

Agenda Item VII(b)

MRCA

5/2/12

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: April 23, 2012

From : Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 16: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Fund to produce a short documentary about the early history of efforts to preserve the Santa Monica Mountains -for use at the Santa Monica Mountains Interagency Visitor Center at King Gillette Ranch and for other public service purposes.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Fund to produce a short documentary about the early history of efforts to preserve the Santa Monica Mountains -for use at the Santa Monica Mountains Interagency Visitor Center at King Gillette Ranch and for other public service purposes in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.

Legislative Authority: Section 33215, and 33204.27(a) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Anthony C. Belenson Interagency Visitor Center at King Gillette Ranch will open to the public in June 2012. The visitor center is a joint project of the National Park Service, California State Parks, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. In addition to state-of-the-art exhibits and interactive features educating the public about the Santa Monica Mountains and their natural, historical, educational, and recreational resources, the visitor center includes a small screening room where visitors will be able to view short video presentations. Staff proposes to include a short documentary about the early history of efforts to preserve the Santa Monica Mountains with themes including community involvement, the unique and successful partnerships at all levels of government that were formed in order to achieve a common goal, planning, and the future. The film will be available in English and in Spanish.

In addition to use at the visitor center, the Conservancy will be able to use the film for other public outreach efforts, including on its website.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is uniquely suited to completing this task in a short time frame because it already has assembled much of the archival information necessary to make this documentary accurate and engaging. It has also been involved in conservation efforts in the Santa Monica Mountains for more than two decades and is able to work closely with community partners to tell the story in the most expedient manner possible.