



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: February 3, 2016

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(c): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 50 funding for the King Gillette Ranch trail project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 50 funding for the King Gillette Ranch trail project in the amount of \$200,000.

Background: One of the most stunning locales in the Santa Monica Mountains, 588-acre King Gillette Ranch is situated in the heart of the Malibu Creek Watershed (Santa Monica Bay watershed), by the confluence of five major tributaries, and adjacent to Malibu Creek State Park. This scenic parkland at the lower end of the Las Virgenes Valley is a haven for larger mammals of the Santa Monica Mountains. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) manages the park in cooperation with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area unit of the National Park Service, and California State Parks.

The King Gillette Ranch trail project will be completed in collaboration with California State Parks in support of their initiative to provide accessible trails meeting ADA standards wherever possible. The park's high volume of visitors and relatively flat open spaces makes it an ideal site for a loop trail that will increase the connectivity between the Anthony C. Beilenson Visitor Center and other site structures and amenities. Currently, vehicular traffic and pedestrian traffic share the same narrow path of travel through the majority of the property. The loop trail will offer alternative walking paths with durable surfacing to ensure visitor safety and enhance the visitor experience.

Consideration: The grant from the Conservancy would be in the amount of \$200,000.