

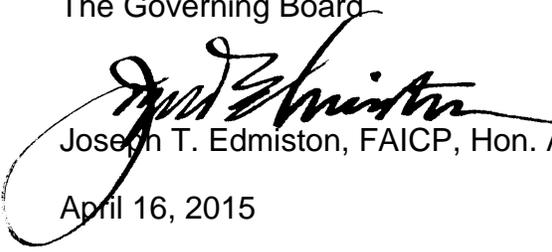


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: April 16, 2015

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IX: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Eastern Santa Susana Mountains - Western San Gabriel Mountains Watersheds project planning and design funding, Los Angeles River watershed.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Eastern Santa Susana Mountains - Western San Gabriel Mountains Watersheds project planning and design in an amount not to exceed \$85,000.

Background: The MRCA develops and implements a wide range of projects for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (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 Eastern Santa Susana Mountains - Western San Gabriel Mountains Watersheds project planning and design project.

Conservation and trail development along the northern rim of the San Fernando Valley is challenging because of topography and unique land ownership patterns. There have been many conservation successes between Big Tujunga Canyon in the eastern San Gabriel Mountains and Browns Canyon in the western Santa Susana Mountains. Between these successes there are many high quality habitat, watershed, and recreation resources that would be of outstanding public value. It is imperative to have resources for pre-acquisition efforts in all of these sub-areas in the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor. Much additional land interest is required to secure the necessary trail rights of ways.

A map of the proposed grant scope area is attached. The area includes most remaining private lands on the south face of the Santa Susana Mountains east of the Ventura County line. In addition it includes most remaining private lands in the western San Gabriel Mountains between the National Forest boundary and the urban edge. The grant scope is fully within the upper Los Angeles River watershed.