

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 26, 2006

From : 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 12: Consideration of resolution confirming submission to the California Coastal Commission of draft Malibu Public Parks Enhancement Plan - Public Works Plan as amended.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy confirm submission to the California Coastal Commission of the draft Malibu Public Parks Enhancement Plan - Public Works Plan (PWP) as amended. Staff recommends that the planning area defined in section 2.0 be redefined and reduced in scope to accommodate the projects contemplated by the Plan and eliminate private property holdings not subject to offers to dedicate (OTD's) or not on the Conservancy's Workprogram, so that all portions of the PWP would be situated inland of Pacific Coast Highway.

Legislative Authority: Section 30605 of the Coastal Act provides that as an alternative to project-by-project review, plans for public works may be submitted to the Coastal Commission for review in the same manner prescribed for review of local coastal programs. Section 30114 of the Coastal Act defines "public works" as including "all publicly financed recreational facilities, all projects of the State Coastal Conservancy, and any development by a special district." Section 13353.5 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations further provides, in part, as follows:

Prior to the filing of a public works plan, the submitting agency or local government shall hold a public hearing at the local level on the proposed public works plan.

Background: The Malibu Public Parks Enhancement Plan- Public Works Plan (PWP) has been prepared jointly with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) and is available on the World Wide Web at <http://mrca.ca.gov/pwp.html>. The PWP proposes to complete trail connections for the Coastal Slope Trail, linking Zuma/Trancas Canyons, Ramirez Canyon Park, Escondido Canyon Park, Solstice Canyon Park, and Corral Canyon Park. The Plan:

- 1) Provides policies, development standards and implementation actions to complete trail connections;

- 2) Identifies public access, recreational facility, and program improvements for the Escondido Canyon Park, Corral Canyon Park and Ramirez Canyon Park; and
- 3) Addresses long term programmatic adaptation, improvement and maintenance needs to ensure continued access and recreation opportunities for visitors with diverse backgrounds, interests, ages and abilities.

The MRCA holds many of the offers to dedicate (OTD's) which are integral to the PWP and also owns a portion of Escondido Park. In addition, the MRCA will aid in implementing many of the programs and public access components of the PWP. The MRCA held a public hearing on February 17, 2006 to consider the planning grant to fund the PWP. The Governing Board of the MRCA adopted a resolution authorizing an application for project planning and design for Escondido, Ramirez and Ramirez Creek studies. The project, as a result of the planning, was further defined to include Corral Canyon and connection to National Park Service Properties. The MRCA held a further local public hearing on June 7, 2006 on the Public Works Plan (PWP). The PWP was submitted to the California Coastal Commission on June 9, 2006.

In addition to the hearing of this evening's date, the Conservancy has held two hearings on the matter - a February 27, 2006 hearing to award the planning grant to the MRCA and a detailed presentation at the March 27, 2006 meeting of the Conservancy on Malibu public parkland access issues and opportunities.

Staff recommends that the Conservancy confirm submission to the Coastal Commission of the PWP, but amend the planning area defined in section 2.0 to reduce its scope specifically to accommodate the projects contemplated by the Plan and eliminate private property holdings not subject to offers to dedicate (OTD's) or not on the Conservancy's Workprogram. All portions of the PWP would be situated inland of Pacific Coast Highway.