



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: May 4, 2011

SUBJECT:

Agenda Item X : Consideration of resolution requesting that the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy augment grant SMM- 0757 (Proposition 84) for Fuel Hazard Reduction for protection and restoration of parklands managed by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

Staff Recommendation: That the MRCA Governing Board adopt the attached resolution requesting that the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy augment grant SMM-0757 in the amount of \$500,000 of Proposition 84 funds for fuel hazard reduction projects for the protection and restoration of parklands managed by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority operates and manages dozens of park sites and thousands of acres of open space located throughout Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. The protection and restoration of both natural and developed resources found on these lands is facilitated by the systematic removal of invasive plants and restoration of native plant communities in their place. The removal of hazardous fuel-loads directly protects structures and other park features; moreover, such wildfire prevention efforts helps to protect wildlife and plant communities found in fragmented urban interface and open space areas. Erosion and watershed protection is also accomplished by restoration of native plant communities and the prevention of wildfires through the reduction of fuel loads. These actions also serve to reduce the potential of sediment, ash, and organic matter loading of the streams draining watersheds of the Los Angeles River and Santa Monica Bay.

Bond funds may be used for the construction or acquisition of capital assets. "Capital assets" is defined in Section 16727(a) of the Government Code to include "major maintenance, reconstruction, demolition for purposes of reconstruction of facilities and retrofitting work that is ordinarily done no more often than once every 5 to 15 years or expenditures that continue or enhance the useful life of a capital asset."

Some durable equipment (with useful life of 2 years or more) related to performing the above augmented projects will also be purchased, amount not to exceed \$155,000. Due to the size of the project, purchasing this equipment will cost less than leasing. Equipment to be purchased may include (1) Bobcat Track Loader and brush cutter attachment (or equivalent) \$65,000; (1) Bandit Brush Chipper (or equivalent) \$45,000; (1) Heavy Duty Mower (or equivalent) \$15,000; (1) Work Utility Vehicle (or equivalent) \$15,000; (6) Heavy Duty Weed-whips \$5,000; and \$10,000 for related power tools and equipment. Contract vegetation management services and MRCA staff costs directly related to performing the restoration and protection projects are also included in the grant augmentation request.