

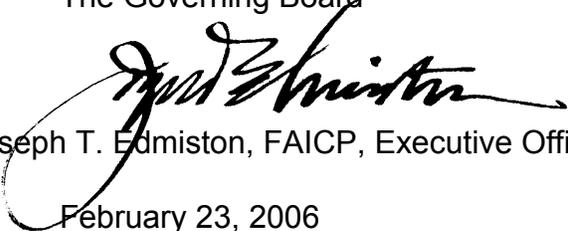


MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9933

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: February 23, 2006

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IV: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a contract with Community Conservancy International for purposes of providing technical advice and assistance to the MRCA in conducting a comprehensive feasibility evaluation of L.A. County water and environmental quality infrastructure funding.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution entering into a contract with Community Conservancy International to provide technical advice and assistance to the MRCA in conducting a comprehensive feasibility evaluation of L.A. County water and environmental quality infrastructure funding.

Background: Since early 2004, the Los Angeles chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) has been spearheading an effort to develop a long-term funding solution for capital improvements and operation and maintenance of storm water infrastructure and integrated watershed management projects within Los Angeles County. A broad cross section of participants representing federal, State, regional, Los Angeles County and municipal interests, as well as environmental and business organizations have been meeting monthly to develop a funding program that could eventually lead to a voter-approved mechanism. The MRCA has been a leader in this effort.

In tandem with this, the MRCA is a key player in the development of an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) for the Los Angeles County region. This plan will address the water supply and water quality needs of the region by integrating strategies and projects that could include such elements as water conservation and recycling, conjunctive use, stormwater management, stormwater and urban runoff quality, wastewater quality, desalination, drinking water quality,

habitat restoration/protection, wetlands enhancement and creation, recreation and open space. The plan will define future projects and, among other objectives, will potentially serve as a basis for a potential countywide funding mechanism.

Community Conservancy International (CCI) has a long history working with Los Angeles County on developing potential funding mechanisms. At the same time, CCI is expert at integrating the goals and objectives of a broad range of public agencies, departments and interest groups to define objectives and form a cohesive work plan. Under a contract with the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, CCI has already undertaken an initial evaluation of this watershed funding effort. The MRCA proposes to contract with CCI at this critical planning stage to ensure that this very complex effort continues to be spearheaded with appropriate skill.

Working with the MRCA, CCI will provide comprehensive strategic and feasibility analysis for the proposed effort and will subcontract and coordinate with the appropriate technical, fiscal, legal and public outreach professionals. The effort will include coordination with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and their staff, as well as the team developing the IRWMP.