

**DATE:** March 26, 2017  
**TO:** RMC Governing Board  
**FROM:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Item 9: Consideration of a resolution authorizing a grant amendment to the City of Monrovia for the Acquisition of Monrovia Hillside Wilderness Preserve to extend the timeline (RMC08109).

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**PROGRAM AREA:** Mountain, Hills and Foothills

**PROJECT TYPE:** Acquisition and Development

**JURISDICTION:** City of Monrovia

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Marybeth Vergara

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the RMC authorize a grant amendment to the City of Monrovia for the Acquisition of Monrovia Hillside Wilderness Preserve to extend the timeline through April 30, 2018 (RMC08109). This extension will allow the project closure and final reimbursement to the City.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The City of Monrovia purchased 40 acres at the foothills of the Monrovia Hillside Wilderness Preserve in the City of Monrovia with access provided by Lower Clamshell Motorway Trail. This project was completed in 2013, however, due to changes within the City as well as the RMC, the final reimbursable payment is in process. This grant must be extended in order for the RMC to be able to process the final reimbursement request in the amount of \$81,056.63. The total grant for this acquisition and development was \$1,318,000.

**BACKGROUND:** The City of Monrovia completed the purchase of the Leonard Property (APN 3210-002-012, 3210-003-007, 3210-003-008 and 321-0003-009) located within the Monrovia Hillside Wilderness Preserve on the Lower Clamshell Motorway between Cloverleaf and Ridgecrest Drives in the foothills of Monrovia in November 2010 for a total purchase price of \$1,165,159. Once the acquisition was completed, there was a remaining balance of \$152,841. The City had previously requested an amendment to the scope of work, project limits and budget allocations in order to utilize the remaining balance for signage and trail restoration in accordance with RMC General Policies. This action was approved by the RMC Board in June 2013.

The acquired property is located within the center of the Monrovia Hillside Wilderness Preserve but access to the acquired property was previously not well marked and the trails were deteriorated. This grant funded acquisition and signage for the trailhead entrance, restoration of the trail, and improved signage throughout the Lower Clamshell Motorway Trail.

The City of Monrovia has purchased over 512 acres since 2000 for the Monrovia Hillside Wilderness Preserve with funds from property owners who voted to tax themselves in 2000 to provide over \$10 million dollars for acquisition of foothill properties slated for development. Additionally the vote set aside \$80,000 annually for maintenance of the Monrovia Hillside Wilderness Preserve. Currently the 40-acre Leonard Property was one of the last remaining

privately owned parcels within the Monrovia Hillside Wilderness Preserve and a critical element in completing the Preserve. The acquisition of this property eliminated the potential for development of homes and allowed the City of Monrovia to own and manage a major portion of the Lower Clamshell Motorway trails connecting across the Preserve and protecting the federally endangered Braunton's milkvetch. *Astragalus brauntonii* is a rare species that is endemic to California, where it is known from fewer than 20 extant occurrences in the hills and mountains surrounding the Los Angeles Basin in Southern California and is a federally listed endangered species in the United States.

The Leonard property supports native local environments with the exception of the fire roadway known as the Lower Clamshell Motorway that traverses the property generally in an east to west direction. Currently the City of Monrovia is developing an operation and maintenance plan, the Resource Management Plan for Monrovia Hillside Wilderness Preserve and Hillside Recreation Area and it is being considered by the Community Services Commission, which will protect cultural, water and biological resources, ensure proper fire management and provide for well managed passive recreational activities.

This grant is consistent with the RMC Resolution 2008-8, and 2011-25, and the City of Monrovia has submitted the necessary documents including the amended Timeline/Tasklist extending this grant through April 30, 2018 for final project reimbursement and close out.

Exhibit A- Revised Tasklist/Timeline

Exhibit B- Photos of Completed Project

**FISCAL INFORMATION:** The RMC authorized \$1,318,000 for land acquisition. The total cost for the acquisition of the 40-acre parcel was \$1,165,159 with a remaining balance of \$152,841. That remaining balance eventually reverted. The amount due to the City will be paid out using remaining unused Proposition 84 funds. Upon review of the grant amendments for the budget, tasklist and timeline, RMC staff determined that it met all the criteria elements for approval and extended the timeline to June 30, 2013. While the project was complete, final reimbursement to the City was not complete and the City is requesting the final reimbursement in the amount of \$81,056.63.

Although the original funding source for this project was allocated from Proposition 84, it will be necessary to amend the funding source in order to maximize the availability of cash from the sale of bond funds. Therefore, the Executive Officer may designate any of the following funding sources for this project: California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 40) and/or the Water, Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50), and/or the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84).

The recommended action is consistent with the following Public Resources Code Sections:

Prop 40: The California State Public Resources Code Section 5096.650(b) and 5066.650(b)(6) provide that: (b) The sum of four hundred forty-five million dollars (\$445,000,000) to the conservancies in accordance with the particular provisions of the statute creating each conservancy for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration, and protection of land and water resources; for grants and state administrative costs; and in accordance with the following schedule...

