



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Governing Board  
*Joseph T. Edmiston*

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

**DATE:** November 7, 2012

**SUBJECT:** **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for grant funds for purchase of construction equipment.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for grant funds in the amount of \$385,000 for purchase of construction equipment.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority operates and manages dozens of park sites located throughout Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. The MRCA's Construction Division is an integral part of keeping these parks safe and enjoyable for the public, by performing work necessary for restoration, rehabilitation, and protection of the park resources, as well as implementing new park improvements throughout the agency's jurisdiction. The Division relies on a complement of heavy equipment to accomplish all these tasks, much of which is used on a daily basis. This heavy equipment is also used by other departments in the agency to complete a variety of tasks. The requested grant funding will be used to purchase durable equipment which will be utilized in capital improvement projects throughout all the parks that the agency manages. Renting equipment is not cost-effective for items that are used so frequently. Additionally, in an emergency, such as an earthquake, fire or flood, the equipment is often not readily available from rental companies. Having equipment on hand means that staff can respond quickly to emergencies on agency property.

The MRCA continually undertakes restoration and enhancement projects on the many parks and open space areas it operates in order to increase public access and to provide safe and enjoyable recreation opportunities. The requested grant is to purchase needed equipment to perform a variety of construction work. The items requested are those that through experience staff knows to be the most useful and practical for the agency as a whole. All the equipment proposed for purchase under this grant would have a useful service life of more than two years and would be used to continue or enhance the useful life of existing or planned parks, trails, and

trailheads. This equipment would improve the condition, safety, and longevity of parks and trails managed by the MRCA, as well as make construction work more efficient and safer.

Several pieces of equipment currently in use no longer meet current South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) guidelines for off-road diesel engines/construction equipment (Tier 3), exceeding the age, hours of use, and general wear recommendations. The newly purchased items will provide many years of relatively low maintenance cost operation and meet current AQMD guidelines.

Objectives of the Construction Equipment purchase are to acquire capital assets equipment to be used in the development, rehabilitation, restoration or protection of land and water resources. These objectives will be achieved by purchase of a backhoe, mini-excavator, farm-style tractor, skip loader, trailer, and dump truck. All equipment purchased will meet Air Quality Management District guidelines.

Project Components: The following equipment is used by the construction division daily and frequently loaned to other divisions.

**Backhoe:** The existing Case Backhoe (unit #28) has unknown hours of use on the equipment due to a broken Hobbs engine hour meter. The backhoe is in poor shape, exhibiting many hydraulic leaks as well as poor brakes and the equipment does not comply with AQMD standards. This equipment is used to dig trenches as well as lifting and earth moving.

Backhoe or similar-function piece of equipment replacement cost: \$ 80,000

**Mini-excavator:** The existing Takeuchi mini-excavator (unit #29) has over 3000 hours of use on the equipment. The unit is in poor shape due to wear on all moving parts, and exhibits some hydraulic leaks. The mini-excavator does not comply with AQMD standards. This equipment is used daily for digging trenches and drilling holes in confined space areas. The mini-excavator easily maneuvers around tight and confined sites, allowing work to be completed efficiently that would otherwise take many hours of labor with hand equipment.

Mini-excavator replacement cost: \$ 35,000

**Farm-style Tractor:** The existing 1992 farm-style tractor, (unit #30) has over 1000 hours of operation. The tractor is in fair shape, but does not comply with AQMD standards. This equipment is used for mowing large areas as well as general earth

moving. Replacement of the unit cost would include a new mower head since the current one is very worn.

Farm-style Tractor replacement cost: \$ 50,000

**Skip Loader:** The existing 1993 Case Skip Loader (unit #33) has unknown hours of use on the equipment due to a broken Hobbs engine hour meter. The skip loader is in poor shape due to daily use and all moving parts are very worn. This equipment does not comply with AQMD standards. The skip loader is used for grading work on roads, parking lots, trails, etc, as well as for moving large boulders and other materials.

Skip Loader replacement cost: \$ 66,000

**Trailer:** MRCA currently uses a 1993 16-ft Ziemer trailer (unit #31) to move equipment and materials to and from our park sites in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. This equipment is well worn, and is undersized for much of work it needs to perform, leading to additional trips and staff time.

Trailer replacement cost: \$ 12,000

**Dump Truck:** A five to seven yard dump truck would be added to MRCA's fleet of equipment to support daily operations throughout the agency. This vehicle will give the agency added self reliance on construction projects, emergency service, and provide added towing abilities. Currently MRCA must rent or contract out for this use, causing additional costs and delays.

Dump Truck Cost: \$100,000

**Other Costs:** Other expenses included in the grant request are sales tax on the purchases, staff time to gather bids and coordinate the orders, and staff time to pick up the equipment and transport it to park storage.

Consideration: The application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is for \$385,000 of Proposition 40 funds.