



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: July 3, 2019

SUBJECT: Agenda Item XV: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant of Greenhouse Gas Reduction funds for the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Grant Program.

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) for a grant of Greenhouse Gas Reduction funds for the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Grant Program.

Background: The California Natural Resources Agency granted the Conservancy \$1.5 million to prioritize, develop, and implement projects to strengthen fire resiliency, increase carbon sequestration, and facilitate greenhouse gas reductions in Southern California. The grant from the State Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program is part of \$20 million in block grants for local and regional fire resiliency projects statewide funded by Cap and Trade revenue through California Climate investments. Six regional block grants have been awarded throughout the state to ensure regional implementation.

The proposed grant application is estimated to be between \$300,000 and \$700,000 for Phase 1 of the project. This phase includes coordination with partners to review and analyze existing fire prevention plans within the Conservancy Zone and identify best management practices for fire resiliency of different land types. Funding would also support a fire ecologist to work with partners in the identification of priority areas and the development of best management practices and projects. Existing Resources would be used to develop necessary GIS mapping for plan development. Funds would also support the identification of new technologies for fire prevention such as equipment to remotely identify priority areas. The final deliverable will be a draft program to be made available for public comment.

Fiscal Impact: This grant will allow for 25% advanced funds and will cover all known expenses.

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