



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: March 13, 2014

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(e): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for roadway improvements at Michael D. Antonovich Regional Park at Joughin Ranch.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for roadway improvements at Michael D. Antonovich Regional Park at Joughin Ranch.

Background: Acquired in 2003, the 2,326-acre Michael D. Antonovich Regional Park at Joughin Ranch is located on the southern slopes of the Santa Susana Mountains between Chatsworth and Simi Valley. The park offers stunning vistas, rolling hills, oak and walnut woodland, water sources, and an abundance of wildlife. Throughout the park, majestic views of the San Fernando Valley; the Santa Monica, Totopa, and Santa Susana Mountains; and the Simi Hills abound. Part of a key watershed area for the Los Angeles River, the Antonovich Park encompasses the Headwaters of Devil, Ybarra, and Browns Canyons. These canyons contain extensive oak and walnut woodland and riparian corridors with year-round surface water.

Browns Canyon Road is the primary access to the property and one of few fire roads in the Santa Susana Mountains. The condition of the pavement in many sections has been deteriorating in the 11 years MRCA has held the property. In some areas there is danger of a washout in a extreme storm event. Due to the very steep slopes, rebuilding these portions of the road after a washout would require major retaining structures for support.

MRCA staff proposes seeking a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for roadway improvements to Browns Canyon Road in an effort to continue to provide safe recreational access for the public, and to provide fire and life safety access to the undeveloped open spaces of the Santa Susana Mountains. The project may require filling gullies and washouts, repairing road scour, removing debris, clearing shrubs, adding road base, and placing asphalt. A full-depth reclamation process is proposed so that the resulting road will have the longest-

possible life span.

The last comparable project undertaken by MRCA was a public bid for resurfacing of roads in Mentryville in 2011. Extrapolating the average prices from that bid, with inflation, the cost of resurfacing the entire extent of Browns Canyon Road could be in the range of \$400,000 to \$600,000. The remainder of the Proposition A grant for acquisition of the property, approximately \$100,000, is available for this work but is not enough to cover the full cost. The work is not eligible for in-lieu fee mitigation funds designated for the property.

Staff intends to issue the project for bid prior to making the formal grant request, so that the amount of the request will reflect current prices. The work will be performed by a contractor through an open bid process. Staff intends to structure the bids so that if budget allows, the helipads and less-deteriorated segments of the road could also be resurfaced.

Consideration: The MRCA will seek a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in the amount of \$300,000-\$500,000.