



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM: 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: July 12, 2007

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(g): Consideration of resolution approving application for, and acceptance of, a Proposition 84 grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the protection and restoration of natural and developed resources by removal of invasive species, reduction of hazardous fire-fuel loads, and erosion protection. Parks and open space areas managed by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.**

Staff Recommendation: That the MRCA Governing Board adopt the attached resolution approving the application for, and acceptance of, a Proposition 84 grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in the amount of \$1,200,000. Name of project to be "Protection and Restoration of Natural and Developed Resources".

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority operates and manages dozens of park sites and thousands of acres of open space located throughout Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. The protection and restoration of both natural and developed resources found on these lands can be facilitated by the systematic removal of invasive plants and restoration of native plant communities in their place. The removal of hazardous fuel-loads directly protects structures and other park features; moreover, such wildfire prevention efforts helps to protect wildlife and plant communities found in fragmented urban interface and open space areas. Erosion and watershed protection is also accomplished by restoration of native plant communities and the prevention of wildfires through the reduction of fuel loads. These actions also reduce sediment, ash, and organic matter loading of streams draining these watersheds.

Under General Obligation Law, bond funds may be used for the construction or acquisition of capital assets. "Capital assets" is defined in Section 16727(a) to 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 a capital asset." Also, equipment that has a useful life of more than two years is included.

Some durable equipment (life of 2 years or more) related to performing the above projects will also be purchased, amount not to exceed \$160,000. Due to the size of the project, purchasing this equipment will cost less than leasing. Equipment to be purchased will include (1) Bobcat Track Loader and attachments (or equivalent) \$65,000; (1) Bandit Brush Chipper (or equivalent) \$45,000; (1) Bobcat 2300 Utility Vehicle and attachments (or equivalent) \$19,000; (2) Deck-style brush mowers \$5,000; (1) Heavy duty equipment trailer \$10,000; and \$16,000 for small equipment such as chainsaws, weed cutters, power blowers, and related.