



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: May 2, 2012

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item X: Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of an augmentation of Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy grant CF - 1020 and of said funding for riparian habitat restoration in Lopez Canyon, San Gabriel Mountains, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of an augmentation of Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy grant CF - 1020 and of said funding for riparian habitat restoration in Lopez Canyon.

Background: In September of 2009, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) received funding from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), as mitigation for impacts associated with Interstate 710. The Agreement between the Conservancy and Caltrans states that the mitigation shall occur within the Los Angeles River watershed. Lopez Canyon, in the San Gabriel Mountains north of the City of San Fernando is the target site for implementation of this project.

In May 2010, the Conservancy adopted resolution 10-20, authorizing a \$330,000 grant (CF-1020) and advance of not less than \$175,000 to the MRCA to do this habitat mitigation project in Lopez Canyon.

Subsequently, in April 2011 the Conservancy received an additional \$23,940 from Caltrans for the increased impacts associated with their original project. This funding is held in the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Fund. The Conservancy staff offer the additional funding to the MRCA to augment the existing project. There is plenty of physical space to accommodate more restoration. This funding is for an extra 0.114-acre of riparian restoration to be added to the original 2.03-acre project. The MRCA is still in the permitting process for the project, caught in the vast new requirements of the Army Corps of Engineers 2008 mitigation rule. A map of the subject property is attached.

The Conservancy authorized the augmentation of the grant and advance of said funds at its April 23, 2012 meeting.

This action will authorize the acceptance of the augmentation of CF-1020 to include the additional \$23,940, and authorize acceptance of an advance of up to \$23,940 to the MRCA.

The subject MRCA-owned property in Lopez Canyon contains a stretch of streambed that has been filled and dammed over decades. This is a major job that will require extensive permitting and excavation work. MRCA would like to commence the permitting work immediately and begin excavation in Summer 2012.