



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: April 3, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(I): Consideration of resolution authorizing submission of an application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a project planning and design grant for the Mulholland Drive Scenic Corridor, Santa Monica Mountains, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing submission of an application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a project planning and design grant for the Mulholland Drive Scenic Corridor in the amount of \$35,000-45,000.

Background: The MRCA develops and implements a wide range of projects for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy including through project planning and design grants. To continue this effort to secure and develop land interests and public recreation resources in the Conservancy's jurisdiction, staff is seeking authorization to submit a project planning and design grant application to the Conservancy. This proposed grant application is for the Mulholland Drive Scenic Corridor in the Santa Monica Mountains.

The Mulholland Scenic Corridor is the backbone of the eastern Santa Monica Mountains. The open space protection and development needs along the corridor between the Lake Hollywood area and Woodland Hills are varied and unique. Complex work is necessary to maintain the remarkable habitat linkage that ties Griffith Park to the 20,000-acre Big Wild habitat area anchored by Topanga State Park. The numerous parks along the corridor need habitat and trail connections to expand both their ecological and recreational capacity flanked by dense city on two sides. The Conservancy has made a significant public investment in this area over a 30 year period that it seeks to protect and enhance. Given the opportunities, the projects on the Conservancy's Workprogram, and potential project funding availability over the next three years, staff recommends that the grant application be for \$35,000-45,000.

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The proposed project area included under this grant, approximately 12, 700 acres, would encompass the partial headwaters of both the Los Angeles River and Santa Monica Bay watersheds. This includes numerous canyons and hilly terrain with approximately 43 miles of blue line streams, including Rustic Canyon, Sullivan Canyon, Mandeville Canyon and Caballero Canyon Creeks. Within the proposed project area are approximately 1900 undeveloped private parcels, totaling approximately 1,320 acres. These potential open space acquisitions include approximately 20 miles of a contiguous Rim of the Valley Trail segment along Mulholland Drive. Public parklands along this route, beginning with the West Mulholland Trailhead at the western terminus of Mulholland Gateway Park, include Wilacre Park, Fryman Canyon Park, Franklin Canyon Park and Griffith Park. Major trailheads exist all along this portion of the Rim of the Valley Trail along Mulholland Drive leading into the Big Wild.