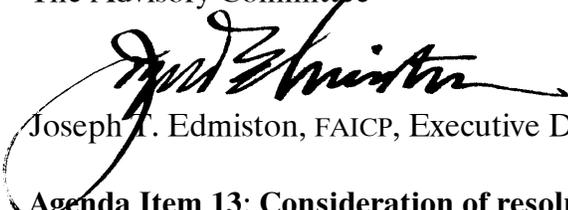


## Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date : September 18, 2006

From :   
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 13: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds to the Children's Nature Institute, a non-profit organization, for the development of an interpretive plan for the Sooky Goldman Nature Center, Franklin Canyon.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the following resolution authorizing a grant of \$50,000 of Proposition 50 funds to the Children's Nature Institute, a non-profit organization, for the development of an interpretive plan for the Sooky Goldman Nature Center, Franklin Canyon

Legislative Authority: Section 33204(c) of Public Resources Code.

Background: The State of California has authorized expenditure of funds from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50) to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC), in Chapter 10, Sections 79570(b) for the purpose of nature centers that are in or adjacent to watersheds and wetlands identified for protection. . .that provide wildlife viewing, outdoor experiences, and conservation education programs tot he public and to students. Priority is given to projects designed to serve children from urban areas that lack access to natural areas.

The Sooky Goldman Nature Center in Franklin Canyon Park was dedicated in 1990 and has since served hundreds of thousands of at-risk school groups and community organizations each year. The 3,900 square foot facility currently houses exhibits that are over ten years old.

The Children's Nature Institute is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization that provides innovative environmental education programs for young children and their parents. Since 2005 CNI has been a tenant of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), renting space at the MRCA's facilities in Franklin Canyon. CNI's outreach program has served thousands of children from urban areas that would otherwise lack access to natural areas. CNI has agreed to take the lead in fund-raising for the renovation of the center, including repairs and new exhibits as well as the potential remodeling and/or expansion of the center.

The interpretive plan funded by this grant will be developed with participation by both MRCA and National Park Service staff.

