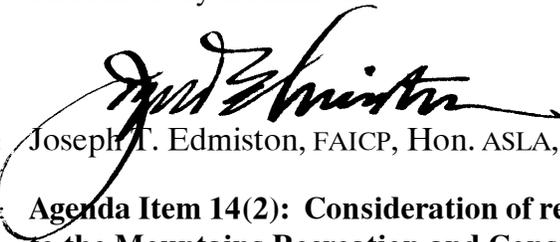


## Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: July 9, 2007

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 14(2): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to acquire fee simple or easement interests on APNs 4465-004-070 and 071, 4467-002-041, 4467-003-031, 4467-003-021, 4460-015-001, and 4460-014-006 and 008 to implement the Coastal Slope Trail between Ramirez Canyon Park and Latigo Canyon Road, incorporated and unincorporated Malibu area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to acquire fee simple or easement interests on APNs 4465-004-070 and 071, 4467-002-041, 4467-003-031, 4467-003-021, 4460-015-001, and 4460-014-006 and 008 to implement the Coastal Slope Trail between Ramirez Canyon Park and Latigo Canyon Road in the Malibu area.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33204(c) of the Public Resources Code

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has submitted the attached application to acquire either fee simple or easement interests on eight parcels to implement the Coastal Slope Trail. The Coastal Slope Trail is a part of both the Los Angeles County and City of Malibu General Plans. The proposed trail extends from Topanga State Park (Will Rogers) to just beyond the Ventura County line. Much of the proposed trail alignment remains under private ownership. As a result, the route through many key sections is fluid pending both public funding availability and the success of public agencies in securing trail easement exactions in the permitting process. A power point presentation at the Conservancy meeting will provide an overview of the secured and unsecured portions of this regionally significant trail project. A major objective of the trail is to provide a means to connect the series of existing coastal canyon parks.

The Conservancy's and the MRCA's Local Coastal Plan Amendment application to the City of Malibu (former Public Works Project to the Coastal Commission) covers the full Coastal Slope Trail section from Kanan Dume Road (west slope of Ramirez Canyon) to Corral Canyon Park. The subject eight properties are located within that section--more specifically from the eastern slope of Ramirez Canyon to Latigo Canyon Road (just inching into the Latigo Canyon watershed).

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APNs 4465-004-070 and 071, 4467-002-041, 4467-003-031, and 4467-003-021 provide a connection between Ramirez Canyon Park/adjacent National Park Service property to the MRCA's Escondido Canyon Park and the existing County-owned DeButts Terrace trail. These five parcels total 33.6 acres. However, the full fee ownership of the 33.6 acres is neither necessary for a quality trail or financially feasible for public agencies. Some combination of fee and easement acquisition, complemented by existing trail dedications from approved Coastal Development Permits, should provide a good trail.

APNs 4460-015-001, 4460-014-006 and 008 provide a connection from the eastern end of the MRCA's Escondido Canyon Park to where the Coastal Slope Trail crosses Latigo Canyon Road. In this location there is scant flexibility of where the trail alignment can be placed. Essentially it must follow the old landslide ridden roadbed of the old Malibu Road (precursor to Pacific Coast Highway). These three parcels total 6.3 acres. However, the full fee ownership of the 6.3 acres is neither necessary for a quality trail or financially feasible for public agencies. Some combination of fee and easement acquisition should provide a good trail.

The MRCA has appraised all of the properties and contacted all of the landowners. Most are willing sellers of either easements or fee ownership. The MRCA's funding partner in this endeavor is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Supervisorial District and its associated Proposition A Excess Funds. Completion of the Coastal Slope Trail is a high priority to the 3<sup>rd</sup> District and the National Park Service.

A closed session is expected to discuss acquisition details.