



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens  
570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, California 90065  
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9933

## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: May 7, 2014

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XIV: Consideration of resolution authorizing a request to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a budget augmentation to SMM-84-1331 for Mulholland Scenic Parkway Project Planning and Design, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a request to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a budget augmentation of \$65,000 for grant SMM-84-1331 for Mulholland Scenic Parkway Project Planning and Design, City of Los Angeles.

Background: On April 29, 2013, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) authorized a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for Project Planning and Design in the Mulholland Scenic Parkway region of the Santa Monica Mountains. That original grant amount was \$80,000.

The Mulholland Drive Scenic Parkway Corridor is the backbone of the eastern Santa Monica Mountains. The open space protection and development needs along the corridor between the Lake Hollywood area and Woodland Hills are varied and unique. Complex work is necessary to maintain the remarkable habitat linkage that ties Griffith Park to the 20,000-acre Big Wild habitat area anchored by Topanga State Park. The numerous parks along the corridor need habitat and trail connections to expand both their ecological and recreational capacity flanked by dense city on two sides. The Conservancy and MRCA have made a significant public investment in this area over a 30 year period that it seeks to protect and enhance.

The MRCA uses the grant proceeds for pre-acquisition planning analysis and project management, in addition to direct pre-acquisition costs such as title reports, appraisals, donation processing, and other supporting expenses. In the approximately 12 months since the original subject grant was approved, staff has also worked to permanently preserve natural habitat and wildlife movement corridors on private property through the entitlement process. These grant funds have been

the facilitating factor in the no-cost acquisitions of multiple conservation easements and deed restrictions where the financial value of the real estate significantly outweighs the funds expended on staff time and fees. The natural habitat and habitat linkages preserved under this grant are essential to the regional wildlife movement corridor between Griffith Park and Topanga Canyon.

The current request is for an amount of \$65,000 from Proposition 84 Los Angeles River funds to cover the continuing work. If this item is approved, staff would submit a cover letter signed by the Chair and a revised application to the Conservancy for potential consideration at the anticipated June 2014 Conservancy meeting.