

## Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: December 28, 2007

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 9: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Board for expenditure of Proposition 50 funds by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to acquire approximately 306 acres, Corral Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County, including any or all of the following APNS: 4457-005-016, 4457-013-013, 4457-013-015, 4457-013-029, 4457-013-038, 4457-013-039, 4457-013-040, 4457-013-052, 4457-013-053, 4457-013-060 and 4457-013-061.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize a grant agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Board for expenditure of Proposition 50 funds by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to acquire approximately 306 acres, Corral Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County, including any or all of the following APNS: 4457-005-016, 4457-013-013, 4457-013-015, 4457-013-029, 4457-013-038, 4457-013-039, 4457-013-040, 4457-013-052, 4457-013-053, 4457-013-060 and 4457-013-061.

Legislative Authority: Section 79572(a) of the Water Code and Sections 33204.2(a) and 33204.27(a) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The properties in question are virtually unspoiled habitat located in Corral Canyon north of the City of Malibu, extending from the boundary of Corral Canyon Park north to the public lands contiguous with Malibu Creek State Park. The parcels include several miles of blue line streams as well as a significant portion of the Coastal Slope Trail.

In addition to ensuring the preservation of this high value habitat and protecting the Corral Canyon watershed, it will also guarantee a wildlife corridor from Corral Canyon Park to Malibu Creek State Park. These properties have been of high interest for Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) staff for some time. The owner has been in the process of securing entitlements for the parcels with the intent to develop.

Recently, the Trust for Public Land (TPL) was able to reach an agreement with the landowner regarding the sale of these parcels. TPL approached the MRCA about taking title to the property if funding could be secured.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the State Coastal Conservancy, the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission have all agreed to provide funding for various parts of this acquisition.

The grant from the WCB for the acquisition of these parcels is subject to the restrictions contained in Water Code Section 79572(a) which requires that any grant from the WCB for watershed protection in the Santa Monica Mountains Zone shall be made to the Conservancy.

The Conservancy has previously identified the MRCA as the most appropriate public entity to acquire the property and hold title to it. In order for the funds to be used by the MRCA for the acquisition of these properties, staff is requesting that the Conservancy authorize entering into a grant agreement with the WCB and further authorize staff to enter into any and all agreements necessary in order to allow the expenditure of said funds by the MRCA.

The acquisition of the larger group of properties is being completed in phases. The first phase of the acquisition is expected to close on December 31, 2007. The second phase, which will utilize the WCB grant funds under consideration in this action, is expected to close in the first quarter of 2008.

Please see the attached map, provided by the MRCA, showing the properties being acquired in the first phase, along with the three parcels under consideration herein that are most likely to be acquired in the second phase.