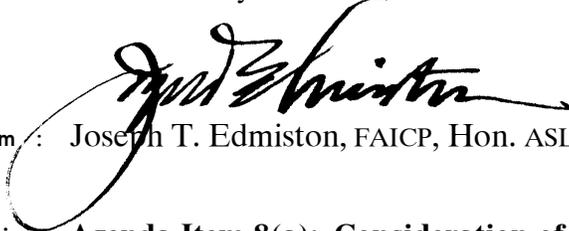


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: November 26, 2007

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 8(a): Consideration of resolution authorizing the augmentation of Grant No. SMM-0605 for Franklin Canyon Park Improvements with Proposition 50 funds.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing the augmentation of Grant No. SMM-0605 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Franklin Canyon Park Improvements with Proposition 50 funds, in the amount of \$250,000.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204.2(a) and 33204.27(a) of Public Resources Code and Section 79570 of the Water Code.

Background: The State of California has authorized expenditure of funds from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50) to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, in Chapter 10, Sections 79570(c) and 79571, for purpose of protecting coastal watersheds, including but not limited to, acquisition, protection, and restoration of land and water resources and associated planning, permitting, and administrative costs, and for the acquisition and development of facilities to promote public access to and participation in the conservation of land, water, and wildlife resources.

On January 23, 2006, the Conservancy authorized a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for improvements to Franklin Canyon Park in the amount of \$200,000. The scope of the grant included comprehensive capital improvements to the Eugene and Michael Rosenfeld Auditorium and more minor renovations to the Sooky Goldman Nature Center Courtyard, the Sam Goldman Amphitheater, the Doheny Ranch Picnic Area, the Upper Picnic Area, Heavenly Pond Picnic Area, and restrooms and fencing throughout the park.

The scope of the original grant has not changed. The budget, however, does need to be augmented to account for both unforeseen structural repairs and the general increase in the cost of construction in the region.

The initial budget estimated that auditorium improvements would cost about \$115,000. As the MRCA staff delved into the work, the actual costs turned out to be more than twice that amount.

As work began, it became apparent that more elements of the auditorium needed significant renovation. The roof had to be completely replaced to correct structural deficiencies that had been causing leaks. It also had to support new energy-efficient HVAC units. These units required new ducting. The old T-bar ceiling was removed and replaced with framing and drywall. This better served the new lighting plan. An upgraded electrical system became necessary to support the new HVAC units and the upgraded interior lighting. Staff has plans to ameliorate the interior finishes to the room as well. Additional funding is necessary to complete these improvements.

MRCA staff has also reevaluated the other park improvements based on more current construction costs. Based upon these numbers and the remaining work necessary to finish the auditorium, the grant needs to be augmented by \$250,000.

Consideration: The augmentation of Grant No. SMM-0605 to the MRCA would be in the amount of \$250,000.