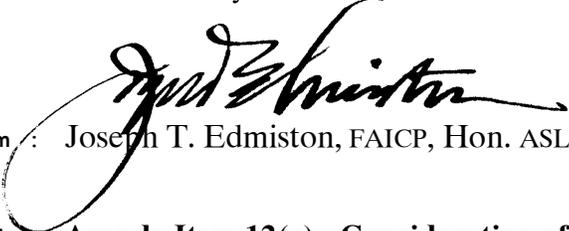


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: April 29, 2013

From : 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 12(e) - Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for project planning and design for the upper Topanga watershed project in the coastal watersheds of Santa Monica Bay, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, for project planning and design to implement the upper Topanga watershed project in the coastal watersheds of Santa Monica Bay, unincorporated Los Angeles County, in the amount of \$15,000.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204.2(a), 33204.27(a), and 75060(d)(1) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has submitted the attached grant application for project planning and design services in a discrete section of the upper Los Angeles River watershed. Staff has worked collaboratively with the MRCA staff to identify key project areas where project planning and design services are needed. The application includes extensive background, mapping, and justification. The project area overlaps the Topanga Canyon-East Viewshed, Mulholland Gateway Southeast, Mulholland Gateway Southwest, and Mulholland Gateway- 21000 Mulholland projects from the SMMC Workprogram.

The northeastern sector of the Topanga Canyon watershed is a parkland and trail rich area in need of some final acquisitions to close both unprotected habitat and trail gaps. Many longstanding Conservancy acquisition priorities should be acquired in part or in whole while funding is still available. This area provides a key habitat and trail hub between Topanga State Park, Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park, and Summit Valley-Ed Edelman Park.

The proposed project area included under this grant would encompass approximately three miles of blue line stream including Santa Maria and Garapito Creeks. Within the project area are approximately 78 undeveloped private parcels, totaling approximately 1,000 acres in the Santa Monica Mountains.

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The proposed grant would allocate \$15,000 under Section 75060(d)(1) for the coastal watersheds of Santa Monica Bay.