



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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Agenda Item VIII
MRCA
7/26/17

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: April 5, 2017

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XI: Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to acquire Ballard Mountain parcels and authorize the acquisition of APN 2058-008-023, approximately 40 acres, Lobo Canyon watershed, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to acquire Ballard Mountain parcels and the acquisition of APN 2058-008-023 within the Lobo Canyon watershed of unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Background: The subject parcel contains approximately 40 acres which includes the 2039' peak in the northwest portion of the parcel now known as Ballard Mountain in honor of John Ballard—a former slave and blacksmith in Los Angeles. The 3rd Supervisorial District has generously offered to fund the parcel acquisition.

As shown on the attached maps, the subject parcel is a key component in the Lobo Canyon watershed northwest of Kanan Road. The northern 10% of the parcel is considered golden eagle habitat by CDFW, and the surrounding natural lands contribute considerable biological and viewshed resources. The properties immediately adjacent to the south and east have land bridges across Kanan Road providing wildlife over-crossing at each location.

A Youth Employment Program (attached) was created; however, the scope of work for this project is wholly limited to the acquisition of Ballard Mountain and natural lands in Lobo Canyon and therefore, this project will not be appropriate for the employment of at-risk youth.

MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

April 5, 2017— Agenda Item XI

Resolution No. 17-65

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION
AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A PROJECT
AGREEMENT WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT TO ACQUIRE BALLARD MOUNTAIN
PARCELS AND AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF APN
2058-008-023, APPROXIMATELY 40 ACRES,
LOBO CANYON WATERSHED,
UNINCORPORATED LOS
ANGELES COUNTY

WHEREAS, the people of the County of Los Angeles on November 3, 1992, and on November 5, 1996, enacted Los Angeles County Proposition A, Safe Neighborhood Parks, Gang Prevention, Tree-Planting, Senior and Youth Recreation, Beach and Wildlife Protection (the Propositions), which among other uses, provides funds to public agencies and nonprofit organizations in the County for the purpose of acquiring and/or development facilities and open space for public recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Propositions also created the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (the District) to administer said funds; and

WHEREAS, the District has set forth the necessary procedures governing application for grant funds under the Propositions, and

WHEREAS, the District's procedures require Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to certify, by resolution, the approval of the application before submission of said application to the District; and

WHEREAS, said application contains assurances that Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority must comply with; and

WHEREAS, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority certifies, through this resolution, that the application is approved for submission to the District; and

WHEREAS, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority will enter into an Agreement with the District to provide funds for acquisition and development projects; and

WHEREAS, the District's procedures require the adoption of a Youth Employment Plan for development projects by the governing body of the agency.

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) hereby:

1. FINDS that there are natural lands on Ballard Mountain which provide valuable biological and viewshed resources; and
2. FINDS that the proposed actions are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act; and
3. FINDS the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy was awarded funds in the Proposition for acquisition of park and open space land, development of related recreation facilities, and grants pursuant to Division 23 of the Public Resources Code; and
4. CERTIFIES that Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority understands the assurances and certification in the application form; and
5. CERTIFIES that through this resolution the application for the above referenced project is approved for submission to the District; and
6. CERTIFIES that it will be required to provide additional funding for the above project if the requested grant funds are insufficient to complete said project; and
7. CERTIFIES that it understands its obligation to operate and maintain the property in perpetuity, as applicable; and
8. CERTIFIES that Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority will sign and return, within 30 days, both copies of the Project Agreement sent by the District for authorizing signature; and
9. CERTIFIES that it will cause work on the project to be commenced immediately upon receipt of a fully executed Project Agreement; and
10. CERTIFIES that it agrees and understands that the District may terminate the Project Agreement at any point if it determines that the project cannot be performed as described in the application; and
11. APPROVES the adoption of a Youth Employment Plan for the project (see attached); and
12. ADOPTS the staff report and recommendation dated April 5, 2017; and
13. ACCEPTS being the assignee of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to carry out all aspects of this application, grant, and project implementation

and will be required to enter into a Project Agreement with the District for the performance of the project as described in the application; and

14. AUTHORIZES the filing of an application to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for funds from 1996 Proposition A Section 3(b)(14) to acquire approximately 40-acre Ballard Mountain property; and
15. AUTHORIZES entering into a Project Agreement for the Ballard Mountain project with the District for said funds to acquire APN 2058-008-023; and
16. AUTHORIZES any necessary budget amendments; and
17. AUTHORIZES the Executive Officer, or his designee, to conduct all negotiations, and to execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so forth, which may be necessary for the completion of the project as described in the application; and
18. AUTHORIZES the Executive Officer to do any and all acts necessary to carry out this resolution and any recommendations made by the Governing Board.



Chair

AYES: Peterson, Hasenauer, Lange

NOS: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: Daniel

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Governing Board of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, duly noticed and held according to law, on the 5th day of April, 2017.

Date: 4/5/17



Executive Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PLAN

Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
April 5, 2017

Project Description:

The proposed project calls for the acquisition Ballard Mountain and natural lands of approximately 40-acre parcel in the Lobo Canyon watershed.

Scope of Work:

The scope of work for this project is wholly limited to the acquisition of Ballard Mountain and natural lands in Lobo Canyon and therefore, this project will not be appropriate for the employment of at-risk youth.

Tasks that may be performed by at-risk youth: None

Estimate cost of youth employment: None

Method of employing youth: None