



## MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: May 6, 2015

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XV: Consideration of resolution authorizing the application for grant funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the Countywide Competitive Grant Program for the a) Woolsey-Box Canyon Project; b) Pacoima-Kagel Canyon Project; and c) Cahuenga Pass Project and approving the adoption of youth employment plans.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the three attached resolutions authorizing the application for grant funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the Countywide Competitive Grant Program for the Woolsey-Box Canyon Project, Pacoima-Kagel Canyon Project, and Cahuenga Pass Project and approving the adoption of youth employment plans.

Background: The Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District recently announced its 2015 Countywide Competitive Grant Program. One of the two primary grant categories is Rivers and Streams in the Los Angeles River watershed. Eligible projects include, "Acquisition of natural lands that will provide for wildlife enhancement or restoration of the river or tributary." The total available funding for this category countywide is \$4,262,543. Grant application amounts should reflect this limitation.

Staff seeks authorization to potentially apply for up to three grants in this category. Each proposed project location features a well-defined stream channel in the Los Angeles River watershed. Staff selected three areas where there are known willing sellers with property valuations commensurate with the grant funds available. The project titles in the attached resolutions are sufficiently broad to cover multiple parcels in each project area. Staff will apply for a grant amount acceptable to one landowner in each project area. A subsequent appraisal will be necessary to support that agreed upon acquisition cost.

The first project area is Woolsey and Box Canyons in the Simi Hills. There is at least one substantial sized stream parcel in each watershed with a willing seller. The second project area is Pacoima-Kagel Canyons in the San Gabriel Mountains.

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Lopez Canyon between these two canyons would also qualify. These stream parcels also mostly benefit from having the Rim of the Valley Trail alignment go right through them – generally on existing dirt roads. The third project is Cahuenga Pass. There are two key wildlife linkage parcels to potentially acquire in this area.

A not to exceed dollar amount of each grant application is included in each attached draft resolution. Those amounts are not set in stone. It is not expected that the MRCA will have any matching funds available for any of the grant applications. The applications are due June 3<sup>rd</sup> which is the date of the MRCA's next regularly scheduled meeting.