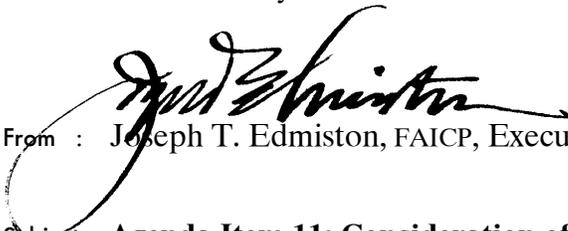


# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: December 5, 2005

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 11: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds to the City of Agoura Hills for acquisition of 18.2 acres of Lindero Creek open space and initial site improvements, portion of APN 2056-001-900, Agoura Hills.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of \$250,000 in Proposition 50 funds to the City of Agoura Hills for acquisition of 18.2 acres of Lindero Creek open space and initial site improvements, portion of APN 2056-001-900, contingent upon review and approval by the Office of the Attorney General.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204(c) of the Public Resources Codes, which states in part:

The conservancy may, in accordance with the priorities of the plan, do the following: . . . (c) Award grants to state agencies, cities, counties, resource conservation districts, and park and recreation districts for the purpose of acquiring sites identified as necessary for park, recreation, or conservation purposes and for development of essential related public facilities.

Section 79570(c) of the Water Code, which states in part:

. . . twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) shall be expended for protection of the Santa Monica Bay and Ventura County coastal watersheds, pursuant to Division 23 (commencing with Section 33000) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The City of Agoura Hills has initiated purchase of 18.2 acres of open land along Lindero Creek from the Las Virgenes Unified School District. The parcel lies at the northern terminus of Reyes Adobe Road and includes a high-quality wooded riparian corridor with a persistent stream, coastal sage scrub, grassland, and oak woodland. The property is in the Malibu Creek Watershed; Lindero Creek is an important tributary of Malibu Creek. The parcel is included as part of the "Lindero Canyon North, Agoura Hills" addition to the Conservancy's Workprogram, added after an agendaized field trip to the site on April 26, 2004 and subsequent board meeting held at the Oak Park Community Center and Gardens.

Situated immediately south of Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District open space in Oak

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Park, the parcel provides habitat connectivity with other public lands, including also Conejo Open Space and Conservation Agency land.

The School District will be developing an elementary school site west of the creek, and the subject area is a remainder portion that the City has long sought to preserve for parkland. The District is a willing seller. The City desires to incorporate a nature trail connecting with Rancho Simi Rec and Park trails, to provide needed outdoor fitness opportunities and watershed preservation at this very accessible site. Because the creek is a tributary of Malibu Creek, and preserving the parcel assists a larger civic and regional goal of improving water quality and habitat in Lindero Creek, the Malibu Creek Watershed, and Santa Monica Bay, it is eligible for Proposition 50 funding from the Conservancy's bond appropriation. It should be noted that the City's expected contribution to the purchase and initial site improvements to protect resources is approximately \$1,450,000, nearly a 6 to one match to the requested Conservancy funds.

This grant is subject to review by the Attorney General prior to finalizing the grant agreement.