

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: December 10, 2018

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 11: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 68 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Coastal Slope Trail Decker-to-Trancas Connector Project, incorporated and unincorporated Malibu area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 68 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority in the amount not to exceed \$325,000 for the Coastal Slope Trail Decker-to-Trancas Connector Project.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204.2(a), 33204.27(a) and 80110(b)(8) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) submitted the attached Proposition 68 grant application pertaining to Coastal Slope Trail land interest acquisitions, trail construction permitting, and trail construction between Decker and Trancas Canyons for the November 30, 2018 Proposition 68 grant round. Please see the application for detailed description and analysis. The grant fund request is for \$325,000 to be combined with \$95,000 of MRCA mitigation matching funds .

The MRCA's proposal addresses twenty properties in sections of the Coastal Slope Trail where obtaining public ownership or access rights has been particularly difficult. The proposal calls out a particular need for matching funds to acquire a key parcel where the proposed trail alignment contacts Encinal Canyon Road. That acquisition would complete a chain of public easement ownership between Charmlee Wilderness Park and Encinal Canyon Road. In the context of the November 2018 fires in the Santa Monica Mountains and the defeat of Proposition 3 on the November statewide ballot, staff recommends awarding a reduced grant amount for \$125,000 to the MRCA that would ensure the acquisition of the described Encinal Canyon Road parcel and simultaneously create perfected trail right-of-way between Charmlee Wilderness Park and Encinal Canyon Road. The MRCA would still need to commit its \$95,000 match to acquire this particular first highest priority parcel. After potential fire related needs can be assessed, the Conservancy can always consider a grant augmentation to fund the MRCA to permit and build the subject section of Coastal Slope trail or accomplish other objectives described in application.

Agenda Item 11
December 10, 2018
Page 2

Under the Conservancy's Proposition 68 grant guidelines for Resource Protection and Restoration, this application received sufficient scoring totaling 137 points under the values for Prioritization, Category, Implementation, Climate Change, and Additional Consideration, plus and additional 32 points for matching funds, for total of 169 points, exceeding the minimum of 119 points.