



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: August 3, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution confirming staff application for, and authorizing acceptance of, a grant of mitigation funds (West Sylmar Overhead on Interstate Route 5/14 Corps No. SPL-2006-852-PHT) from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a riparian habitat restoration and creation project on Authority property in the Los Angeles River watershed.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution confirming staff application for, and authorizing acceptance of, a grant of mitigation funds (West Sylmar Overhead on Interstate Route 5/14 Corps No. SPL-2006-852-PHT) from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a riparian habitat restoration and creation project on Authority property in the Los Angeles River watershed.

Background: A three-way agreement between the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy), Caltrans, and the Army Corps of Engineers was signed in late 2009. In February 2010 the Conservancy received a \$90,000 check from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to fund 0.523 acres of riparian habitat restoration and creation in the Los Angeles River watershed. The money was deposited into the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Fund (Conservancy Fund). The funding is an approved appropriation in the State budget.

The MRCA sent the attached letter dated June 10, 2011 to the Conservancy requesting a grant of the subject funding to conduct a habitat mitigation project in the Los Angeles River watershed. The letter also requested an advance of the funding for various reasons. The Conservancy authorized the grant and advance on June 27, 2011. A total of \$90,000 exists in the fund. This action would authorize MRCA acceptance of the full amount of the funding.

The MRCA is working with the Army Corps of Engineers to identify potential sites. The MRCA plans to commence work in Fall 2011 if funding and permits are available. The advance is necessary to ensure no interruptions in the MRCA's cash flow. Restorations require attention, steady capital, and labor input on a weekly basis over the course of several consecutive years.