

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 26, 2017

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 13: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for acquisition of three parcels totaling approximately 2.83 acres (APNs 4460-014-008, -010, and -011) in Escondido Canyon, City of Malibu.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize a grant not to exceed \$999,000 in Proposition 1 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for acquisition of a three parcels, APNs 4460-014-008, -010, and -011, totaling approximately 2.83 acres along Escondido Creek, City of Malibu.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204.2(a) and 33204.27(a) of the Public Resources Code; and Section 79731(h) of the Water Code.

Background: Please see the attached Proposition 1 grant application from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for detailed description and maps. The grant request is for funding the fee acquisition of three parcels totaling about 2.83 acres in Escondido Canyon. The property has approximately 120 feet along a perennial section of Escondido Creek, a blueline stream, and part of an environmentally sensitive habitat area (ESHA) as identified in the City of Malibu Local Coastal Program. The property includes both banks of the creek and is relatively undisturbed habitat. Preservation would protect wildlife movement between Escondido Canyon Park to the west and eastward to Latigo Canyon and Solstice Canyon. Purchase will also allow adding a significant link to the Coastal Slope Trail from Pacific Coast Highway and development of the Haunted House Connector Trail.

Absent purchase for parkland purposes, the development potential of the property is substantial: a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) had previously been approved for a 4,184 square foot single family residence plus 510 square foot detached guest house and other property improvements. Preservation of the lot would protect an important coastal stream and would also avoid greenhouse gas emissions of up to 185 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year.

Scoring under the Conservancy's adopted Proposition 1 Grant Project Land Acquisition

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Guidelines results in the Escondido Creek Acquisition Project receiving 109 points (out of a possible 137; 96 minimum required), plus 12 out of 18 climate change value points, plus 18 out of 33 possible points under Additional Criteria. **Total points:** 139 (out of possible 188).

Staff recommends award of \$999,000 for this project, including property acquisition cost and legal staff time.