



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: May 29, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IV: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for trail improvements and construction at Millard Canyon.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in the amount of \$100,000 for trail improvements and construction at Millard Canyon.

Background: Millard Canyon is located in Altadena near the southern boundary of the Angeles National Forest. Millard Canyon boasts a year-round, blue-line stream which connects downstream with the Arroyo Seco. Millard Canyon is one of the most important tributaries of the Arroyo Seco, as it supports a mature closed canopy riparian forest. A public trail in Millard Canyon is part of a longstanding County of Los Angeles requirement for the early 1990's approval of the La Vina development, which along with an open space dedication, has been the subject of litigation between the La Vina development's homeowners association, the County, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. This litigation has been mostly resolved in favor of the County and the Conservancy. The County and the Conservancy have subsequently been working on how to build the trail.

To move the process of trail construction forward, MRCA staff proposes seeking a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for trail development to provide this recreational access for the public. Initial planning has identified two sections of trail on the east and west sides of the development. Under this grant, the MRCA will construct one of the sections, which will be confirmed in discussion with the County. The trail will be built by MRCA trail crews. In some areas, retaining walls and/or land tie stairs might be necessary. Additionally, some bulldozer damage occurred in the area during a past fire. Bulldozer lines would be realigned to make a more pleasing trail.

Consideration: The MRCA will seek a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in the amount of \$100,000.