

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: August 30, 2004

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 14: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for project planning and design services for projects in the Upper Los Angeles River watershed and Santa Monica Mountains coastal watershed portions of the Santa Monica Mountains Zone.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 50 funds in the amount of \$200,000.00 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for project planning and design services for projects in the Upper Los Angeles River watershed and Santa Monica Mountains coastal watershed portions of the Santa Monica Mountains Zone.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204(c) of Public Resources Code.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has submitted a grant application for Proposition 50 funding in the sum of \$200,000 for project planning and design activities leading directly to the protection of land and water resources in the upper Los Angeles River Watershed and within the coastal watersheds of Santa Monica Bay and Ventura County pursuant to Division 23 (commencing with Section 33000) of the Public Resources Code. The proposed grant would fund activities directly related to the acquisition, protection and restoration of land and water resources and associated planning, permitting, and administrative costs for a subset of projects listed on the MRCA Workprogram.

The geographically specific project list includes both land acquisition and improvement projects that protect land and water resources in order to reduce pollution, capture additional storm water runoff, protect and manage groundwater, reduce pollution of the Los Angeles River and its tributaries, and to provide habitat for fish and wildlife. Land acquisition includes both obtaining fee simple title and conservation easements. Such land acquisition can be via direct purchase, donation, or dedication. The MRCA will provide direct services related to the expeditious acquisition or improvement of remaining open space parcels and/or sites with open areas or removable improvements for reclamation within the potential eligible projects on the attached project list. The MRCA's efforts will include concerted coordination with other government agencies.

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Consideration: The grant to the MRCA is \$200,000.00. \$147,000 would be used for projects in the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed, and the remainder for projects in the coastal watersheds of Santa Monica Bay and Ventura County.