

Attachment
SMMC Item 16
January 28, 2008

Materials prepared by: C. McLane 1/22/08



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9934

January 22, 2008

Ms. Elizabeth Cheadle
Chairperson
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
5750 Ramirez Canyon
Malibu, California 90265

**Grant Application - Proposition 50 Funds
Acquisition of tax defaulted properties**

Dear Ms. Cheadle:

I am pleased to present the enclosed application for grant funding for acquisition of tax-defaulted properties in the northeast Los Angeles hilltop areas. The MRCA requests a grant in the sum of \$99,583.00 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50), specifically Water Code Section 79570(c), in compliance with Section 79508.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) commonly enters into Chapter 8 Agreements with Los Angeles County to acquire tax defaulted properties. This process is an essential component of the agency's efforts to increase the amount of protected open space in southern California. The MRCA has acquired over 1,500 acres through this process. Please refer to the enclosed application for more information. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Paul Edelman, at 310-589-3230, extension 128.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Berger".

Michael D. Berger
Chairperson

Attachments: Application

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
GRANT APPLICATION**

Project Name: Tax-Defaulted Properties – Northeast Los Angeles Hilltops	Amount of Request: \$ 99,583 Total Project Cost: \$ 99,583						
Applicant Name: Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority							
Applicant Address: 570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100 Los Angeles, CA 90065	Project Address: various						
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 33%;">County</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Senate District</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Assembly District</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Los Angeles</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22, 24</td> <td style="text-align: center;">45</td> </tr> </table>	County	Senate District	Assembly District	Los Angeles	22, 24	45
County	Senate District	Assembly District					
Los Angeles	22, 24	45					
Phone: 323-221-9944 Fax: 323-221-9934	Email: edelman@smmc.ca.gov						
Grantee's Authorized Representative: Cara McLane, Contracts Officer							
<i>Name and Title</i>	323-221-9944, x117 <i>Phone</i>						
Person with day-to-day responsibility for project: Paul Edelman, Deputy Director for Natural Resources and Planning							
<i>Name and Title</i>	310-589-3230, x128 <i>Phone</i>						
Brief Scope of Work (60 words maximum): Acquisition of tax-defaulted properties in northeast Los Angeles via Chapter 8 Agreements.							
Funding Source Applied for: Proposition 50							
Narrative/Project Description: A unique, stepping stone system of open space areas connect downtown Los Angeles northward to the San Gabriel and Verdugo mountain ranges. With the exception of the Verdugo Mountains, only a small percentage of this open space is protected in any fashion. Given both the large populations surrounding these open space systems and their freeway proximity, their public value is inestimable. The Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority (MRCA) is requesting funding to actively pursue the acquisition of tax-defaulted properties in northeast Los Angeles as a cost-effective way to preserve open space and habitat. The MRCA is interested in acquiring properties with high habitat, watershed, viewshed, and recreational values. The proposed acquisition areas are in Glassell Park, Ascot Hills, Paradise Hill, Mount Olympus, and Mount Washington. The mechanism for these acquisitions will be Chapter 8 Agreements with the County of Los Angeles, Treasurer and Tax Collector office. A tax-defaulted property is one where the owner has failed to fully pay property taxes for a period of at least five years. At the end of the five years, if the tax remains unredeemed, the Treasurer and Tax Collector has the power to sell the property, for the total amount of accumulated delinquent taxes, interest, and penalties. The property owner of record receives multiple notices and warnings prior to the sale. The decision of which parcels to apply to the funding depends on several factors, including whether the taxes are redeemed on some parcels, the final cost per parcel, and the availability of matching funding sources. It is difficult, if not impossible, to predict ahead of time exactly which parcels will be available for sale and the exact purchase price for each. The attached maps indicate specific							

hilltop areas that are known to contain parcels of similar high habitat, watershed, viewshed, and recreational value. All the identified areas are within the upper Los Angeles River watershed. Each map is a subset of the available habitat in each hilltop, and contains at least one pending Chapter 8 Agreement. The subsets are based on parcel boundaries and are designed to minimize annual brushing costs. The requested funding would only be used for the acquisition of parcels within each subset.

At a minimum, all of the subject areas still support native mammal populations including coyotes, raccoons, striped skunks, cottontail rabbits and ground squirrels, raptors and numerous resident and migrants. Likewise, they all provide recreational opportunities in and of themselves or in concert with other existing public lands. All of the relevant City Council offices support the acquisition of these open space areas.

The MRCA requests that the term of agreement begin January 28, 2008 and end no earlier than December 31, 2009, to allow ample time to process the agreements and other paperwork with the County of Los Angeles.

Tasks / Milestones:	Budget:	Completion Date
1 Land Acquisition & Closing Costs	\$ 94,000.00	December 31, 2009
2 Staff Costs	\$ 5,583.00	December 31, 2009

Acquisition Projects: APN(s): TBD
Acreage: TBD

I certify that the information contained in this Grant Application form, including required attachments, is accurate.

Cara McLane, Contracts Officer 1-22-08
Signature of Authorized Representative Date

Interim Form SMM-001

STATE OF CALIFORNIA ♦ THE RESOURCES AGENCY