



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: June 6, 2007

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(k) : Consideration of resolution accepting a grant of Proposition 50 funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the protection of land and water resources, specifically the removal of non-native trees and vegetation, at Temescal Gateway Park, Los Angeles, and Ramirez Canyon Park, Malibu.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution accepting a grant of Proposition 50 funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the protection and restoration of land and water resources, specifically the removal of non-native trees and vegetation, at Temescal Gateway Park, Los Angeles, and Ramirez Canyon Park, Malibu.

Background: Temescal Gateway Park and Ramirez Canyon Park are two highly developed parks owned by the Conservancy. Under previous ownership in both parks, many non-native trees were planted. These trees impede the growth and continued health of the native vegetation in the canyons. Their removal will encourage the development of more vigorous native ecosystems.

At Ramirez Canyon Park, the slopes were planted heavily with pine trees. Underneath the pine canopy, small oaks and walnuts are trying to establish themselves. MRCA staff has removed some pines and other non-native trees on the property in the past, but many more still need to come out.

In Temescal Canyon, eucalyptus trees line the stream corridor that runs through the center of the park. They are also planted on the slopes throughout the park. The eucalyptus are prone to dropping limbs and are highly flammable. In the past, falling limbs have severely damaged nearby oaks. To protect the native vegetation in the park and to foster growth of native sycamores and other riparian vegetation, the eucalyptus trees need to be removed.

A combination of outside contractors and MRCA staff will be used to eliminate the

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non-native trees in both parks. MRCA staff will make every effort to protect existing oaks, sycamores and other significant native plants within the removal areas.

Consideration: The grant from the Conservancy would be in the amount of \$75,000.