



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(f): Consideration of resolution authorizing submission of an application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a project planning and design grant for the Alamos Canyon habitat and trail linkage project, Santa Susana Mountains, Ventura County.**

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 Alamos Canyon habitat and trail linkage project in the amount of \$25,000-30,000.

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 Alamos Canyon habitat and trail linkage project in the Santa Susana Mountains.

Alamos Canyon and adjoining buffer habitat is the most regionally important area on the south-facing slopes of the Santa Susana Mountains in the Calleguas Creek watershed. The canyon is critical to the Santa Susana Mountains - Simi Hills intermountain range habitat linkage. The proposed Alamos Canyon habitat and trail linkage project includes a key spur of the Rim of the Valley Trail and unparalleled recreation opportunities from Simi Valley. The area is well positioned for Wildlife Conservation Board funding with an approved CAPP submitted by the Nature Conservancy. 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 \$25,000-30,000.

The proposed project area included under this grant would encompass approximately 58 miles of blue line streams, including the confluence of Alamos Canyon Creek and Arroyo Simi, and approximately 100 undeveloped private

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parcels, totaling approximately 12,000 acres, in the Santa Susana Mountains. These potentially include approximately 13 miles of contiguous Rim of the Valley Trail segments, which, if acquired, would form both an east-west linkage and a north-south linkage. The project area is located just north of the 118-23 freeway interchange. Much of the proposed project area is contiguous to Happy Camp Canyon Regional Park on its northern and western boundaries, and to Tapo Canyon Park, Marr Ranch Open Space and Rocky Peak Park on the eastern boundary. The area is accessible via Los Alamos Canyon Road and Tapo Canyon Road.