



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: November 3, 2010

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(f): Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a grant agreement with the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority for the Park to Playa project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into a grant agreement with the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority for the Park to Playa project in the amount of \$150,000.00.

Background: The goal of the Park to Playa project is to create a seamless trail that connects urban residents with the natural coast. The complete trail is approximately thirteen miles long, crossing through and connecting parks and open spaces within the Baldwin Hills, along Ballona Creek, in the Ballona Wetlands and along the Pacific Ocean. MRCA is working in partnership with Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority (BHRCA), Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Baldwin Hills Conservancy, City of Culver City, Office of County Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, and community stakeholders to implement the project.

Implementation of this project consists of construction of several trail segments, each involving a different combination of project partners. MRCA is the project lead for the segment of the Park to Playa trail that follows the Ballona Creek to the Pacific Ocean. The Park to Playa trail alignment through the Baldwin Hills parklands has not been established. Determining an exact five-mile alignment requires a feasibility study and implementation plan.

On April 15, 2010 the governing board of the BHRCA authorized a grant to MRCA in the amount of \$150,000 to coordinate and develop both the feasibility study and implementation plan. The feasibility report will evaluate alignment alternatives, identify connection points, and explore trail design to a level sufficient to evaluate implementation feasibility. The implementation plan will recommend phasing alternatives, as well as identify property acquisitions, geotechnical investigations, environmental studies, and permitting necessary for project implementation.