

Attachment  
SMMC Item 17  
April 25, 2005



**MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens  
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, California 90065  
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9934

April 13, 2005

Ms. Elizabeth Cheadle  
Chairperson  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
5750 Ramirez Canyon  
Malibu, California 90265

**Grant Application - Proposition 50 Funds  
Acquisition of Topanga Canyon Surplus Properties**

Dear Ms. Cheadle:

I am pleased to present the enclosed application for grant funding for Acquisition of Topanga Canyon Surplus Properties. The MRCA requests a grant in the sum of \$110,000 from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50), specifically Water Code Section 79570(c), in compliance with Section 79508.

The proposed grant would fund fee acquisition of 18 surplus parcels owned by Los Angeles County in the Sylvia Park, Garapito Canyon, and Hillside Drive areas of Topanga Canyon. Please refer to the enclosed application for more information. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Paul Edelman, at 310-589-3230, extension 128.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Berger".

Michael D. Berger  
Chairperson

Attachments:      Application

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
GRANT APPLICATION**

|  |   |                        |                          |
|--|---|------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Project Name:</b><br>Topanga Canyon Surplus Property  | <b>Amount of Request:</b> \$ 110,000<br><b>Total Project Cost:</b> \$ 110,000 |                        |                          |
| <b>Applicant Name:</b><br>Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority  | <b>Amount of Match:</b> \$ 0<br><b>Source of Match:</b> n/a                   |                        |                          |
| <b>Applicant Address:</b><br>570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100<br>Los Angeles, CA 90065<br><br><b>Phone:</b> 323-221-9944<br><b>Fax:</b> 323-221-9934  | <b>Project Address:</b> various   |                        |                          |
|  | <b>County</b>   | <b>Senate District</b> | <b>Assembly District</b> |
|  | Los Angeles   | 23-Kuehl               | 41-Pavley                |
|  | <b>Email:</b> Paul.Edelman@mrca.ca.gov  |                        |                          |
| <b>Grantee's Authorized Representative:</b>  |   |                        |                          |
| Cara McLane, Contracts Officer   |   | 323-221-9944, x117     |                          |
| <hr/> <i>Name and Title</i>  |   | <hr/> <i>Phone</i>     |                          |
| <b>Person with day-to-day responsibility for project:</b>  |   |                        |                          |
| Paul Edelman, Chief of Natural Resources and Planning  |   | 310-589-3230, x128     |                          |
| <hr/> <i>Name and Title</i>  |   | <hr/> <i>Phone</i>     |                          |
| <b>Brief Scope of Work</b> (60 words maximum):<br>Fee acquisition of 18 surplus parcels owned by Los Angeles County in the Sylvia Park, Garapito Canyon, and Hillside Drive areas of Topanga Canyon. APNs 441-009-900, 441-009-901, 441-009-902, 4441-012-900, 4441-014-900, 4441-016-901, 4441-015-901, 4440-008-900, 4440-010-900, 4440-010-901, 4440-010-902, 4440-010-903, 4440-010-904, 4440-010-905, 4440-011-901,902, 4440-012-900, 4440-016-901.   |   |                        |                          |
| <b>Funding Source Applied for:</b> Proposition 50  |   |                        |                          |
| <b>Narrative/Project Description:</b><br>At its November 24, 2003 meeting the Conservancy adopted resolution No. 03-201 waiving its first right of refusal pursuant to Section 33207 of the Public Resources Code on over 100 surplus parcels totaling approximately 57 acres in the subject area of Topanga Canyon. In exchange for the Conservancy's waiver, Los Angeles County has subsequently offered to sell the remaining 18 surplus parcels in this area to the MRCA for \$100,000. The County is in the process of selling the approximately 57 acres that the Conservancy waived its right on. However, all of those parcels require, or are likely to soon require, extensive fuel modification.<br><br>APNs 441-009-900, -901, -902, 4441-012-900, 4441-014-900, 4441-016-901 and 4441-015-901 are located east of Topanga Canyon Boulevard adjacent to Topanga State Park. Los Angeles County is negotiating additional deals with landowners that have inholdings within these future MRCA parcels to trade them for surplus parcels in the developed area immediately to the north. The subject parcels (49.5 acres) support high quality north face chaparral vegetation with minimal development interface. Fuel modification requirements should be less than one quarter-acre.<br><br>APNs 4440-008-900, 4440-010-900 through 905, 4440-011-901,902, 4440-012-900 and 4440-016-901 are located west of Topanga Canyon Boulevard just north of Hillside Drive and south of the |   |                        |                          |

*Continued on next page*

Theatricum Botanicum. These parcels encompass two small but pristine tributaries of Topanga Creek. The parcels (11.6 acres) contain the highest quality chaparral vegetation and extensive oak woodland along the above mentioned tributaries. No brushing is required for these parcels. A trail from the Theatricum Botanicum currently courses through some of the parcels.

The ability to acquire 62 acres in one of the premier watersheds of the Santa Monica Mountains at a cost of approximately \$1,600 per acre is an excellent opportunity. The parcels are integral to the Topanga Canyon watershed and to the protection of water quality and quantity in Topanga Creek. The acquisition will clearly protect both land and water resources.

The subject 18 parcels were added to the Conservancy's Acquisition Workprogram at its August 30, 2004 meeting under the project name Topanga Canyon-Garapito Canyon-Hillside Drive. The County's acquisition price for the subject 62 acres is \$100,000. The MRCA's requested grant amount of \$110,000 provides for closing costs, title, and nominal staff time.

| <b>Tasks / Milestones:</b>                  | <b>Budget:</b> | <b>Completion Date</b> |
|---|----------------|------------------------|
| 1 Fee Acquisition                           | \$ 100,000     | June 30, 2006          |
| 2 Closing costs, title, project transaction | \$ 10,000      | June 30, 2006          |
| 3   |                |                        |
| 4   |                |                        |
| 5   |                |                        |
| 6   |                |                        |

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Acquisition Projects:</b> | <b>APN(s):</b> 441-009-900, 441-009-901, 441-009-902, 4441-012-900, 4441-014-900, 4441-016-901, 4441-015-901, 4440-008-900, 4440-010-900, 4440-010-901, 4440-010-902, 4440-010-903, 4440-010-904, 4440-010-905, 4440-011-901,902, 4440-012-900, 4440-016-901 |
| <b>Acreage:</b>              | 61.1   |

I certify that the information contained in this Grant Application form, including required attachments, is accurate.

Carla Mel 4/13/05  
*Signature of Authorized Representative* *Date*

Form SMM-001