



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(f): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 1 funding for the Puerco Canyon 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 Puerco Canyon 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.

The Puerco Canyon property, also known as the Cameron Nature Preserve, was acquired in 2014, and spans 703 acres in the Santa Monica Mountains. Portions of the property were cleared and graded for residential development long prior to the adoption of the California Coastal Act. The Puerco Canyon project will convert the previously graded sites into a trailhead with day-use parking, a campground, and an extended stay camp facility designed to accommodate foster youth from the Los Angeles County Foster Care system.

The Proposition 1 grant request will fund items related to watershed protection, including erosion control measures, riparian protections, and potentially a treatment wetland for restroom wastewater.

Consideration: Preliminary budget analysis indicates that the grant application would be for approximately \$500,000.