

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: January 25, 2010

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

Subject: **Agenda Item 15: Consideration of resolution retroactively authorizing assignment of all Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy designated funds, including excess funds, from both the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks, Gang Prevention, Tree-Planting, Senior and Youth Recreation, Beaches, and Wildlife Protection Act of 1992 and the Safe Neighborhood Parks Act of 1996 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution retroactively authorizing assignment of all Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy designated funds, including excess funds, from both the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks, Gang Prevention, Tree-Planting, Senior and Youth Recreation, Beaches, and Wildlife Protection Act of 1992 and the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Act of 1996 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

Background: In 1992 the voters of Los Angeles County adopted the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Gang Prevention, Tree-Planting, Senior and Youth Recreation, Beaches, and Wildlife Protection Act of 1992 and in 1996 they adopted the Safe Neighborhood Parks Act of 1996. Both measures explicitly designated funds for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. This two-measure funding program is governed by the Proposition A Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Grant Program Procedural Guide (June 1997).

In order to more efficiently and expeditiously implement projects under the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Grant Program, the Conservancy assigned the entirety of its Proposition A funding, including operations and maintenance funding, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA). This arrangement was never formalized in writing with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, but it has been the operative grant and maintenance funding implementation system for over a decade.

Soon after the passage of the 1992 measure, the MRCA, in accord with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Acquisition and Improvement Workprograms, has expended all of the subject Proposition A funding. All of these funds have been expended by the MRCA through formal Project Agreements with the Los Angeles County Regional Parks and Open Space District.

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Recently the District suggested that the Conservancy formalize this assignment of funds in an authorizing resolution. The proposed action will retroactively provide for such a formalized authorizing resolution and will maintain the current assignment of funds. This arrangement with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority has worked to the benefit of both the Conservancy and the people of Los Angeles County.