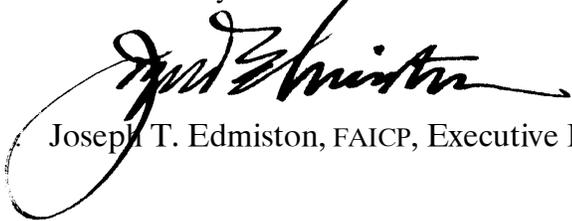


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: May 22, 2006

From : 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 14: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 40 grant funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for trails restoration and resource protection at parks operated and maintained by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 40 grant funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for trails restoration and resource protection at parks operated and maintained by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, in an amount not to exceed \$330,000.

Legislative Authority: Section 6500 *et seq.* of the Government Code, the Joint Exercise of Powers Act; and Section 33204(c) of the Public Resources Codes, 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: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority operates and manages dozens of park sites located throughout Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Currently, a major backlog in park trails renovation and repairs exists due to years of deferred maintenance, heavy public use, depreciative activities, and normal wear and tear. Furthermore, the amount of needed repairs is far greater than what routine maintenance funding and personnel resources can provide. Please refer to the project overview for a listing of 17 specific trail repair locations.

Under General Obligation Law, bond funds may be used for the construction or acquisition of capital assets. “Capital assets” is defined in Section 16727(a) to include “major maintenance, reconstruction, demolition for purposes of reconstruction of facilities and retrofitting work that is ordinarily done no more often than once every 5 to 15 years or expenditures that continue or enhance the useful life of a capital asset.” Also, equipment that has a useful life of more than two years is included.

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In this grant request, a small percentage of the grant funding will be used to purchase durable related equipment with a an expected useful life of more than two years, and in most situations will be less cost than renting said equipment for the duration of the project. All the repairs, renovations, or restorations will be capital improvements with a life expectancy of at least five to fifteen years.

The execution of this grant agreement with the MRCA is contingent upon approval by the Attorney General. The total amount of the grant is not to exceed \$330,000. The amounts listed are illustrative; some project work may be less or more expensive than estimated and staff recommends flexibility between categories and park sites depending upon actual bids.