DESERT AND MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item 9(a)
SMMC
June 5, 2007

TO: The Governing Board

FROM: Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: February 27, 2007

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant request to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for pre-acquisition services.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant request in an amount not to exceed $50,000 to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for pre-acquisition services in the northern portion of the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor zone and the northern slope of the San Gabriel Mountains west of State Route 14.

Background: The Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority (DMCA) as a new agency with a focus on the northern portion of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy zone and the northern slope of the San Gabriel Mountains is in a unique position to attract new land acquisition funding sources. For example the DMCA could apply for State bond funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). In addition, it can successfully pursue donations from individuals and organizations located in the more northern portion of Los Angeles County. A small amount of pre-acquisition funding for land appraisals, title reports, mapping and landowner contacts is critical for the DMCA to jump start a wave of land acquisition momentum in the subject areas. The DMCA can acquire properties or set up acquisitions for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. All available, eligible funding from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy must be directly related to the protection of resources.

The proposed action would authorize a grant request to the Conservancy for pre-acquisition services in an amount not to exceed $50,000.