



## 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

August 6, 2004

Ms. Rorie Skei  
Acting Executive Director  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
5750 Ramirez Canyon  
Malibu, California 90265

### **Grant Application for Proposition 50 Bond Funds Vista Hermosa Los Angeles River Watershed Restoration Project**

Dear Rorie:

I am pleased to present the enclosed application for grant funding for the Vista Hermosa Los Angeles River Watershed Restoration Project. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has been working with Los Angeles Unified School District to plan and develop the Vista Hermosa Los Angeles River Watershed Restoration Project with Proposition 50 and Proposition 12 funding authorized by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. MRCA requests a grant in the sum of \$ 3,269,700 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 Vista Hermosa Los Angeles River Watershed Restoration Project will provide a restored natural watershed experience. The natural environment will feature habitats found in the Santa Monica Mountains and the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed. Within the park, landforms will emphasize watershed processes through a living pond, which will support fishing, a stream course that captures all on site water, marshlands, wetlands and adjoining riparian ecosystems and meadows. The Vista Hermosa design features an off-the-grid utility system: a cistern to capture, clean and reuse water runoff; both passive and active solar powered buildings generating sufficient power to run the park lighting system, heating and cooling system and to power one of the water feature's pumps; green roofs to reduce urban heat island effect; and, an interpretive tool for environmental, water and energy conservation.

The park design implements the objectives of Proposition 50, specifically 79501(e): "Improve practices within watersheds to improve water quality, reduce pollution, capture additional storm water runoff, protect and manage groundwater better, and increase water use efficiency." The cistern is designed to prevent stormwater from becoming urban runoff, and a portion of the captured water will be used for irrigation. The pond and cistern were designed together as a system to maximize water conservation. Students at the neighboring high school will be able to see these systems in use on a daily basis, improving their understanding of watershed processes and water quality.

The project is within the upper Los Angeles River watershed and is consistent with the *San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan* as adopted by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact our project manager, Barbara Romero, at 323-221-9944, extension 188.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Berger". The signature is stylized with several overlapping, horizontal strokes.

Michael D. Berger  
Chairperson

Attachments:      Application

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
GRANT APPLICATION – PROPOSITION 50 FUNDS**

<b>Project Name:</b> Vista Hermosa Los Angeles River Watershed Restoration Park	<b>Amount of Request:</b> \$ 3,269,700.00 <b>Total Project Cost:</b> \$ 10,208,462.00						
<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority	<b>Amount of Match:</b> <b>Source of Match:</b>						
<b>Applicant Address:</b> 570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100 Los Angeles, CA 90065  <b>Phone:</b> 323-221-9944 <b>Fax:</b> 323-221-9934	<b>Project Address:</b> 1200 West Colton Street						
	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>County</th> <th>Senate District</th> <th>Assembly District</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Los Angeles</td> <td>22</td> <td>45</td> </tr> </table>	County	Senate District	Assembly District	Los Angeles	22	45
	County	Senate District	Assembly District				
	Los Angeles	22	45				
<b>Email:</b> Barbara.Romero@mrca.ca.gov							

**Grantee’s Representative Authorized in Resolution:**

Amy Lethbridge, Deputy Executive Officer	323-221-9944, x109
<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Name and Title</i>	<i>Phone</i>

**Person with day-to-day responsibility for project (if different from Authorized Representative):**

Barbara Romero, Special Projects Manager	323-221-9944, x188
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<i>Name and Title</i>	<i>Phone</i>

**Project Description:**

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority will use the proposed grant to fund the construction and for project management for all Phase 1 and for a portion of Phase 2 work for the Vista Hermosa Los Angeles River Watershed Restoration Project. Although the amount of the proposed grant is based upon thorough cost estimates, LAUSD has advised the MRCA that it cannot proceed with the bidding process until the grant has been awarded. The amount of Phase 2 construction will be determined by the construction bids for Phase 1. The work funded by this grant for Phase 1 will be demolition and site preparation, site development and utilities and landscaping and irrigation and retaining walls and park amenities. Additionally, MRCA will fund landscaping and irrigation and some building components of Phase 2.

The Vista Hermosa Los Angeles River Watershed Restoration Project will provide a restored natural watershed experience. The natural environment will feature habitats found in the Santa Monica Mountains and the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed. Within the park, landforms will emphasize watershed processes through a living pond, which will support fishing, a stream course that captures all on site water, marshlands, wetlands and adjoining riparian ecosystems and meadows. The Vista Hermosa Los Angeles River Watershed Restoration Project design features an off-the grid utility system: a cistern to capture, clean and reuse water runoff; both passive and active solar powered buildings generating sufficient power to run the park lighting system, heating and cooling system and to power one of the water feature’s pumps; green roofs to reduce urban heat island effect; and, an interpretive tool for environmental, water and energy conservation.

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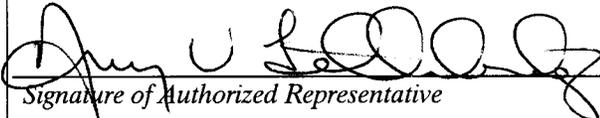
Section 79508 of the Water Code requires the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to implement the San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan, commonly known as the Common Ground Plan. The Vista Hermosa Los Angeles River Watershed Restoration Project implements several of the guiding principles <sup>1</sup>, strategies <sup>2</sup>, and opportunities <sup>3</sup> identified in the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers Watershed Open Space Plan adopted by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy in October 2001. These include: creating public open space throughout the region; improving urban lands for opportunities for access to parks and recreation; improving habitat quality, educational and interpretive opportunities; and partnerships for multi-objective planning, among others. Furthermore, the Vista Hermosa Los Angeles River Watershed Restoration Project is consistent with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Strategic Plan adopted by the Department of Finance in 1997: "Expand local government, school district, and nonprofit ventures to provide increased educational and access opportunities."<sup>4</sup>

1. The San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers Watershed and Open Space Plan p. 47
2. The San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers Watershed and Open Space Plan pp. 52, 53
3. The San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers Watershed and Open Space Plan p. 56
4. The Santa Monica Mountains Strategic Plan p. 10

<b>Tasks / Milestones:</b>	<b>Budget:</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1 Demolition and Site Preparation	\$ 318,142	Spring 2005
2 Site Development and Utilities	\$ 2,277,880	Summer 2005
3 Phase 2 Improvements	\$ 403,978	Summer 2005
4 Project Management	\$ 269,700	Summer 2005

**For Acquisition Projects:** APN(s): N/A  
 Acreage: N/A

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

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Authorized Representative

8-23-2004  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

**EXHIBIT B**

**Vista Hermosa Proposition 50  
PROJECT BUDGET**

**Phase 1**

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*Component Description*

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***Site Preparation and Demolition***

Site protective construction, erosion control  
Earthwork  
Site clearing and grading - all features, retaining walls,  
stairs / steps, sidewalks, paving and utilities \$ 318,142

***Site Development and Utilities***

Vehicle paving and curbs  
Pedestrian paving  
Restroom  
Landscaping and irrigation  
Fence columns and wrought iron elements  
Site drainage  
Sewer  
Water  
Site lighting  
Electrical power \$ 2,277,880

**Total Phase 1** \$ **2,596,022**

**Phase 2**

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***Restroom Building*** \$ 403,978

Total both Phases \$ 3,000,000  
Project Management \$ 269,700  
**Total Grant Request** \$ **3,269,700**