



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM: 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: May 29, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for trail improvements and construction at Fryman Canyon.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in the amount of \$150,000 for trail improvements and construction at Fryman Canyon.

Background: Fryman Canyon Park is located in the eastern Santa Monica Mountains on the north side of Mulholland Drive. The park can be accessed via the Nancy Hoover Pohl Overlook on Mulholland. The 122-acre park offers spectacular views of the San Fernando Valley and access to the Betty B. Dearing Cross Mountain Trail. The Dearing Trail traverses the park and connects to Wilacre Park, Franklin Canyon and Coldwater Canyon Park. The park is abundant with native chaparral, year-round springs, and deeply wooded canyons.

The Betty B. Dearing Cross Mountain Trail is currently in a state of disrepair. There is significant erosion in multiple locations. In some places, there are 2-foot deep gullies in the middle of the trail. Several volunteer trails have developed that have increased the erosion problems. Additionally, some noxious non-native weeds including Russian star thistle have established a foothold along the trail in some sections.

MRCA staff proposes seeking a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for trail improvements and remediation for three miles of this trail in an effort to continue to provide safe recreational access for the public. MRCA trail crews will realign the trail and repair the eroded areas. In some areas, existing land-tie stairs will be replaced. The unwanted volunteer trails will be re-vegetated to prevent further use. Staff will also perform non-native plant removal.

Consideration: The MRCA will seek a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in the amount of \$150,000.