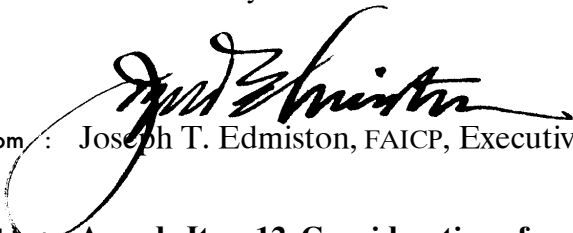


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: February 22, 2021

From : 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 12: Consideration of resolution authorizing a special Proposition 68 grant round to solicit Monarch butterfly restoration projects.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a special grant round from Proposition 68 funds to solicit one or more Monarch butterfly restoration projects, with total amount for all projects not to exceed \$250,000.

Legislative Authority: Public Resources Code Sections 33204 (a); 33203.2(a); 33204.27; and 8000.

Background: The western population of Monarch butterflies has experienced a drastic decline in the past few years, as vividly described in the presentation in Agenda Item 11 by Cat Darst of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and in her presentation at Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks' January 21 Open Space Roundtable. Other presentations were made by California State Parks' Pismo State Beach Monarch Butterfly Preserve, the Ventura County Planning Department, and the Ventura County Resource Conservation District. This migratory species has been impacted by a number of stressors, most likely including climate change, drought, and habitat losses. Staff proposes developing criteria for a request for projects for Monarch assistance projects within the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Zone/Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor that would be efficacious and timely. Potential projects could include habitat protection, native milkweed production and planting, provision of timely-blooming native plant nectar sources, and/or other science-based restoration ideas. California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the US Fish and Wildlife Service may provide additional guidance.

Timeline for announcing a request for applications would likely be early to mid March, with potential submittal deadline by late April. As with all SMMC grants, potential applicants will be advised to first consult with Conservancy staff before preparing an application.

Projects would be scored with the Conservancy's Proposition 68 Guidelines for Restoration Projects.