



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: June 3, 2020

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant of Proposition 68 funds for Franklin Canyon Sooky Goldman Nature Center.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 68 funds for Franklin Canyon Sooky Goldman Nature Center improvements, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.

Background: The proposed grant will be used to plan, design, and build interpretive exhibits and address universal accessibility at the Sooky Goldman Nature Center (SGNC) in Franklin Canyon Park. Current exhibits were either constructed in the early 1990s or are the result of donations from other facilities as they upgraded their own exhibits. No significant changes to either the exhibits or the interpretive content and themes have been made in over twenty years.

Utilizing a small private donation, an initial plan was developed to renovate the exhibits and visitor experience. The proposed grant, if awarded, would allow MRCA to expand the planning done with that donation, working with a stakeholder advisory group to ensure relevant, factual and culturally appropriate interpretation of the natural and cultural history of Franklin Canyon Park and the Santa Monica Mountains. The new exhibits and visitor experience will be designed with both universal accessibility and post-COVID safety concerns. These capital improvements would create new access to programs, services, and activities for a variety of park users, including the thousands of Title I schoolchildren who visit the park each year.

Consideration: The grant application will be for up to \$1,000,000 of Proposition 68 funds, which will cover planning, design, and the building of nature center improvements at Franklin Canyon Park. This amount is based on \$400 per square foot, which is for average the type of exhibit development proposed.

Fiscal Impact: If awarded, the grant augmentation will be added to the FY20-21 fiscal year budget. There is no expected impact on the general fund. This grant will not result in any new maintenance obligations.