



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
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Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9934

September 5, 2008

Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director
Ronald P. Schafer, Chairperson
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
5750 Ramirez Canyon Road
Malibu, California 90265

King Gillette Ranch Interagency Visitor Center Matching Grant Funding

Dear Messrs. Edmiston and Schafer:

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) herewith submits the attached grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for \$1,540,000 in order to fully match the National Park Service's \$1,540,000 challenge grant for Phase I of creating the interagency visitor center at King Gillette Ranch. I understand that the Conservancy has sufficient Fiscal Year 07-08 appropriated Proposition 84 funds that would be appropriate for the King Gillette Ranch project. I trust that the Conservancy will be able to agendaize the matching grant request for your September 22, 2008 hearing. The unexpected opportunity for receiving National Park Service challenge match funds came to MRCA's attention only yesterday, and because the deadline for the federal funding match is so short, our request for consideration of a Conservancy grant is very time-sensitive.

As you know, the MRCA owns the campus portion of the King Gillette parkland where the historic Wallace Neff-designed Stables building is located. Upon acquisition of the King Gillette property in 2005, the National Park Service, MRCA, California State Parks, and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy formed an interagency team for planning and implementing the King Gillette Ranch uses and restoration. The Stables site has been identified as the ideal site for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area visitor center.

Our ongoing partnership with the National Park Service, California State Parks, and the Conservancy continues to provide innovation and joint efficiencies in protecting critical Santa Monica Mountains parklands and resources. We look forward to implementing the King Gillette Ranch Interagency Visitor Center plans.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Berger
Chairperson

cc: MRCA Governing Board