



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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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(d): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 1 funding for the Arroyo Sequit Creek project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 1 funding for the Arroyo Sequit Creek project.

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)). The Conservancy has begun a competitive grant program on a quarterly cycle. The second round of applications is due February 29.

An existing residential camp facility, Camp Bloomfield, in unincorporated Los Angeles County, may become available for acquisition. Arroyo Sequit runs through the site, which also drains minor tributary canyons. Leo Carrillo State Park is directly downstream. The camp holds up to 200 people and contains accommodations for visitors with mobility impairments and other disabilities. The site offers opportunities to add sustainable water management, such as erosion protection, stormwater capture, bioswales, and wastewater treatment. These features, combined with a location where visitors are immersed in a natural resource-rich environment, make the facility a unique opportunity to protect water and coastal resources and demonstrate sustainable water management practices. The Proposition 1 grant request will fund project planning and design for watershed protection activities, and activities related to acquisition and feasibility analysis.

Consideration: The grant application would be for approximately \$250,000.