



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: October 7, 2015

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XI: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 1 funds for vegetation management.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 1 funds for vegetation management in the amount of \$500,000.

Background: The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 ("Proposition 1") was approved by voters in November 2014. Proposition 1 authorizes \$7.545 billion in general obligation bonds for State water projects, including surface and groundwater storage, ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration, and drinking water protection. Proposition 1 allocated funding to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) for multiple benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects (Water Code Section 79731(j)) and for projects to protect and enhance an urban creek (Water Code Section 79735(a)). The Conservancy has begun a competitive grant program on a quarterly cycle, including grants for vegetation management. The first round of applications is due November 30.

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 systematic reduction of hazardous vegetation at these sites directly reduces wildfire risks, protects watersheds, and promotes watershed health. Protection and restoration projects covered under this grant application will be performed both by MRCA staff and outside contractors. Equipment to be purchased will include, but is not limited to, chainsaws, handsaws, chemical spraying equipment, and safety gear.