



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944

May 26, 2009

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
5750 Ramirez Canyon Road
Malibu, California 90265

Request for Advance of Funds on SMM-05054

Dear Chairperson Schafer and Conservancy Members:

The MRCA respectfully requests an advance of funding for the West Mulholland Trailhead project, grant SMM-05054, in the amount of \$100,000. Grant No. SMM-05054 was awarded to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the planning, design and construction of park improvements at the West Mulholland Watershed Demonstration Project, including native landscaping, trails, parking, restroom and interpretive elements. This project was suspended on December 19, 2008, pursuant to instructions from the Department of Finance. At the time of suspension, a revision of the project plans was in progress by the Grantee's consultants. The financial impact of the suspension of payments on all bond-funded projects was significant for the Grantee, causing them to withhold payments to the consultants for authorized work performed.

In many areas of consulting it is common practice to require a retainer, however on public projects consultants typically work on a reimbursable basis, trusting that the public agency will come through with payment without delay. In this case, due to the significant delay in payment and the well-publicized financial problems of the State, the consultants are understandably reluctant to restart work on the project. An advance payment will give the MRCA the financial security necessary to assure the consultants that their continued work on this project will be compensated in a timely manner.

The costs below detail the projected expenses to be funded by the advance:

Civil Engineering	\$40,000
Electrical and Plumbing Engineering	\$35,000
Landscape and Irrigation Plans	\$35,000

We appreciate your consideration. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Cara Meyer, Chief of Special Projects, at 323-221-9944, extension 117.

Sincerely,

George Lange
Chairperson