



City of Malibu

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March 7, 2007

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

MAR 12 2007

Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP
Executive Director
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
5810 Ramirez Canyon
Malibu, CA 90265

SMMC
MALIBU

RE: Solstice Canyon Fish Barrier Removal

Dear Mr. Edmiston:

Since 2000, Senator Sheila Kuehl and former Assemblymember Fran Pavley worked with the State Coastal Conservancy, California Department of Fish and Game (CDF&G), California Department of Transportation, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Park Service, Southern California Steelhead Coalition, California Trout, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, Heal the Bay and other groups to reestablish southern steelhead trout spawning habitat in Solstice Creek, located in the Santa Monica Mountains Conservation's jurisdiction.

There are a number of fish passage barriers that have been identified in the rich riparian habitat of the Solstice Canyon watershed. The concrete box culvert at the Corral Canyon Road Bridge, owned by the City, is scheduled for removal and, on May 21, 2004, the City was awarded a CDF&G grant in the amount of \$637,815 for the project. Since obtaining the secured grant funding, construction costs have dramatically increased.

In January 2007, the City received comments from the executive directors of the State Coastal Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Board indicating that those agencies would each match the City in covering the estimated \$400,000 project shortfall. The boards of each agency will need to take action before any funds can be awarded.

As you are aware, any Proposition 50 funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board must also receive concurrence from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Board. The City is requesting SMMC approval of the WCB funding as soon as possible, so the City can move forward with construction of the Solstice Canyon project this summer.

SMMC-WCB Concurrence

March 7, 2007

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If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (310) 456-2489 ext. 226 or via email at jthorsen@ci.malibu.ca.us. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jim Thorsen
City Manager

cc: Robert Brager, Public Works Director
Barbara Cameron, Grants Consultant
Rorie Skei, SMMC Chief Deputy Director