



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

May 12, 2008

Mr. Ron Schafer
Chairperson
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
5750 Ramirez Canyon
Malibu, California 90265

**Grant Application - Proposition 84 Funds
Preservation, Protection and Restoration of
Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve**

Dear Mr. Schafer:

I am pleased to present the enclosed application for grant funding for the preservation, protection and restoration of Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve. The MRCA requests a grant in the sum of \$300,000 from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84).

Please refer to the enclosed application for more information. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Lisa Soghor, at (323) 221-9944, extension 105.

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: Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve Improvements	Amount of Request: \$ 300,000 Total Project Cost: \$ 300,000						
Applicant Name: Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority							
Applicant Address: 570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100 Los Angeles, CA 90065	Project Address: 25343 Mureau Road Calabasas, CA 91302						
	<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 & Ventura</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	County	Senate District	Assembly District	Los Angeles & Ventura		
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Los Angeles & Ventura							
Phone: 323-221-9944 Fax: 323-221-9934	Email: Lisa.Soghor@mrca.ca.gov						
Grantee's Authorized Representative: Cara McLane, Contracts Officer 323-221-9944, x117							
<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> <i>Name and Title</i> <i>Phone</i>							
Person with day-to-day responsibility for project: Lisa Soghor, Deputy Executive Officer & Chief of Developed Resources 323-221-9944, x105							
<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> <i>Name and Title</i> <i>Phone</i>							
Brief Scope of Work (60 words maximum): Preservation, protection and restoration of Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve							
Funding Source Applied for: Proposition 84							
Narrative/Project Description: The Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve is one of the most ecologically significant pieces of undeveloped land in southern California's Mediterranean ecosystem. Wildlife corridors through the site connect the Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains with the Santa Monica Mountains. Endangered and threatened species exist on the property, including the California red-legged frog and a large stand of San Fernando Valley spineflower, once thought to be extirpated from this region. The preserve includes several different habitat types, including native grasslands which support the area's raptor population. The Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve's ranch house was built in the 1930s by George Barrett, and is presently made available to the public for special events and filming. Additionally, the MRCA's Interpretive Division leads various public programs on the property. The ranch house has original wood sliding doors, a stone patio and pathway, lawn and planted areas and an orchard. Several nearby structures house the resident caretakers and some volunteer offices. In the fall of 2005, fire swept through the property. MRCA firefighters along with outside fire departments saved all the structures. Many of the trees in the orchard and around the ranch house were scorched. Some of the trees have recovered; others have died. Many wood features on the							

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house (doors and windows) dried out due to the close proximity to the flames. Fencing and signage throughout the preserve were damaged.

To improve public safety and ADA accessibility on the property, some of the park's facilities need to be upgraded. MRCA staff plans to improve the paving around the ranch house to allow for better public access. The existing paving is rough and broken up in sections. It needs to be replaced to provide smooth surfaces for visitors. Ramps will be added to allow for ADA accessibility. One restroom will be renovated to meet ADA accessibility standards. The original exterior sliding doors on the house need to be repaired to seal the house properly against wind-driven rain and rodents. Some of the flooring in the ranch house need to be replaced. Staff intends to restore utilities including gas to the ranch house. Exterior lighting will be added to increase public safety for nighttime events and campfire programs. Fencing, gates and signage will be added to direct visitors and keep them out of sensitive areas.

In addition to these hardscape renovations, the landscape areas are in need of rehabilitation. A previous grant covered the installation of two new water tanks to serve all the buildings, the irrigation and fire-fighting resources on the property. An overhaul of the irrigation system was begun by volunteers with significant donation of materials by outside vendors. The MRCA staff plans to complete the irrigation project in-house. The removal of non-native eucalyptus and other trees damaged during the fires has left some areas in need of restoration. There are opportunities to add trees and other landscape plants to the historic orchard and the windbreak around the ranch house. Some new lawn areas will be created around the ranch house to increase usable space for public events.

The described project will allow for the continued use and enjoyment of property and natural resources and improve the physical structures, facilities, and natural systems and landscape at Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve.

The requested funding will be used to plan, prioritize, and implement improvements to provide a safe and satisfying experience for the public. The MRCA requests that the term of agreement begin May 12, 2008 and end no earlier than June 30, 2010.

Tasks / Milestones:	Budget:	Completion Date
1 Planning, Design, and Project Management	\$ 30,000	June 30, 2010
2 Improvements	\$ 270,000	June 30, 2010

Acquisition Projects: **APN(s):** n/a
Acreage: n/a

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

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date

Interim Form SMM-001

