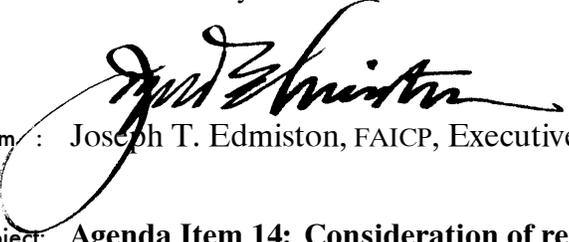


# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: April 30, 2007

From :   
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 14: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the protection and restoration of land and water resources at King Gillette Ranch, unincorporated County of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the protection and restoration of land and water resources at King Gillette Ranch, in the amount of \$300,000.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204(c) of Public Resources Code and Section 79570 of the Water 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, in Chapter 10, Sections 79570(c) and 79571, for purpose of protecting coastal watersheds, including but not limited to, acquisition, protection, and restoration of land and water resources and associated planning, permitting, and administrative costs, and for the acquisition and development of facilities to promote public access to and participation in the conservation of land, water, and wildlife resources.

Public Resources Code Section 33204(c): “The Conservancy may, in accordance with the priorities of the plan . . . award grants to state agencies, cities, counties, resource conservation districts, and park and recreation districts for the purpose of acquiring sites identified as necessary for park, recreation, or conservation purposes and for development of essential related public facilities.”

Soka University has given 90 day notice to the MRCA of its intention to vacate the facilities at King Gillette Ranch on June 29, 2007. Some immediate capital expenditures are necessary to protect the land and water resources on the property. In order to protect the resources while accommodating public access, the MRCA will need to install appropriate signage; repair and install appropriate fencing and gates; repair, coat and restripe roads and parking areas, and install other necessary visitor control devices.

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MRCA staff will develop and implement plans to protect and interpret existing oaks and other significant native plants within the developed landscape. Staff will also develop and implement plans to protect and interpret the existing pond and natural stream as they flow through the landscaped grounds. Additionally, the MRCA will need to retain a professional environmental planner to assess the property's proposed operational plan for consistency with the Coastal Act.

Consideration: The grant to the MRCA would be in the amount of \$300,000.