

# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: December 11, 2017

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 17: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 1 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for acquisition of an approximately 98-acre property (APN 2061-015-005), City of Agoura Hills, Malibu Creek Watershed.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize a matching grant not to exceed \$110,000 in Proposition 1 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to acquire APN 2061-015-005, approximately 98 acres of open space in Agoura Hills.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204 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 (MRCA) for detailed description and maps.

This parcel is adjacent to the MRCA's Liberty Canyon wildlife corridor properties south of the 101 Freeway and is included in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife-approved Conceptual Area Protection Plan for the Santa Monica Mountains to Sierra Madre Mountains wildlife habitat linkage. To the west lies the Triangle Ranch property. An existing fire road on the land connects to trails on adjacent public land leading to Malibu Creek State Park to the south. The property includes a 1,775 feet of a blueline stream tributary to Liberty Creek, and offers an opportunity for riparian habitat restoration. Protection of the parcel increases the habitat buffer for the proposed Liberty Canyon Wildlife Overpass project.

The Conservancy grant is expected to be matched up to \$100,000 by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to total \$210,000 for land cost and acquisition costs.

Scoring under the Conservancy's adopted Proposition 1 Grant Project Land Acquisition Guidelines results in the Liberty corridor acquisition project receiving 100 points (out of a possible 137; 96 minimum required), plus 12 out of 18 carbon reduction value points, plus 20 out of 33 possible points under Additional Criteria. **Total points:** 132 (out of possible 188).

Staff recommends award of \$110,000 for this project.

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