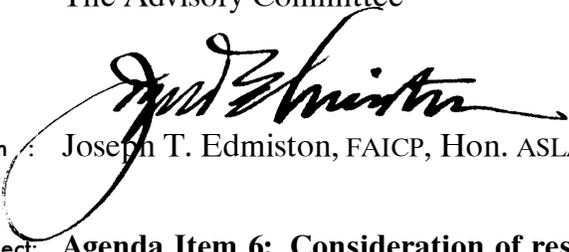


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: December 28, 2007

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 6: Consideration of resolution authorizing an amendment of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for interpretation of the Los Angeles River and Santa Monica Bay Watersheds, including visitor serving amenities and naturalist led interpretive programs for the public as well as programs specifically designed for disadvantaged youth.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing an amendment of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for all programming and visitor serving amenities funded by this grant, and will contain interpretation directly related to the natural and cultural resources of the site and the Los Angeles and/or Santa Monica Bay Watershed.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204(c) and 5096.650(b) of Public Resources Code.

Public Resources Code Section 33204(c): "The Conservancy may, in accordance with the priorities of the plan . . . 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."

The State of California has authorized expenditure of funds from Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for capital outlay and grants for protection and restoration of land and water resources in the watershed of the Upper Los Angeles River and the Santa Monica Bay and its watersheds.

Background:

On July 9, 2007 the Conservancy authorized a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for interpretation of the Los Angeles River and Santa Monica Bay Watersheds, including visitor serving amenities and naturalist led interpretive programs for the public as well as programs specifically designed for disadvantaged youth. Staff has been asked by the Attorney General's office to amend the scope of work of this grant to clarify that the interpretation funded by the grant will be specific to resources owned or

managed by the SMMC or its designee, and that all programs funded contain a specific interpretive element. For example, the grant to Outward Bound Adventure's "Teach Me to Camp Program," while including camping skills, will also contain significant interpretation of the natural and cultural resources of the Los Angeles River Watershed.

This clarifying amendment does not in fact change any of the originally proposed scope of work, as resource interpretation of the watershed has always been the core of all programming. However, the following language will be added to the grant's scope of work, as well as the scope of work of all non-profit partners:

"All programming and visitor serving amenities funded by this grant will contain interpretation directly related to the natural and cultural resources of the site and the Los Angeles and/or Santa Monica Bay Watershed. "