Section 5096.650(b)(6) to the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy ....\$40,000,000.

Prop 50: The sum of twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) to the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for protection of the San Gabriel and lower Los Angeles River watersheds pursuant to Division 22.8 (commencing with Section 32600) of the Public Resources Code.

Prop 84: Section 75050. The sum of nine hundred twenty-eight million dollars (\$928,000,000) shall be available for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources in accordance with the following schedule:... (g) The sum of seventy two million dollars (\$72,000,000) shall be available for projects within the watersheds of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers according to the following schedule:

(1) Thirty-six million dollars (\$36,000,000) to the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy pursuant to Division 22.8 (commencing with Section 32600).....

75060. The sum of five hundred forty million dollars (\$540,000,000) shall be available for the protection of beaches, bays and coastal waters and watersheds, including projects to prevent contamination and degradation of coastal waters and watersheds, projects to protect and restore the natural habitat values of coastal waters and lands, and projects and expenditures to promote access to and enjoyment of the coastal resources of the state, in accordance with the following schedule:....

(3) To the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.....fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000).

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY AND RMC ADOPTED POLICIES/AUTHORITIES:** This grant was initially authorized by the RMC on November 24, 2008 to the City of Monrovia under Resolution 2008-85, and Resolution 2011-25.

<b>Exhibit A: Task List and Timeline</b>			
<b>Project Task Detail by Phase</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Percent % Work Complete</b>	<b>Month/Year</b>
<b>PHASE 1</b>			
<b>1 Project Management</b>		Completed	11/2010
Pre-acquisition work		Completed	11/2010
Project funding coordination		Completed	11/2010
<b>2. Escrow Closing Costs</b>		Completed	11/2010
<b>3. Acquisition of APNs</b> 3210-002-012, 3210-003-007, 3210-003-008, 3210-003-009 90%		Completed	11/2010
<b>4. Signage and Trail Restoration</b>		100%	06/30/2012
<b>5. Project Completion</b>		100%	06/30/2012
<b>6. Project Close Out &amp; Final Payment</b>		100%	4/30/2018



RMC 08109- ACQUISITION OF MONROVIA HILLSIDE PRESERVE



Braunton's milk vetch, or *Astragalus Brauntonii* is a rare species that is endemic to California, where it is known from fewer than 20 extant occurrences in the hills and mountains surrounding the Los Angeles Basin in Southern California and is a federally listed endangered species in the United States.

This plant species exists on the Monrovia Hillside Preserve.

The gate is open and closed on a daily basis by the City of Monrovia Park Ranger on site.





March 26, 2018 - Item 9

RESOLUTION NO. 2018 - 05

RESOLUTION OF THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC) AUTHORIZING A GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF MONROVIA FOR THE ACQUISITION OF MONROVIA HILLSIDE WILDERNESS PRESERVE TO EXTEND THE TIMELINE (RMC08109).

WHEREAS, The legislature has found and declared that the San Gabriel River and its tributaries, the Lower Los Angeles River and its tributaries, and the San Gabriel Mountains, Puente Hills, and San Jose Hills constitute a unique and important open space, environmental, anthropological, cultural, scientific, educational, recreational, scenic, and wildlife resource that should be held in trust to be preserved and enhanced for the enjoyment of, and appreciation by, present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, The people of the State of California have enacted the Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhoods, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2002 (Park Bond Act Proposition 40) which provides funds for the RMC Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, The people of the State of California have enacted the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50), which provides funds for the RMC grant program; and

WHEREAS, The people of the State of California have enacted the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84), which provides funds for the RMC grant program; and

WHEREAS, The RMC may award grants to local public agencies, state agencies, federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations for the purposes of Division 22.8 the Public Resources Code; and

WHEREAS, The Applicant has submitted a project which is consistent with the purposes of Division 22.8 of the Public Resources Code and the Bond Act; and

WHEREAS, this action is exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and NOW

*Therefore be it resolved that* the RMC hereby:

1. FINDS that this action is consistent with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Act and is necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of Division 22.8 of the Public Resources Code.
2. FINDS that the actions contemplated by this resolution are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Resolution No. 2018-05

- 3. APPROVES a grant amendment to the City of Monrovia for Acquisition of Monrovia Hillside Wilderness Preserve 40 acre Leonard Property to extend the timeline for project completion and close out to April 30, 2018 (RMC08109).
- 4. ADOPTS the staff report dated March 26, 2018.

*~ End of Resolution ~*

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the  
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS  
CONSERVANCY on March 26, 2018.

Motion \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_

Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Nays: \_\_\_\_\_ Abstentions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Colonna, Chair

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
David Edsall, Jr.  
Deputy Attorney General