


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: June 7, 2017

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XII: Consideration of resolution authorizing a Proposition 84 grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Mulholland Scenic Corridor project planning and design services, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a Proposition 84 grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Mulholland Scenic Corridor project planning and design services in an amount of not more than \$50,000, in the City of Los Angeles.

Background: The MRCA develops and implements a wide range of projects for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy including through project planning and design grants. To continue this effort to secure and develop land interests and public recreation resources in the Conservancy's jurisdiction, staff is seeking authorization to submit a project planning and design grant application to the Conservancy. This proposed grant application is for the Mulholland Drive Scenic Corridor in the Santa Monica Mountains.

The Mulholland Drive Scenic Corridor is the backbone of the eastern Santa Monica Mountains. The numerous parks along the corridor need habitat and trail connections to expand both their ecological and recreational capacity flanked by dense city on two sides. The numerous public overlooks along Mulholland Drive have seen a significant increase in use by the public in the last several years.

Though the subject grant would encompass projects in the Mulholland Scenic Corridor between the Lake Hollywood area and Woodland Hills areas, the bulk of the work performed under this grant would take place between the 405 and 101 Freeways (Sepulveda Pass to Cahuenga Pass). This is the area encompassed by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's recently approved Eastern Santa Monica Mountain Habitat Linkage Planning Map.

Complex work is necessary to maintain the remarkable habitat linkage that enables wildlife movement from Griffith Park to the 20,000-acre Big Wild habitat area

anchored by Topanga State Park. The Conservancy and MRCA have made a significant public investment in this area over a 30-plus year period that it seeks to protect and enhance.

Under past grants, staff has worked to permanently preserve natural habitat and wildlife movement corridors on private property through the entitlement process. These grant funds have been the facilitating factor in the no-cost acquisitions of multiple conservation easements and deed restrictions where the financial value of the real estate significantly outweighs the funds expended on staff time and fees. The natural habitat and habitat linkages preserved under this grant are essential to the regional wildlife movement corridor between Griffith Park and Topanga Canyon. The MRCA uses the grant proceeds for pre-acquisition planning analysis and project management, in addition to direct pre-acquisition costs such as title reports, appraisals, donation processing, and other supporting expenses.