



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-Six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9934

March 13, 2014

Hon. Linda Parks
Chairperson
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
5750 Ramirez Canyon Road
Malibu, California 90265

**Request for Grant Funds to Acquire Escondido Canyon
Parcels (APN's 4465-004-053 and 4465-005-006)**

Dear Chairperson Parks and Conservancy Members:

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) would like to convey our appreciation to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) for the continuing support of acquiring properties on the coastal slope of the Santa Monica Mountains. The attached grant application requests partial funding from SMMC to acquire two additional parcels on the coastal slope totaling 78 acres, that will connect the MRCA's recently (2013) acquired upper Ramirez Canyon and Escondido Canyon Properties.

The subject 78 acres comprise a pristine section of Escondido Canyon watershed from Escondido Creek to the Ramirez Canyon ridgeline. This acquisition provides an optimal trail connection from the expected MRCA public use area in Escondido Canyon's Weintraub Family Park into Ramirez Canyon and across Kanan Dume Road into the Zuma-Trancas unit of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

The acquisition encompasses a mapped wildlife corridor in the Los Angeles County General Plan and consolidates a number of parkland units. The parcels are in the Ramirez-Escondido Canyons-Upper project on the SMMC's Acquisition Workprogram.

The requested funding amount is \$750,000. This amount would be matched by a minimum \$600,000 match from non-State sources.

For specific location of the two properties see attached maps.

Please direct any questions to Jessica Nguyen, Project Analyst, at (310) 589-3230, ext. 125.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Lange".

George Lange
Chairperson