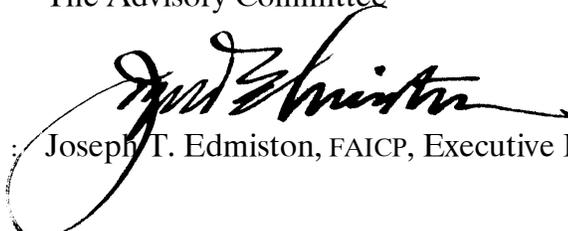


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: January 24, 2005

From : 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 18: Consideration of resolution (a) authorizing making an application for Proposition 50 Section 79572 funds and entering into a grant agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Board for the acquisition of approximately 340 acres (APNs 4455-015-002, 4455-016-032 and 033, 4455-035-001, 4455-033-005, 006 and 021, 4455-028-043, and portions of 4455-033-003 and 026) of the approximately 588-acre Soka University property, unincorporated Calabasas area; (b) authorizing a grant of those funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority or in the alternative authorizing assignment of the grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, and (c) authorizing the execution of all documents required by the Wildlife Conservation Board pursuant to the conditions of the grant.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy authorize making an application for Proposition 50 Section 79572 funds and entering into a grant agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Board for the acquisition of approximately 340 acres (APNs 4455-015-002, 4455-016-032 and 033, 4455-035-001, 4455-033-005, 006 and 021, 4455-028-043, and portions of 4455-033-003 and 026) of the approximately 588-acre Soka University property, unincorporated Calabasas area; (b) authorize a grant of those funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority or in the alternative authorize assignment of the grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, and (c) authorize the execution of all documents required by the Wildlife Conservation Board pursuant to the conditions of the grant.

Legislative Authority: Section 33211 of Public Resources Code provides that the Conservancy may do any and all things necessary to carry out the purposes of Division 23. Section 33204(c) provides in relevant part that the Conservancy may award grants for the purpose of acquiring sites identifies a necessary for park recreation, or conservation purposes.

Background: The MRCA has entered into an option agreement to acquire the Soka property. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has applied for a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board for the purpose of acquiring Soka. The applicable provision of Prop. 50 from which the funds will be granted requires that the grantee be the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Staff of the WCB acknowledges that the WCB grant funds will be part of the consideration that the MRCA pays to close the transaction. Staff of the WCB has not made a final decision as to whether the funds should be re-granted by the SMMC to the MRCA or if the MRCA will be assigned the funds under the terms of the WCB grant to the SMMC. The

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MRCA will be required to comply with the conditions of the WCB grant to the SMMC.