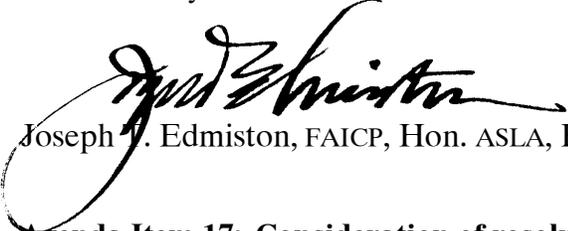


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: June 5, 2007

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 17: 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, specifically the removal of non-native trees and vegetation, at Temescal Gateway Park, Los Angeles and Ramirez Canyon Park, Malibu.**

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, specifically the removal of non-native trees and vegetation, at Temescal Gateway Park and Ramirez Canyon Park, in the amount of \$75,000.

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.”

Temescal Gateway Park and Ramirez Canyon Park are two highly developed parks owned by the Conservancy. Under previous ownership in both parks, many non-native trees were planted. These trees impede the growth and continued health of the native vegetation in the canyons. Their removal will encourage the development of more vigorous native ecosystems.

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At Ramirez Canyon Park, the slopes were planted heavily with pine trees. Underneath the pine canopy, small oaks and walnuts are trying to establish themselves. MRCA staff has removed some pines and other non-native trees on the property in the past, but many more still need to come out.

In Temescal Canyon, eucalyptus trees line the stream corridor that runs through the center of the park. They are also planted on the slopes throughout the park. The eucalyptus are prone to dropping limbs and are highly flammable. In the past, falling limbs have severely damaged nearby oaks. To protect the native vegetation in the park and to foster growth of native sycamores and other riparian vegetation, the eucalyptus trees need to be removed.

A combination of outside contractors and MRCA staff will be used to eliminate the non-native trees in both parks. MRCA staff will make every effort to protect existing oaks, sycamores and other significant native plants within the removal areas.

Consideration: The grant to the MRCA would be in the amount of \$75,000.