



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM: 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: May 6, 2015

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XIV: Consideration of resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a project planning and design grant for Escondido Canyon public access, City of Malibu and unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a project planning and design grant for Escondido Canyon public access in the amount not to exceed \$50,000.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) develops and implements a wide range of projects for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) including through project planning and design grants. Both the MRCA and the Conservancy own portions of Escondido Canyon Park. To continue this effort to secure and develop land interests and public recreation resources in the Conservancy's jurisdiction, staff is seeking authorization to submit a project planning and design grant application to the Conservancy. This proposed grant application is for the Escondido Canyon public access project planning and design project.

Escondido Canyon Park is popular among local and non-local visitors for recreational activities. However, public access is limited by existing private development surrounding the park in all directions. An existing trailhead consisting of one small public parking lot at Pacific Coast Highway cannot accommodate all visitors to the park. To access the park, visitors must park at the trailhead parking lot or along the highway shoulder and walk along Winding Way for approximately one mile before actually reaching Escondido Canyon Park.

The purpose of the project planning and design grant application to the Conservancy is to identify public access opportunities and their constraints in greater detail in order to expand public access to Escondido Canyon Park. The parking lot on Winding Way could potentially be expanded to accommodate the

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growing number of visitors to the park. Additionally, a new trailhead to Escondido Canyon Park via Latigo Canyon Road could potentially be developed. Furthermore, developing this trailhead also provides an access point for the Coastal Slope Trail that bisects Escondido Canyon Park. Both to make use of under-used trail easements and to solve a high concentration of use at the Winding Way parking lot and along Winding Way itself, a plan should be developed to disperse such usage.

A map of the proposed grant scope area is attached.