



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: March 4, 2015

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant of Proposition 84 funds for the protection and restoration of natural and developed resources by removal of invasive plant species, reduction of hazardous fire-fuel loads, and erosion protection.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant of Proposition 84 funds for the protection and restoration of natural and developed resources by removal of invasive plant species, reduction of hazardous fire-fuel loads, and erosion protection in the amount of \$330,000.

Background: Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) operates and manages dozens of park sites, hundreds of individual APN locations, and thousands of acres of open space located throughout Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. The protection and restoration of both natural and developed resources found on these lands can be facilitated by the systematic removal of invasive plants and restoration of native plant communities in their place. The removal of hazardous fuel-loads directly protects structures and other park features. Moreover, such wildfire prevention efforts help to protect wildlife and plant communities found in fragmented urban interface and open space areas. Erosion and watershed protection is also accomplished through the restoration of native plant communities and the prevention of wildfires through the reduction of fuel loads. These actions also reduce sediment, ash, and organic matter loading of streams draining these watersheds.

Protection and restoration projects covered under this grant application will be performed both by MRCA staff and outside contractors. To implement these tasks, MRCA will need a variety of tools and equipment. Equipment to be purchased will include, but is not limited to chainsaws, Pulaskis, handsaws, chemical spraying equipment, safety gear and other miscellaneous materials.