

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: February 26, 2007

Item 21 Attachment

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 9: Consideration of resolution authorizing a matching grant of Proposition 84 funds to the City of Pasadena for acquisition of portions of Annandale Canyon, contingent upon budget authority approval in the FY 07-08 State Budget.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a matching grant of \$2.5 million of Proposition 84 funds to the City of Pasadena for acquisition of portions of Annandale Canyon, Pasadena, contingent upon budget authority approval in the FY 07-08 State Budget.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204(c) of the Public Resources Code, which states in part:

The conservancy may, in accordance with the priorities of the plan, do the following:...(c) Award grants to state agencies, cities, counties, resource conservation districts, and park and recreation districts for the purpose of acquiring sites identified as necessary for park, recreation, or conservation purposes and for development of essential related public facilities.

Background: Annandale Canyon is located on the northeast border of Pasadena, near Scholl Canyon, within the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor. The subject site is located on the southern slopes of the San Rafael Hills and is dominated by chamise and mixed chaparral, but also contains coastal sage scrub, sage scrub-grassland, oak/sycamore woodlands, and mulefat stands. The site has significant topography and is characterized by moderate to steep sloping ridges with an open intervening canyon that ranges from approximately 1,200 to 1,450 feet above mean sea level (MSL). A limited area has been graded for development, but the majority of the site retains its natural topography.

The project site was identified by the City of Pasadena as part of a Sensitive Lands Inventory in 2003. An excerpt of a report to the City Council on August 4, 2003 describes the resource value of the subject property:

Generally speaking, the properties in this area combine suitable high quality chaparral and riparian habitats with high ecological resources. There exists foraging, nesting, and breeding grounds for large mammals, small mammals, and birds, as well as travel routes

for wildlife along ridgelines and in vegetated riparian valley bottoms. All of the properties are zoned for single-family residential and are adjacent to residential uses except for the southern properties that are adjacent to public utilities to the west and south. Many parcels in the southern portion of the area are currently accessible from public streets and have a potential for recreational (hiking trails, etc.) and residential development.

The Board has authorized several previous actions related to the subject property. In September 2003 the Conservancy authorized the submission of a comment letter to the City of Pasadena on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for Annandale Canyon Estates. In December 2005 the Conservancy authorized a comment letter to the city of Pasadena on the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Annandale Canyon Estates Planned Development. In June 2005 the Conservancy authorized a grant of Prop 40 funds to Trust for Public Land for project planning and design of East San Rafael Mountains area which included a feasibility study of the Annandale Canyon area.

The City of Pasadena has submitted a request for funding that describes the project in more detail. The City is requesting two and a half million dollars in Proposition 84 funds, which it plans to aggregate with a number of other funding sources to acquire the 20.63-acre parcel (APNs 5707-007-024, -025, -031, -038, -054, -055, 5707-008-013 through -031, and 5707-016-025 through -036). Proposition 84 funding will be available to the Conservancy July 1, 2007, if the FY 07-08 State Budget is approved.

Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006, was approved by voters in November 2006. The measure includes funding designated to the Conservancy in Chapter Five for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes streams, their watersheds and associated land, water and other natural resources throughout the Upper Los Angeles River watershed, and in Chapter Seven for the protection of beaches, bays, and coastal waters and watersheds for Santa Monica Bay and its watersheds.