

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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Agenda Item VI(b) MRCA 9/2/15

February 28, 2013

Erika Reppun
Environmental Planner
Caltrans District 7 - Stewardship Branch
100 South Main Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

**Getty View Trailhead Reimbursement Commitment Letter
Transfer of Funds to proposed Mission Canyon Trailhead Area**

Dear Ms. Reppun:

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) appreciates Caltrans' steps to close the compensation issues with the Conservancy and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) from 405 Freeway widening impacts on Sepulveda Canyon trail facilities. The relevant Record of Decision dated April 2008 contains a figure of \$359,900 as total compensation for the elimination of the MRCA constructed and maintained Getty View Trailhead on Conservancy land. Our understanding is that Caltrans needs to know where the money will be spent locally for its same original purposes.

Mission Canyon is a tributary to Sepulveda Canyon and quite close to where the subject public recreational facilities were lost. Both the Conservancy and the MRCA have been working with the County for over ten years on creating a public trailhead in the closed Mission Canyon landfill property. Constraints analyses and preliminary design work by the MRCA has already occurred. Over three years ago the County Sanitation District turned control of the property over to Los Angeles County with the express purpose of beginning a park/trailhead development process. Because the future nature and quality of the access into Mission Canyon is wholly dependent on the final outcome of the location of where the new 405 Skirball Drive freeway ramps contact Sepulveda Boulevard, any park planning has been on hold. It appears that that ramp-intersection issue is solved. As your fellow District 7 employees Ron Kosinski and Liz Suh heard at a downtown meeting this week, the Third Supervisorial District wants to move forward with the project, in conjunction with the Conservancy and MRCA, immediately. The Third District has additional planning and design funds that have been set aside for years.

Mission Canyon is an ideal site to reinvest the subject \$359,900. If Caltrans concurs, the Conservancy and the MRCA both desire and agree to devote the funding to public passive

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recreation improvements and related native landscaping in Mission Canyon. Both agency's desire for Caltrans to prepare any necessary documents to achieve this objective. Ideally those documents could be signed by officers of each agency. As necessary, the Conservancy and the MRCA Governing Board can approve confirming actions.

As the MRCA has spearheaded the Mission Canyon trailhead planning to date, the Conservancy confirms that the full \$359,900 should be awarded to the MRCA for the said purposes. If for any reason the Mission Canyon trailhead project does not move forward in a timely manner, the MRCA would agree to come back to Caltrans with a revised location.

As you stated in your last communicate, this process may take some additional back and forth. If this letter suffices to move forward, please proceed. Potentially a confirming email from an MRCA officer may also be desired at this stage?

Please contact me with any questions or direction at 310-589-3200 ext. 128, at the above letterhead address, or edelman@smmc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



PAUL EDELMAN
Deputy Director
Natural Resources and Planning