

March 22, 2004; Agenda Item No. 17

Resolution No. 04-32

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY AUTHORIZING A GRANT TO THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FROM THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY FUND FOR HABITAT AND ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION IMPROVEMENTS IN UPPER LAS VIRGENES CANYON (FORMERLY AHMANSON RANCH), UNINCORPORATED VENTURA COUNTY, AND AUTHORIZING ANY BUDGET AMENDMENTS NECESSARY.

WHEREAS, The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has entered into a joint powers agreement with the Conejo and Rancho Simi Recreation and Park Districts pursuant to Government Code Section 6500 *et seq.* to create the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA); and

WHEREAS, The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has entered into a license agreement with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the operation, management, and resource protection of the former Ahmanson Ranch, now Upper Las Virgenes Canyon parkland; and

WHEREAS, Urgent measures and improvements to the parkland are necessary to protect threatened and endangered species, provide for habitat protection, provide for safety of the public, and prevent illegal and hazardous situations; and

WHEREAS, The grant of funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation for immediate habitat protection site improvements is necessary to meet the objectives for wildlife corridor protection, species protection, recreational and environmental education improvements; and

WHEREAS, The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has available funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Fund; and

WHEREAS, The proposed action is consistent with the objectives and principles of the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan and the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, The proposed action is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy hereby:

1. AUTHORIZES award of a grant in the amount of \$60,000 from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Fund to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

2. FINDS that the proposed action is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.
3. ADOPTS the staff report and recommendation dated March 22, 2004.
4. FINDS that the proposed action is consistent with implementation of the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan and the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan.
5. AUTHORIZES such amendments as may be necessary to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Fiscal Year 2003/2004 budget to carry out this resolution.
5. AUTHORIZES the Executive Director to perform any and all acts necessary to carry out this resolution.
6. FURTHER AUTHORIZES the Executive Director to execute the grant agreement and to perform any and all acts necessary to carry out this resolution; without limiting the generality of the foregoing, such authority shall include those provisions that he shall determine in the exclusive exercise of his discretion are necessary to carry out the purposes of this resolution and to comply with the policies of the Conservancy, and to otherwise carry out the provisions of state law and regulations.

~ End of Resolution ~

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, regularly noticed and held according to law, on the 22nd day of March, 2004

Dated:

Executive Director