



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: May 3, 2017

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item X: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a grant agreement with the California Wildlife Conservation Board to provide funding for the acquisition of a multipurpose easement over an approximately 12.5 acre portion of APN 5442-002-823, owned by the City of Los Angeles, located adjacent to the Los Angeles River in Glassell Park.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) authorize entering into a grant agreement with the California Wildlife Conservation Board to provide funding for the acquisition of a multipurpose easement over an approximately 12.5 acre portion of APN 5442-002-823, owned by the City of Los Angeles, located adjacent to the Los Angeles River in Glassell Park.

Background: The proposed easement will encumber a portion of a property known as "Taylor Yard," or, the G2 parcel. The property was previously owned by Union Pacific Railroad and was used for railroad-related operations since the 1880s, including maintenance of locomotives, refrigeration cars, rail car storage, rail car switching, and equipment storage.

Acquisition of the property for river restoration purposes has long been an objective of the City of Los Angeles ("City") and partner agencies and many consider this 41 acre property to be the "crown jewel" in the revitalization of the LA River. Recently, it was featured prominently in the United States Army Corps of Engineers' Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration plan, with the City designated as the local lead agency. After a multi-year effort to acquire the property and several months of negotiations, on March 1, 2017, the City celebrated the formal transfer of title for the property from Union Pacific to the City.

With the adoption of the resolution associated with Agenda Item IX on this agenda, the Governing Board will have authorized the acquisition of a multipurpose easement over a 12.5 acre portion of the property, as shown on the attached map. The scope of the easement will include the rights to habitat restoration, environmental remediation, improvements for public access and recreation, and open space preservation.

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Approval of the this resolution will allow the MRCA to enter into a grant agreement with the California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to provide acquisition funding for the purchase of the easement. The MRCA's use of the easement will be subject to the terms of the WCB grant agreement pursuant to the provisions of the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50), codified in Water Code Section 79572(a).