

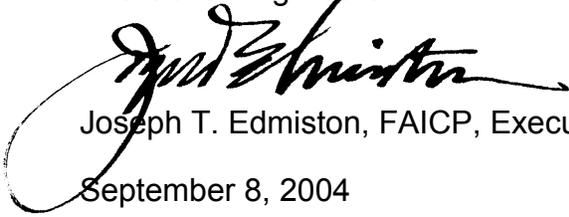


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: September 8, 2004

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(a): Consideration of resolution accepting a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the South Pasadena-Arroyo Seco Woodland and Wildlife Park restoration project, South Pasadena.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution accepting a grant in the amount of \$17,040.00 from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the South Pasadena-Arroyo Seco Woodland and Wildlife restoration project, South Pasadena.

Background: At its August 30, 2004 meeting, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy authorized a grant to MRCA of Proposition 50 funds for the South Pasadena-Arroyo Seco Woodland and Wildlife Park restoration project. The Conservancy previously granted \$250,000.00 to MRCA in October 2000 for this project. This project, the South Pasadena-Arroyo Seco Woodland and Wildlife Park, is located on land owned by the City of South Pasadena, and will be maintained by the City. The MRCA submitted a grant application to the Conservancy for funding in the sum of \$17,040.

The MRCA is nearing the end of the restoration and construction work funded by the original grant, including the creation of two small bioswales to detain stormwater runoff from a storm sewer that empties onto the site. The bioswales are planted with native grasses and allow stormwater to infiltrate into the soil instead of flowing into the concrete-lined Arroyo Seco, adjacent to the park. The work funded by this grant will help to ensure the survival of the restored areas and bioswales.

Most of the disturbed areas on the site, including the bioswales, are experiencing vigorous establishment of castor bean (*Ricinus communis*), an invasive exotic plant that is difficult to eradicate. According to *Invasive Plants of California's Wildlands*, "Castor bean displaces native plant species in riparian areas and drainages...Plants

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colonize disturbed areas, and they grow rapidly, shading out native seeds and seedlings and producing monospecific stands in areas with previously healthy native vegetation.”

The proposed grant would provide for additional restoration of native plants and removal of castor bean. A portion of this work would occur immediately, with the remainder occurring in the spring of 2005 following the rainy season. All planted areas will be mulched to discourage further establishment of invasive exotic plants. Restoration work will also include pruning mature native trees to promote healthier growth. These trees will be trimmed judiciously so that the natural character of the park is not compromised. After pruning, the native trees will be less susceptible to pests and will be better able to out-compete invasive exotic plants that threaten the restoration work.

A draft grant agreement and the application to the Conservancy are attached.