

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 26, 2006

From : 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 10: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 40 funds to the City of Burbank for a Stough Canyon Youth Campground Feasibility Study.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of \$50,000 of Proposition 40 funds for a Stough Canyon Youth Campground Feasibility Study.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204 of the Public Resources Code provides, in part, as follows:

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

Background: Development of a Verdugo Mountains-area campground has been included as a potential project in Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Workprograms going back more than a decade. The City of Burbank re-nominated the concept for the Conservancy's Park Improvements and Development Workprogram, which was adopted in 2001.

The proposed grant will allow the City to investigate the feasibility of establishing a youth-oriented overnight campground on city-owned land in Stough Canyon in the Verdugo Mountains. The proposed location is at a former scout camp site that was destroyed in a fire more than forty years ago. The proposed campground area is approximately one mile up-canyon from the City's Stough Canyon Nature Center, accessed via a fire road and trail. The City of Burbank owns approximately 2,207 acres of public land in the Verdugo Mountains, with thousands of adjoining acres owned by the Conservancy, the City of Glendale, City of Los Angeles, and State Parks. The concept of a youth-oriented campground in the Verdugos was also included in the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan. If the City ultimately determines to re-establish the old scout camp as a public venue in the future, it should be available to all groups.

The grant would provide an opportunity and constraints analysis, conceptual design, cost analysis, and construction documents for at least preliminary site improvements.