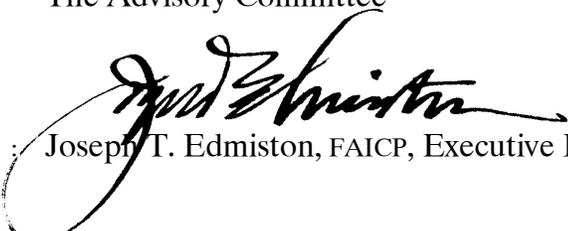


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: April 4, 2005

From : 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 21: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into agreements with the City of Los Angeles, the County of Los Angeles, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, and other parties to participate in an integrated regional watershed management group for the Los Angeles River, Santa Monica Bay, Ballona Creek, and Dominguez Channel Watersheds.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize entering into agreements or memorandums of understanding with the City of Los Angeles, the County of Los Angeles, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, and other parties to participate in integrated regional watershed management groups for the Los Angeles River, Santa Monica Bay, Ballona Creek, and Dominguez Channel Watersheds.

Legislative Authority: Sections 33211 (c) of the Public Resources Code

Background: In November 2002 the California voters passed Proposition 50, the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002. It amended Section 79560 of the California Water Code authorizing the Legislature to appropriate \$500 million for Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) projects. The intent of the IRWMP program is to encourage integrated regional strategies for the management of water resources and provide funding, through competitive grants, for projects that protect communities from drought, protect and improve water quality, and improve local water security by reducing dependence on imported water.

The IRWMP Grant Program will consist of two separate solicitations for planning and implementation proposals. Grant proposals must be submitted by a "regional watershed management group," which must include three or more public agencies, where at least two of which have statutory authority over water management. Grant proposals must include documentation of a formally adopted Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan, and must demonstrate that all agencies and organizations and agencies necessary to address the objectives and water management strategies of the Plan were involved in the planning process.

In addition to the Los Angeles River, Santa Monica Bay, Ballona Creek and Dominguez Channel Watersheds, the Conservancy is simultaneously involved in the development of an IRWMP in the Calleguas Creek Watershed, the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed, and the

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San Gabriel River Watershed.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is engaged with the City of Los Angeles, the County of Los Angeles, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, and other parties in the development of an Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan for the Los Angeles River, Santa Monica Bay, Ballona Creek, and Dominguez Channel Watersheds. The MRCA has submitted six projects for inclusion in the Los Angeles River Plan. By entering into an agreement, the regional watershed management group would be established for planning and grant solicitation which must be accomplished by early May.

Approval of entering into a cooperative agreement or memoranda of understanding would not commit the Agency to any obligation to fund the development of or implementation of the IRWMP for Los Angeles River, Santa Monica Bay, Ballona Creek, and Dominguez Channel Watersheds.