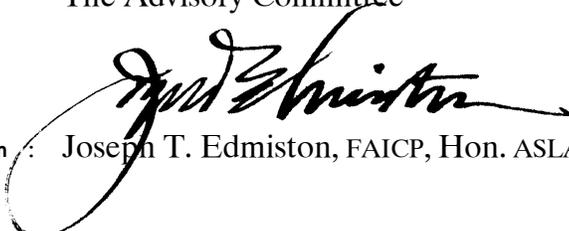


# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: December 10, 2018

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 12: Consideration of resolution authorizing grant of Proposition 68 funds to the Santa Monica Mountains Fund for restoration of Woolsey Fire-damaged Peter Strauss Ranch.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a matching grant from Proposition 68 of up to \$130,000 to the Santa Monica Mountains Fund for construction and engineering plans for restoration of the National Park Service-owned Peter Strauss Ranch in the Agoura area of unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Legislative Authority: Public Resources Code Sections 33204.2(a) and 80110(b)(8).

Background: Please see the attached grant application materials from the non profit Santa Monica Mountains Fund requesting funds from Proposition 68 for restoration of damages at the historic Peter Strauss Ranch caused by the recent Woolsey Fire. The ranch was originally acquired by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in the early 1980's from actor Peter Strauss. The Conservancy also funded the construction of the still-standing restroom building, and transferred the park property to the National Park Service a few years later.

The grant for project planning, design, and engineering work will provide for a shovel-ready project to allow the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area/National Park Service to be competitive for receiving expected federal facilities funding.

Staff recommends the award of the grant funds to the Santa Monica Mountains Fund for this restoration project on a property important ecologically, historically, and for its great visitor-serving and educational legacy.

## **Analysis - General Obligation Bond Law**

The General Obligation Bond Law provides that bond funds may be used for the construction and acquisition of "capital assets." Capital assets include major maintenance, reconstruction, demolition for purposes of reconstruction of facilities, and retrofitting work that is ordinarily done no more often than once every 5 to 15 years or expenditures that continue or enhance the useful life of the capital asset (Government code Section 16727 (a)). Capital assets also

includes equipment with an expected useful life of two years or more, and tangible physical property with an expected useful life of 10 to 15 years. Section 16727 (a) also allows bond funds to be used for costs that are incidentally but directly related to construction or acquisition including costs for planning, engineering and other design work.

**Analysis–Consistency with Plans**

The proposed grant is fully consistent with all applicable plans, including the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan, Strategic Plan, Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan and Common Ground.

Using the Conservancy’s Proposition 68 Guidelines, the grant project scores very well, with 175 points, out of 171 -200, doubled by the prospective federal matching funds to 350.