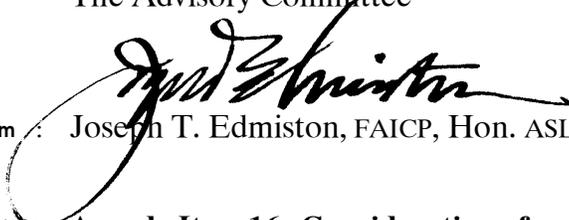


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: May 12, 2008

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 16: Consideration of resolution re-authorizing participation in the Cooperative Management Agreement for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize participation in the Cooperative Management Agreement among the National Park Service and California Department of Parks and Recreation and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Cooperative Management of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Legislative Authority: The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Act, Section 33211(c) of the Public Resources Code; the Joint Exercise of Powers Act, Section 6500 *et seq.* of the Government Code.

Background: Please see the attached new Cooperative Management Agreement. The document restates and expands upon the original 1995 agreement between the four park agencies. The new agreement will remain in effect continuously unless otherwise modified or terminated by any party, with sixty days notice, or by action of some federal or state regulation. The new agreement memorializes continuing cooperation in order to maximize efficiencies, and best serve the parks and the public in the most seamless fashion possible.

Cooperative projects, planning, and sharing of resources and expertise have always been a hallmark of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area partners. Land acquisition service is one notable example: The Conservancy and/or the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) have assisted in many land acquisitions that have later transferred to NPS or to State Parks. These parkland acquisitions include Circle X Ranch, Zuma Canyon, Peter Strauss Ranch, Deer Creek Canyon, Paramount Ranch phase II, Arroyo Sequit, Palo Comado Canyon, Solstice Canyon, Hunter House and other Malibu Creek State Park inholdings, and the Ransbottom parcel for the Santa Susana State Historic Park, to name some larger ones. The preservation of the former Soka University property, now King Gillette Ranch, is a current and highly significant cooperative project among the four agencies. All four provided funding to acquire the 588-acre site, and all are actively involved in both the interim and long-term planning for this iconic park in the heart of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

The cooperative management and planning agreement formalizes the longstanding working relationship between the agencies. Operations, trail planning, trail construction, education

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and interpretation, resource management, fire management and wildland interface issues, law enforcement, and mapping for the four agencies will benefit from renewing the cooperative agreement.