

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date : April 24, 2006

From : 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 17: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 40 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for planning and implementation of overlooks and interpretive wayside exhibits along State Highways 2 and 39 in the Angeles National Forest within the Rim of the Valley Corridor and Upper Los Angeles River Watershed.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the following resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 40 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for planning and implementation of overlooks and interpretive wayside exhibits along State Highways 2 and 39 in the Angeles National Forest within the Rim of the Valley Corridor and Upper Los Angeles River Watershed.

Legislative Authority: Section 5096.650 (b) of the Public Resource Code provides:

The sum of... to the conservancies in accordance with the particular provisions of the statute creating each conservancy for acquisition, development...of land and water resources; for grant..., and in accordance with the following schedule: (3) To the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy... \$40,000,000.

Section 5096.605 (c) of the Public Resources Code provides:

"Development includes, but is not limited to, improvement, rehabilitation, restoration, enhancement, preservation, protection, and interpretation."

Section 33204.27 (a) of the Public Resources Code provides, in part, as follows:

The Conservancy may award grants to school districts or other local agencies for any of the purposes for which it may award grants to nonprofit organizations pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 33204.2

Background: The Angeles Crest Scenic Byway was designated as a California State Scenic Highway in 1971 and as a National Forest Scenic Byway in 1990. This 55 mile stretch travels through the Angeles National Forest and provides access to spectacular land, air and water resources within minutes of Los Angeles.

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The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has submitted a grant application for Proposition 40 funds in the sum of \$500,000 to design and construct public park improvements along the Angeles Crest Scenic Highway, also known as Highway 2, and Highway 39. This grant would fund design and implementation of overlooks and wayside exhibits along Highway 2 that will serve as an entrance to the scenic byway. Improvements will include an entrance sign to the forest and scenic byway, fencing, planting of native trees, shrubs and ground cover, and interpretive exhibits and will be implemented at both existing overlooks and at new sites. These improvements will be designed in close cooperation with the staff of the Angeles National Forest and the Angeles Crest Scenic Highway Corridor Management Plan.

This grant is contingent upon approval by the Attorney General.