



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(h): Consideration of resolution authorizing submission of an application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a project planning and design grant for the Little Sycamore to Encinal Canyon Coastal Slope trail zone project, Santa Monica Mountains, 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 Little Sycamore to Encinal Canyon Coastal Slope trail zone project in the amount of \$30,000-35,000.

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 Little Sycamore to Encinal Canyon Coastal Slope trail zone project in the Santa Monica Mountains.

The Coastal Slope trail zone between Little Sycamore Canyon in Point Mugu State Park and the Los Angeles County-owned Banyon project dedication in Encinal Canyon contains great potential for rapid and substantial gains on trail implementation. The proposed trail corridor also serves as an important east-west habitat linkage in the Santa Monica Mountains. Maximizing the value of existing and future parklands in this zone requires the implementation of the Coastal Slope Trail. 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 \$30,000-35,000.

The proposed project area included under this grant would encompass approximately 13.5 miles of blue line streams including the creeks of Big Sycamore Canyon, Little Sycamore Canyon, Trancas Canyon, Deer Canyon, Los Alisos Canyon, Nicholas Canyon, Encinal Canyon, and Arroyo Sequit. Within the project

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area are approximately 80 undeveloped private parcels, totaling approximately 3,000 acres along or buffering the planned Coastal Slope Trail in the Santa Monica Mountains. These parcels potentially include approximately 9.5 miles of Coastal Slope Trail segments. These parcels are separated at different points by Leo Carillo State Park and Charmlee Park. Point Mugu State Park abuts the western terminus of this project area. The project area would exist on both sides of the Los Angeles County-Ventura County line. The area is accessible via Mulholland Highway, Encinal Canyon Road, Yerba Buena Road, Deer Creek Road, and Decker Canyon Road.