

**SMMC
June 23, 2008
Item 14
Attachment**

Prepared by: Lisa Soghor



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

June 23, 2008

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

**Grant Application - Proposition 84 Funds
A Program of Minor Capital Outlay for the Preservation, Protection and
Restoration of Natural and Developed Resources in the Los Angeles River and
Santa Monica Bay Watersheds**

Dear Mr. Schafer:

I am pleased to present the enclosed application for grant funding for a program of minor capital outlay to ensure the preservation, protection and restoration of natural and developed resources in the Los Angeles River and Santa Monica Bay Watersheds. The MRCA requests a grant in the sum of \$400,000 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: Minor Capital Outlay Prop 84		Amount of Request: \$ 400,000	
		Total Project Cost: \$ 400,000	
Applicant Name: Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority			
Applicant Address: 570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100 Los Angeles, CA 90065		Project Address: Various	
		County	Senate District
		Various	
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	
<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	
<i>Name and Title</i>		<i>Phone</i>	
Brief Scope of Work (60 words maximum):			
A program of minor capital outlay to ensure the preservation, protection and restoration of developed and natural resources within the Los Angeles River and Santa Monica Bay watersheds.			
Funding Source Applied for: Proposition 84			
Narrative/Project Description:			
As the Conservancy's land management agency, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) must actively care for the parks by providing safety, resource protection, access and programs for public use. To continue to provide safe and enjoyable public access and a high quality experience in all the parks that it manages, the MRCA must ensure the facilities in them are not only maintained in good condition, but are actively improved as public use dictates. The funding in place for the ongoing long-term maintenance of MRCA parks is not sufficient to include the activities necessary to provide for the enhancement, restoration and improvement of these parks.			
The purpose of the grant will be to undertake site improvements to in multiple parks within both watersheds to continue providing a high quality park experience for our visitors. These improvements will focus on site amenities including trails, benches, picnic tables, fencing, gates, signage, interpretive elements, drinking fountains, parking areas, irrigation and planting. These projects would increase the useful life of existing amenities, provide resource protection, and improve the visitor experience. Following is a list of specific projects contemplated under this grant:			
Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park			
Presently the entrance to the Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park is a temporary chain link fence with concrete traffic bollards that cannot be secured. The MRCA needs to be able to close the park in the event of a fire or other incident impacting public safety. A new gate will also serve as			

Continued on next page

a traffic calming device by forcing drivers to slow down before entering the park. While giving the MRCA the ability to close the park, the gate would normally remain open. The MRCA's Landscape Architecture Division has designed a large stone and wood entry similar to the gate at Joughin Ranch. This grant will enable the MRCA to implement the design. Based on staff's experience building entry gates like this in the past, staff estimates the cost for this improvement to be \$85,000.

Sage Ranch

Improvements contemplated under this grant at Sage Ranch include the installation of fencing and gates, the construction of a portable restroom enclosure and the removal of existing orange trees. Approximately 2500 linear feet of fencing is necessary in the park to provide better resource protection and public safety. The agency's standard lodgepole fencing would be installed along the roadway in the park to prevent off-road access to the northern end of the park. Some additional fencing around the ranger residence is necessary to limit public access. Fencing is also needed at the Sage campground to prevent campers from parking beneath the oak trees. New vehicle gates will be installed to better control public access and protect park resources. The enclosure around the portable restroom in the upper parking lot was destroyed in the 2005 brush fire. A new enclosure would provide much needed screening. The existing grove of orange trees in the park is diseased, and most of the trees are already dead. MRCA staff seeks to remove approximately 1000 dead and dying trees eliminating a future fire hazard. The total request for the work at this park is \$100,000 based on the following breakdown.

•Fencing (2500 linear feet at \$20/foot)	\$50,000
•Gates (4 at \$2500)	\$10,000
•Portable Restroom enclosure	\$10,000
•Labor and equipment to remove trees	\$30,000

Mulholland Overlook Enhancement Program

These overlooks include Hollywood Bowl Overlook, Universal Overlook, Nancy Hoover Pohl Overlook, Barbara Fine Summit Overlook, 13201 Mulholland Overlook, Lotte Melhorn Overlook and Stone Canyon Overlook.

The Mulholland Overlooks receive a high number of visitors year-round. The heavy public use of these small parks creates noticeable wear and tear on the facilities, and some of these overlooks suffer from chronic vandalism. The frequent use of items like benches and tables, signs, and irrigation equipment means that these elements have a shorter-than-normal lifetime, and require periodic replacement. MRCA staff seeks to improve public safety and visitor experience by restoring sight lines within the park and eliminating overgrown vegetation that blocks the views. Many site furnishings in the overlooks need replacement. These include benches, signs, drinking fountains, interpretive displays, and fencing. Parking areas in some of the overlooks need refurbishment to improve public safety. The interpretive displays in most of the overlooks need refurbishing. Staff would undertake the redesign of the graphic materials and install new displays.

MRCA staff is currently evaluating several new methods of deterring vandalism and graffiti in the parks. The new measures include sensors tied to irrigation, lighting and cameras to prevent unwanted behavior in the parks. The Mulholland Overlooks, with their heavy visitor traffic, are perfect sites to employ many of these anti-vandalism devices. Many of these systems are specifically

designed to work at night when much of the vandalism occurs. The budget for improvements in the overlooks would be \$115,000.

- Anti-vandalism devices \$40,000
- Irrigation Improvements \$30,000
- Site Amenities (benches, etc.) \$30,000
- Interpretive Displays \$15,000

Trail and Trailhead Enhancement

In multiple parks, major restoration and repair of trails and trailheads is necessary. Restoration will include reestablishment of eroded trail surfaces, removal of vegetation overgrowth, stabilization of slopes, replacement of damaged site features including benches and drinking fountains, and installation of regulatory and interpretive signage and wayside displays. Most of the work will be completed with MRCA staff. Interpretive displays at many of the trailheads need to be updated. MRCA interpretive and planning staff will work to redesign and produce these informative pieces.

The following parks are slated for trail and trailhead improvements: Fritz & Alma Meier Nature Preserve at Zuniga Pond, Corral Canyon Park, Ed Edelman Park, Egret Park, Elyria Canyon, Escondido Canyon Park, Dixie Canyon Park, Gettyview Trailhead, Oso Park, Piuma Overlook, Rattlesnake Park, Riverwalk, Steelhead Park, Tuna Canyon, Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve, Viewridge Trail, Westridge/Mandeville, Wilacre Park, Las Virgenes View Trail, and Rocky Peak. The budget for these improvements would be \$100,000.

- Site Amenities (benches, etc.) \$30,000
- Interpretive Displays \$15,000
- Trail Restoration \$55,000

The requested funding will be used to implement improvements to provide a safe and satisfying experience for the public. The MRCA requests that the term of agreement begin June 23, 2008 and end no earlier than June 30, 2010.

Tasks / Milestones:	Budget:	Completion Date
1 Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway	\$ 85,000	June 30, 2010
2 Sage Ranch	\$ 100,000	June 30, 2010
3 Mulholland Overlook Enhancement	\$ 115,000	June 30, 2010
4 Trail and Trailhead Enhancement	\$ 100,000	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