



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: June 1, 2016

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(d): Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 1 funding for Project Planning and Design of the Los Angeles River Greenway Ecosystem Restoration area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Proposition 1 funding for Project Planning and Design of the Los Angeles River Greenway Ecosystem Restoration area.

Background: The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 ("Proposition 1") was approved by voters in November 2014. Proposition 1 authorizes \$7.545 billion in general obligation bonds for State water projects, including surface and groundwater storage, ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration, and drinking water protection. Proposition 1 allocated funding to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) for multiple benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects (Water Code Section 79731(j)) and for projects to protect and enhance an urban creek (Water Code Section 79735(a)). Staff anticipates that the Conservancy will open a competitive grant round for urban creek funding within the next month.

The MRCA develops and implements a wide range of projects including through project planning and design grants. To continue this effort to secure and develop park lands, public access, and public recreation resources, staff is seeking authorization to submit a project planning and design grant application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. This proposed grant application is for planning related to a stretch of the Los Angeles River Greenway where there is a high number of multi-benefit park project opportunities. The area stretches roughly from Burbank to Boyle Heights, and includes the areas identified by the City of Los Angeles and the Army Corps of Engineers as candidates for ecosystem restoration.

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Consideration: Preliminary budget analysis indicates that the grant application would be for approximately \$100,000-\$200,000.