



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: March 26, 2015

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V: Consideration of resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant of Proposition 40 funds for Project Planning and Design of visitor-serving capital improvements for underserved and disadvantaged communities at Puerco Canyon.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant of Proposition 40 funds in the amount of \$250,000 for Project Planning and Design of visitor-serving capital improvements for underserved and disadvantaged communities at Puerco Canyon.

Background: The subject Puerco Canyon property, also known as the Cameron Nature Preserve, was acquired in 2014, and at that time was among the largest privately owned open space parcels in the Santa Monica Mountains. It is an outstanding example of the Mediterranean biome with a range of plant communities including chaparral, coastal sage scrub, native grasslands, and oak woodlands. Situated between the 1,000-acre Corral Canyon Park and 8,000-acre Malibu Creek State Park, the site abuts numerous public lands and is an unparalleled opportunity to introduce more people to the resources of the Santa Monica Mountains.

Portions of the 703-acre property were cleared and graded for residential development long prior to the adoption of the California Coastal Act, and a few of these scattered ranching and homestead structures still exist. Access to the property is via the paved Puerco Canyon Road 2,000 feet from Pacific Coast Highway. Dirt-surfaced De Bell Ranch Road runs up the center of the property up Puerco Canyon, and the unpaved Puerco Motorway ridgeline fire road courses along the western property boundary and then connects to the unpaved Mesa Peak Motorway to Malibu Creek State Park and the Backbone Trail. The existence of these roads, structures, and disturbed areas means that new development, of equal or smaller footprint and impact, is allowed.

The subject project planning and design grant will be used to prepare a conceptual plan for a overnight group camping facility. The accommodations are intended to be used by service-oriented organizations such as urban youth associations, groups that provide therapeutic treatments to youth and adults of varying abilities, and community organizations from underserved and disadvantaged areas of the greater Los Angeles region. The tasks expected to be completed as part of conceptual design include programming of uses and space needs, preparation of base maps, code and permit analysis, circulation studies, development of conceptual layout options, preliminary engineering, and project management.