



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens  
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, California 90065  
Phone (323) 221-9944

## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: September 8, 2004

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(b): Consideration of resolution accepting a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Project Planning and Design services for projects in the Upper Los Angeles River watershed and Santa Monica Mountains portions of the Santa Monica Mountains Zone.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution accepting a grant of in the amount of \$200,000.00 from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Project Planning and Design services for projects in the Upper Los Angeles River watershed and Santa Monica Mountains portions of the Santa Monica Mountains Zone.

Background: At its August 30, 2004 meeting, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy authorized a grant to MRCA of Proposition 50 funds for Project Planning and Design Services leading directly to the protection of land and water resources in the upper Los Angeles River Watershed and within the coastal watersheds of Santa Monica Bay and Ventura County pursuant to Division 23 (commencing with Section 33000) of the Public Resources Code.

The MRCA submitted a grant application to the Conservancy in the sum of \$200,000 for this project. The proposed grant would fund activities directly related to the acquisition, protection and restoration of land and water resources and associated planning, permitting, and administrative costs for a subset of projects listed on the MRCA Workprogram.

Projects that will be pursued under this grant include both land acquisition and improvement projects that protect land and water resources in order to reduce pollution, capture additional storm water runoff, protect and manage groundwater, reduce pollution of the Los Angeles River and its tributaries, and to provide habitat for fish and wildlife. Land acquisition includes both obtaining fee simple title and

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conservation easements. Such land acquisition can be via direct purchase, donation, or dedication. The MRCA will provide direct services related to the expeditious acquisition or improvement of remaining open space parcels and/or sites with open areas or removable improvements for reclamation within the potential eligible projects on the attached project list. The MRCA's efforts will include concerted coordination with other government agencies.

The grant to the MRCA is \$200,000.00. \$147,000 would be used for projects in the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed, and the remainder for projects in the coastal watersheds of Santa Monica Bay and Ventura County. A draft grant agreement and the application to the Conservancy are attached.