



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: March 2, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing a budget augmentation and scope amendment to the grant to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for the Compton Creek–Washington Elementary School Natural Park project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a budget augmentation in the amount of \$1,545,412.00 and a scope amendment to add construction of Phase 1A improvements to the grant to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for the Compton Creek–Washington Elementary School Natural Park project.

Background: On December 1, 2010, the Board approved a grant to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) in the amount of \$64,459 for demolition and site preparation for the Compton Creek–Washington Elementary School Natural Park project. LACC completed that work in January 2011.

The first phase of the four acre proposed project (Phase 1A) will convert two acres behind Washington Elementary School into a public park with native riparian plantings, stormwater best management practices, interpretative signage, amphitheater, walking trails, and multi-purpose fields. Future phases will include construction of a public restroom and a facility for LACC's at-risk youth programs. The site is currently vacant and is not used by the school or the public. The project is a partnership between Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), Compton Unified School District (CUSD), City of Compton, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, and County of Los Angeles.

The project is funded through grants from the Los Angeles Regional Park and Open Space District (Proposition A) and the California Natural Resources Agency. The Resources Agency grant was made in 2008 from the competitive River Parkways Proposition 12 program. Phase 1A incorporates all of the park elements required by the Resources Agency grant.

As a project partner, LACC staff were involved in the design of the park and are familiar with the proposed improvements. As the organization responsible for operation and maintenance of the park, the project will benefit from LACC's direct experience in the park development. Los Angeles Conservation Corps will use at-risk youth to complete the work, and MRCA will be able to count that labor toward the agency's Youth Employment Goal for Proposition A. LACC has experience with this type of work, having completed numerous park and landscape projects, and they hold a California Class C Contractor's license. LACC employs approximately 300 young adults and 2,200 junior high and high school students annually to serve the greater Los Angeles community through environmental enhancement and improvement projects, and the proposed grant would provide 8,607 labor training hours for highly at-risk youth.

LACC has submitted a grant application based on the 75% complete plans and specifications and subsequent clarifications. Staff recommends that the Board approve 10% more than the application amount to allow for contingencies and conditions that may not be evident in the plans. The proposed action would amend the existing grant to LACC to add construction of Phase 1A to the scope of work, and would augment the grant amount to cover this additional scope.

Consideration: The amount of the grant augmentation is \$1,545,412.00. The grant will be funded through a combination of MRCA's Natural Resources Agency and Proposition A grants for the project.