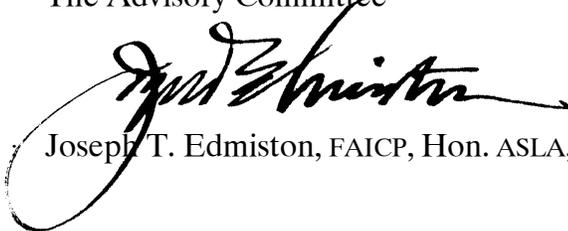


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: October 20, 2008

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 22: Consideration of resolution authorizing grant SMM-05054 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority in augmentation of West Mulholland Watershed Improvement Project, Woodland Hills.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing grant SMM-05054 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority in augmentation of West Mulholland Watershed Improvement Project, in the amount of \$1,000,000, Woodland Hills.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204.2(a), 33204.27(a) and 75050(g)(2) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84), allocated funds to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in Chapter 5, 75050(g)(2) of the Public Resources Code, for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water and other natural resources and the implementation of watershed protection activities throughout the watershed of the Upper Los Angeles River pursuant to Section 79508 of the Water Code. As outlined in the MRCA's application, staff finds the proposed project consistent with Proposition 84's policy to promote the access to and enjoyment of land and water resources.

At the July 25, 2005 meeting, the Board authorized a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for planning, design, and construction of park improvements at the West Mulholland trailhead. The trailhead is located along the dirt portion of Mulholland Drive in the Santa Monica Mountains, approximately 0.75 miles east of Topanga Canyon Boulevard. The property abuts Mulholland Drive on the northwest, with hillside residential neighborhoods extending in that direction from this point. Open space or parkland surrounds the park in all other directions, connecting to Summit Valley/Ed Edelman Park, Topanga State Park, and Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park.

Construction plans were put out to bid in May 2008, and four bids were received from construction contractors. The bids exceeded the secured funding and the bid was cancelled in September. The MRCA is in the process of revising the construction plans to obtain more

competitive bids, however, construction costs are expected to continue escalating. In addition, the plans are being revised to incorporate knowledge gained during the recent construction of Vista Hermosa Park. The requested augmentation from Proposition 84 will fully fund the project, including an expected escalation/inflation of construction costs.

The relevant project plan for the proposed project is the Mulholland Gateway Park Additions Project Plan, adopted by the Conservancy on October 23, 2000. The adopted plan states:

"This Project Plan contemplates a maximum 65-car paved parking lot on the 21000 Mulholland property along with permanent restroom facilities, signage, interpretive displays, native landscaping, a nature center, trails, vehicle gates, and ADA compliant pathways. All of the facilities would be located on existing fill in a location as close to Mulholland Drive as is feasible."

All of the elements contemplated for the West Mulholland trailhead are consistent with the adopted project plan, and therefore the requested grant is in compliance with section 33209.

Consideration: The grant augmentation to the MRCA would be in the amount of \$1,000,000. The requested funds will be used for construction contracts, materials, and construction oversight.