



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: October 6, 2004

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XII: Consideration of a resolution authorizing a Memorandum Of Understanding with the California Department of Parks and Recreation for Zanja Madre Park, Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a Memorandum Of Understanding with the California Department of Parks and Recreation for Zanja Madre Park, Los Angeles.

Background: On May 1, 2002, Caltrans, under the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEM), awarded a competitive grant in the amount of \$250,000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for the development of Zanja Madre Park. The project was intended to mitigate negative effects of the Metro Gold Line. In May 2004 MRCA staff determined that the property intended to be used for the park could not be acquired.

California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) is developing the new Cornfield State Park adjacent to the Metro Gold Line, in close proximity to the site originally intended for the MRCA's Zanja Madre Park project. CDPR's current funding is not sufficient to construct all desired improvements. In particular, pathways and landscaping were eliminated from the current scope of work, scheduled for construction in late 2004 - early 2005.

MRCA received approval for a change of scope with Caltrans that allows the improvements funded by the EEM grant to occur on the Cornfield park site, instead of the original property. The parties seek to work together under a Memorandum Of Understanding to utilize the MRCA's EEM grant funding to construct pathways and landscaping at Cornfield State Park. This action will ensure that the competitive grant funds awarded to the MRCA for this project are used to mitigate the same conditions, and will create the same benefits that would have occurred originally.

