



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: July 26, 2017

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XV: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 40 funds for capital improvements at King Gillette Ranch.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 40 funds for capital improvements at King Gillette Ranch in the amount of \$350,000.

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 property includes over a dozen buildings of varying ages. Only the stable has been significantly remodeled since MRCA took ownership of the property. The other buildings have had only isolated upgrades and occasional major maintenance projects such as roofing, HVAC systems, and basic improvements that are necessary to extend the life span of the structures.

Earlier this year crews and contractors completed replacement of the roof of the DeCensis house, a residential structure located away from the main campus. Now that the structure is water-tight, additional improvements can be made to preserve and protect the structure. Improvements are also needed for other structures, including replacement of dormitory's chiller system. Additional work may be identified after these items are completed.

Consideration: The grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy will be \$350,000.

Fiscal Impact: The subject grant was not included in the fiscal year 17/18 budget and will need to be added. The subject grant will not result in any new maintenance obligations. A capital investment in the structures will extend their useful life span and will reduce MRCA's maintenance costs over the long term.

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