



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: July 11, 2018

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(p): Consideration of resolution a comment letter to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy on the Proposition 68 Competitive Grant Program Guidelines.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a comment letter to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy on the Proposition 68 Competitive Grant Program Guidelines.

Background: The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy released draft Competitive Grant Program Guidelines for Proposition 68 funding on June 8, 2018. Written comments are due on July 16, 2018. Staff have not yet completed a review of the guidelines and a draft letter has not yet been prepared. Based on an initial review, staff proposes to comment on the following items, at a minimum:

- There is not a separate category for pre-improvement or pre-acquisition planning, such as Proposition 1's "Project Planning and Design". Such efforts would not score high enough in the proposed Prop 68 categories to be funded. Some scoring criteria should be noted "N/A" for these types of efforts to reduce the minimum required.
- The requirement to reach a minimum score puts smaller-scale projects at a disadvantage because they cannot accumulate as many points. Community-based organizations would be put at a disadvantage as they typically do more small-scale and local projects, and opportunities to make incremental improvements to parks would be missed. Alternatively, a lower threshold could apply to smaller projects, or a dedicated program for smaller projects could be created so that they are not competing with large projects.
- The relative amount of points available for water-related project elements should be increased.

Staff are continuing to analyze the guidelines and will present any additional information at the meeting.