



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: October 3, 2018

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XIV : Consideration of resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 68 funds for the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for up to \$3 million in Proposition 68 funds for the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing project.

Background: Previously at its August meeting the Governing Board approved entering into a cooperative agreement with Caltrans for design and construction of the wildlife bridge over the 101 freeway and Agoura Road in the Agoura Hills area. MRCA owns the land both to the north and south of the 101 and to the south of Agoura Road where the bridge will land. Caltrans engineers will begin work on the design and engineering phase for the structure once sufficient funding to proceed has been deposited with MRCA, with a start time planned for early in 2019, and with reasonable assurances that progress payments will be forthcoming thereafter. The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) has pledged to raise the money and continues to receive donations for the project that it will pass through to MRCA. MRCA will then be invoiced by Caltrans on a monthly or quarterly basis. The design and engineering phase is estimated to require up to \$8-\$10 million. NWF expects to have raised at least \$1.6 million or more this fall from several large donors, but having the potential of additional park and wildlife funding from Prop 68 from the Conservancy and the state Wildlife Conservation Board would provide the assurance to Caltrans to not only begin but also to keep the project moving without interruption throughout 2019-20. The Conservancy expects to announce this month its invitation to submit Prop 68 grant proposals.