

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE: SEPTEMBER 28, 2005

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER

BY: JIM THORSEN, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY GRANT

This memorandum is requesting City Council approval to seek a Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy grant application for the amount of \$250,000. The main objective of the grant is to provide funds necessary to purchase open space in the northwest part of the City.

The City is interested in purchasing open space east of Lindero Creek to develop a passive park site. The park would include a Fitness and Nature Trail, which would provide youth and the general public with active recreation in an outdoor environment. Comprised of a carefully-ordered series of exercise stations along a loop trail, the Fitness and Nature Trail would allow for health and fitness benefit among its participants. Moreover, the Trail would respond to the concern for obesity and overweight problems among youth and the general public by providing an alternative recreational resource for the physically inactive. Finally, the location of the trail is ideal; undeveloped open space provides for a comfortable exercise environment away from road hazards, noise, and exhaust pollution.

The total cost to acquire and develop the property is estimated between \$1,300,000 and \$2,000,000. It is anticipated that \$250,000 of that sum will come from the conservancy grant. The remainder will come from the City General Fund or other sources.

RECOMMENDATION

It is respectfully recommended the City Council authorize City staff to seek a Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy grant application for the sum of \$250,000 for the purchase of Lindero Creek Open Space.