



## 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

October 1, 2009

Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP  
Executive Director  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
5750 Ramirez Canyon Road  
Malibu, California 90265

### **Request for Budget Amendment Grant #SMM-0776**

Dear Mr. Edmiston:

The MRCA is requesting a budget amendment for Grant #SMM-0776 for the Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Plan - Public Works Plan. In the original grant application, staff had optimistically assumed that this project would require no more than \$300,000 in project planning, design and legal costs. A number of factors has made these costs grow significantly. First, the Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Plan is a complex plan incorporating multiple sites and long sections of linking trails. A wide range of technical specialists have been needed to craft the elements of the proposed plan including low impact and accessible campsites, new parking areas, and trail alignments. As staff evaluated different properties that could make the connections between the larger parks, consultants have had to redesign the trail corridors. Second, the Malibu fires of 2007 created a very vocal opposition to the camping elements of project and required additional consultant time to address fire safety and to develop the highest levels of control for the campsites. Consultants continue to address fire concerns that have been raised by both the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the State Fire Marshall. Third, staff underestimated the complexity of using the Local Coastal Program Amendment "Override" procedure. The MRCA required a far greater amount of input and analysis on this issue from its legal consultants. Finally, MRCA staff also underestimated the costs of preparing a full EIR on the proposed PWP. It is requiring a far greater amount of time from both the technical consultants and the legal advisors to make sure this process is handled properly.

Based on the above, we respectfully request that the Conservancy take the steps necessary to amend the budget for the grant to show that the full \$1.5 million will be used for project planning, design and legal costs. Please do not hesitate to call Lisa Soghor at (323) 221-9944, extension 105 if you have any questions. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Lange".

George Lange  
Chair