout Los Angeles County, also encompassing the Los Angeles and San Gabriel River watersheds. The platform is a consolidated approach to public lands that provides trail and park information for facilities owned or managed not just by the County, but all park agencies and municipalities. This Project seeks to enrich and enhance Trails LA County through:

- Prioritizing and addressing the needs of disadvantaged communities by promoting greater access, stewardship, watershed comprehension and advocacy of trails and public parklands.
- Expanding upon educational themes in terms of watershed education and clean water issues; the incorporation of watershed and water supply education will promote the accessibility and comprehension of this information more broadly throughout the region. The intersection of trails and watershed/water supply will offer a new and innovative way to engage the community around these critical topics while encouraging the stewardship of both trails and the environment.
- Watershed data mapping which will include a comprehensive map illustrating the relationships of various projects in relation to our trail systems, watersheds, and each other, which has yet to be developed.

This Project will create content for water supply and watershed education, while strengthening utility for the diverse cultures and trail interests in the County and in the Conservancy zones, including trails and access issues along waterways. Of particular benefit to the project's goal of enhancing an integrated digital medium will be to provide equitable and inclusive access to countywide trails, parklands and rivers not just for existing trail users and groups, but especially for high need and under served communities and groups.