

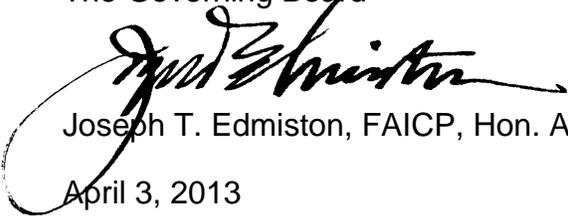


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: April 3, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(e): Consideration of resolution authorizing submission of an application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the San Gabriel Mountains Rim of the Valley Trail implementation and Angeles National Forest trail and habitat connections project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing submission of an application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the San Gabriel Mountains Rim of the Valley Trail implementation and Angeles National Forest trail and habitat connections project in the amount of \$50,000-65,000.

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 San Gabriel Mountains Rim of the Valley Trail implementation and Angeles National Forest trail and habitat connections project.

The Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Zone complements the trail and habitat resources of the Angeles National Forest. Key areas of work remain to secure the best access ways from population areas into the National Forest and the south-facing slope of the San Gabriel Mountains. This work must recognize the limited County and mitigation funding sources available. The proposed San Gabriel Mountains Rim of the Valley Trail implementation and Angeles National Forest trail and habitat connections project is designed to fill this need for the Conservancy's objectives which are shared by many other public and private entities. Many great recreation resources are at stake. Key areas include an east cluster with Altadena and La Canada, a central section with Little and Big Tujunga Canyons, and a west section with Kagel, Lopez, and Pacoima Canyons. 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 \$50,000-65,000.

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The proposed project area included under this grant would partially encompass the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains lining Angeles National Forest. The west section is contiguous to the MRCA's Lopez Canyon Open Space. This project area of more than 20 miles in length contains approximately 19 miles of blueline streams, and approximately 165 undeveloped private parcels, totaling approximately 2,600 acres. These potentially include approximately 14 miles of Rim of the Valley Trail segments. This area is accessible from Lopez Canyon Road, Kagel Canyon Road, Big Tujunga Canyon Road, Ocean View Boulevard and Starlight Crest Drive.