



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: August 3, 2016

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing grant augmentation request to Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, SMM-40-1267, for the Towsley Canyon acquisition, Santa Clarita Woodlands.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing grant augmentation request to Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, SMM-40-1267, for the Towsley Canyon acquisition, Santa Clarita Woodlands.

Background: On November 7, 2012, the Governing Board authorized the application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) for a grant of Proposition 40 funds for the acquisition of the remaining interest in Towsley Canyon, as well as authorizing said acquisition. The Governing Board authorized a request for augmentation of the grant on October 2, 2013, to cover unanticipated title issue costs necessary to complete the acquisition.

As stated on these previous occasions, ownership issues of the remaining private interest in the property are complicated with many fractional ownerships. It required MRCA staff to work closely for many hours with counsel for the sellers. Litigation among the various parties and ownership groups caused further delay and unexpected cost increases.

At this time, all title and legal issues are resolved and both parties are ready to enter escrow for the remainder of the property. This final augmentation of \$20,000 will cover the now-established final escrow costs and appropriate MRCA personnel costs necessary to complete this acquisition. The SMMC approved the grant augmentation at its July 18, 2016 meeting to expedite the funding process so that escrow can be opened and a closing date scheduled.