



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: March 6, 2019

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XII: Consideration of resolution authorizing (a) submission of a grant application to, and authorizing entering into a grant agreement with, the California Coastal Conservancy for Proposition 1 funds to acquire lands in Los Alisos Canyon and Lachusa Canyon, and (b) authorizing the acquisition of said lands in the coastal Santa Monica Mountains, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application to, and entering into a grant agreement with, the California Coastal Conservancy for Proposition 1 funds to acquire lands in Los Alisos Canyon and Lachusa Canyon, and authorizing the acquisition of said lands in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Background: The Woolsey Fire (2018) was especially destructive in the Decker Road (Los Alisos Canyon) and South Foose Road (Lachusa Canyon) areas of the coastal Santa Monica Mountains.

Staff requests authorization to submit the Los Alisos - Lachusa Canyon Acquisition Project grant application to the Coastal Conservancy's Proposition 1 (The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014) grant program in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 and enter into a grant agreement with the Coastal Conservancy for land acquisition in Los Alisos Canyon and Lachusa Canyon to preserve and protect lands from residential development, implement future habitat restoration projects, and extend coastal hiking opportunities.

Initial outreach to the owners of APN 4472-019-002, approximately 40 acres, in Los Alisos Canyon watershed are substantive enough to pursue application for grant funds. This property is immediately north of MRCA-owned lands and could provide a northerly spur of the Coastal Slope Trail to Nicholas Flats with panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and Santa Monica Mountains. The subject property contains the source of a seasonal, artesian spring and other USGS blue line streams cross

the property. Any future restoration project would have multiple onsite and downstream benefits including, but not limited to: reduced stormwater runoff and increased groundwater infiltration, improved water quality, and restored ecological function of riparian and upslope habitats.