



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: May 1, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI (e): Consideration of resolution authorizing submission of an application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a project planning and design grant for the upstream of Pacoima Wash Recreational Greenway to Angeles National Forest.**

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 upstream of Pacoima Wash Recreational Greenway to Angeles National Forest.

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 project planning and design along the Pacoima Wash Recreational Greenway to the Angeles National Forest.

The Pacoima Wash is historically a corridor for wildlife movement to and from the National Forest. Today, it runs through and divides the dense urban communities of San Fernando and Pacoima area of the City of Los Angeles which are severely park poor and disadvantaged. This area provides rich opportunities for the creation of both habitat and recreation through natural parks and trails. Much vacant and underutilized land exists along the east and west banks of the Wash. These areas provide large possibilities to plan new parklands and connect them with the few existing parks and open space in the area. Additionally, the potential for a bikeway and greenway along the entire Pacoima Wash connecting communities to each other and to nature within the Upper Pacoima Wash and Angeles National Forest exists and maximizes the value of existing and future parklands. Given the opportunities, and potential project funding availability over the next two years, staff expects that the grant application will be for \$60,000 pending confirmation of funding

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availability.

The proposed project area included under this grant would encompass approximately 6.2 miles of Pacoima Wash from the confluence at Tujunga Wash north to and encompassing a portion of the Angeles National Forest. Within the Angeles National Forest is an area bound by Lopez Canyon, land to the south of the Canyon to the Wash, west of El Cariso Park, and north of Dexter Park. This section includes a segment of Kagel Canyon. See attached map.