



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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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(g): Consideration of resolution authorizing submission of an application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a project planning and design grant for the Escondido to Ramirez Canyon habitat and trail linkage project, unincorporated Los Angeles 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 Escondido to Ramirez Canyon habitat and trail linkage project in the amount of \$20,000-25,000.

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 Escondido to Ramirez Canyon habitat and trail linkage project.

The Escondido to Ramirez Canyon habitat and trail linkage project builds on recent MRCA acquisitions in upper Escondido and central Ramirez canyons. This important east-west open space band lies more interior than the Coastal Slope Trail corridor. The project area provides the opportunity to connect otherwise mostly isolated public open space areas with new trails and to maintain a key east-west habitat linkage between the Zuma-Trancas National Park Service Unit and the upper Solstice and Latigo Canyon areas. These are key coastal canyons with moderate terrain and close proximity to population. Given the opportunities, the projects on the Conservancy's Workprogram, and potential project funding availability over the next two years, staff recommends that the grant application be for \$20,000-25,000.

The proposed project area included under this grant would encompass approximately 4 miles of blue line streams including Ramirez Canyon and Escondido Creeks. This area includes approximately 30 undeveloped private parcels,

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totaling approximately 650 acres in the Santa Monica Mountains. This project area borders Kanan Dume Road and the National Park Service-owned Zuma and Trancas Canyon properties to the west. The Backbone Trail is located less than ½ mile to the north. The area is also accessible via Ramera Motorway, Murphy Motorway, Dume Canyon Motorway and Ramirez Ridge Trail.